

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

Lilianne Isabel Pavón Cuéllar¹

¹ Universidad Anáhuac

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This research note is an exploration of the determinants of African growth after analyzing the recent empirical literature on the subject. The proposal is innovative, because it allows the incorporation of non-traditional factors that could explain the Solow residue that appears recurrently in the estimation of any growth model, and that evidences the need to include additional elements in this study framework.

However, I think it is appropriate to make some suggestions that could improve the contributions of this work.

1. Some of the paper's claims may be debatable. For example, the author says that inflation is usually expected to negatively impact growth. Nevertheless, the traditional theoretical framework, such as the Phillips curve, seems to suggest otherwise, both as regards the sense of causality and its sign
2. Including variables related to the amount of public spending in the model and others that reflect the physical and human capital formation, as well as innovation and productivity, generates some skepticism, related to:
 - a. the debate between efficiency in allocation vs importance of public spending in the economy
 - b. that these indicators could be duplicating information and therefore, compromising the validity of the model. It would be convenient to include tests to rule out this possibility, for example, redundant variables tests, or estimate an alternative dynamic model to check the robustness of the results.
3. Finally, and even when this note should be valued for its originality, the limitations of panel models that assume that all African economies share the same growth function and that this function is relatively stable over time, should not be overlooked: when conclusions are drawn from a panel analysis, those must be done prudently, explicitly indicating their scope and limitations.