

## **Claire McCann**

Working in isolation from fiscal policy and other government regulation, the South African Reserve Bank, which is independent from government interference, carries out a mandate of economic stabilisation using interest rates and targeting inflation, in order to provide an environment conducive to investment and growth.

John Maynard Keynes, an English economist writing in the 1930s, was grappling with the aftermath of a depression that shook the world. Today, as we exist in the aftermath of the Great Financial Crisis and in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, our view is eerily similar. From this vantage point, it is clear that our current forms of macroeconomic policy are not sustainable, and that a more comprehensive approach, emphasising collective action, should be implemented.

The Keynesian macroeconomic policy frameworks indicate that so-called central bank independence is a guise for monetary policy under the control of 'vested interests' rather than democratic forces, and instead advocates for macroeconomic policy where monetary policy does not operate in isolation from but in conjunction with fiscal policy. This approach requires a revision of the mandate and ownership of the South African Reserve Bank, as South Africa shifts towards a more democratic vision of macroeconomic policy.

The conclusion reached is that, in the context of worsening socioeconomic outcomes, a reformed policy geared towards full employment, in which the government plays a key role, is essential in maintaining stability and enhancing growth.

### **BIO**

University: Rhodes University

Funding: Mandela Rhodes Scholarship

More about Claire

Favourite subjects: Development Economics, Feminist Economics, Macroeconomics, and Environmental Economics.

Interests: Community engagement (especially tutoring, mentoring and activism in secondary education), hiking, marathon running, writing and reading.

Inspired by: My family and my teachers, to whom I owe everything; Professor Sylvia Tamale's scholarship and activism.

Main achievements: Mandela Rhodes Scholar, Rhodes University Student Volunteer of the Year (2020), Allan Gray Achievement Awards recipient, Rhodes-Investec Top 100 Awards recipient.

Community activity: Mentor, tutor and student leader at GADRA Matric School (2016-2018); mentor and student leader of the 9/10ths mentoring programme; community engagement representative for the Rhodes University Mountain Club; volunteer tutor in partnership between Rhodes University Economics Department and GADRA Matric School.

In 10 years' time ... I hope to be involved in the construction of a more just and inclusive education system, either in academia or in the civil-society space.