

# Review of: "The “Africa Rising”: An Exploratory Analysis with the Gross Domestic Product Data"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper presents an interesting and fairly comprehensive analysis of the determinants of African countries' growth in recent years. I find it to be a very ambitious and well done paper, but I have the following criticisms.

1) The reference sample includes only 10 years (2010-2019) and is not large enough to talk about "economic growth," especially when referring to structural reforms. It is known in the literature that for some reforms, see those related to the labor market and education, it takes at least 10 years for these to begin to manifest their effects on economic variables. Perhaps it would be better to shrink the sample in its spatial dimension, preferring the temporal one, or to start a backward time series reconstruction project, which I understand cannot be developed in the short term.

2) It is unclear whether there are tests to check the inclusion of individual effects in the various specifications. Also, is there not a risk of running into multicollinearity problems if individual effects and spatial dummies (such as Lions or Sub-Saharan countries) are included?

3) Finally, for the sake of completeness, I would suggest including other variables that relate to the demographic sphere (such as fertility rate or life expectancy), the financial system and the quality of institutions (degree of democracy, freedom, corruption and/or crime), which literature has shown to be significant determinants, too. I am not sure if such a comprehensive dataset exists for African countries, but in any case it could be built by starting a very ambitious project here as well.

In conclusion, I think the paper in its current state is publishable anyway.