

ESA



ACE2025

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE OF ECONOMISTS
6-9 JULY 2025, SYDNEY
ECONOMICS FOR A CHANGING WORLD
SYDNEY MASONIC CENTRE



Photo Credit: Destination NSW

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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For all conference queries, please see Helene and Lucy at the Registration Desk in the Banquet Hall

Helene Stewart
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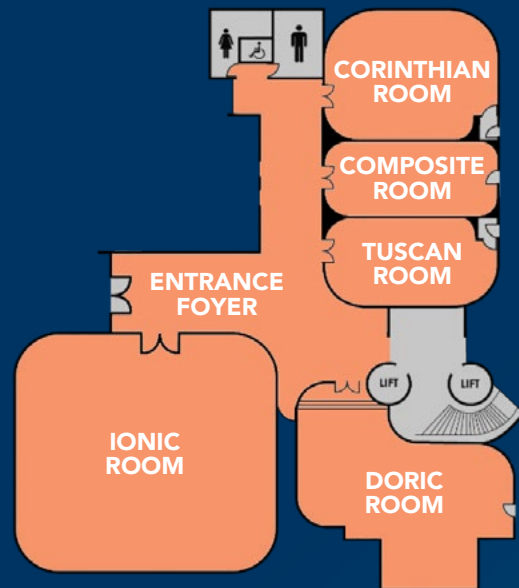
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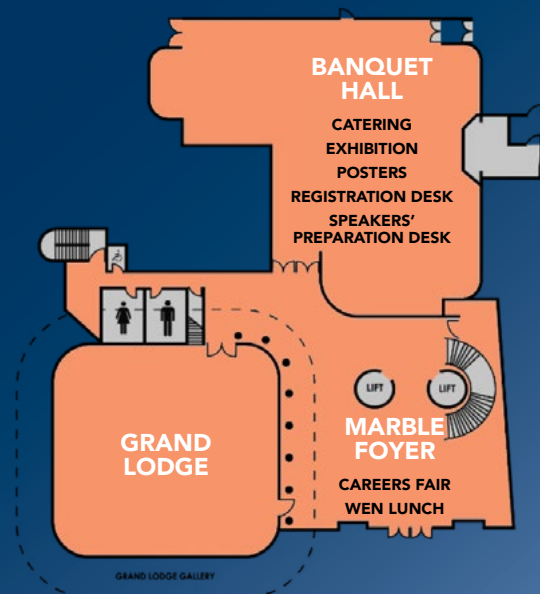


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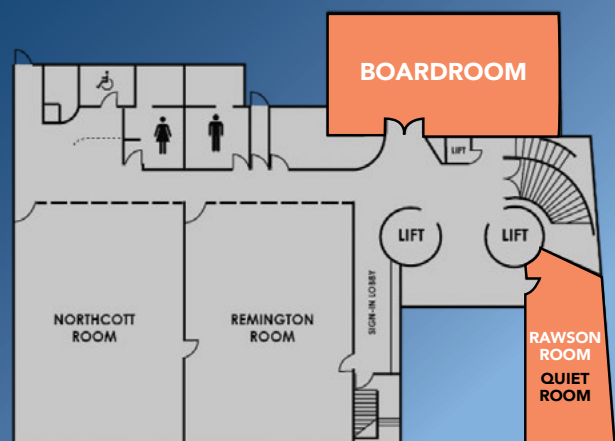
SYDNEY MASONIC CENTRE VENUE FLOORPLAN



GROUND FLOOR



LEVEL I



LEVEL 4

PROGRAM

SUNDAY 6 JULY

6.00pm – 8.00pm
WELCOME RECEPTION
THE CALYX, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN SYDNEY
Guests to access via Morshead Gate on the corner of Macquarie Street and Shakespeare Place
Welcome: Prof Peter Abelson, ACE2025 Convenor
Guest speaker: Danielle Wood, Chair, Productivity Commission

MONDAY 7 JULY

SYDNEY MASONIC CENTRE, 66 GOULBURN ST	
7.45am	
GROUND FLOOR FOYER Registration Desk open	QUIET ROOM, RAWSON ROOM, LEVEL 4 If you are looking for a spot for quiet contemplation, prayer, parenting duties or a little bit of ‘time out’
8.00am	
BANQUET HALL Arrival tea and coffee	
8.45am – 9.00am	
GRAND LODGE WELCOME TO ACE2025 ESA President, Catherine de Fontenay	
9.00am – 10.30am	
PLENARY ECONOMICS FOR A CHANGING WORLD CHAIR: Prof Peter Abelson, ESA NSW President Dr Guy Debelle, University of Adelaide <i>Challenges for Economics and the Economics Profession</i> Prof Warwick McKibbin, ANU <i>The global economic impacts of President Trump’s policies with a focus on Australia</i>	
10.30am – 11.00am	
BANQUET HALL MORNING REFRESHMENTS	

MONDAY 7 JULY

11.00am – 12.30pm					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION EDUCATION OF ECONOMISTS FOR A CHANGING WORLD CHAIR: Prof Gigi Foster, UNSW RC MILLS LECTURE <i>Sponsored by University of Sydney School of Economics</i> Introduction: Prof Stephen Whelan, University of Sydney Prof Julie Berry Cullen University of California <i>Unintended consequences of education reforms</i> Tanya Livermore Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Declining Diversity and Enrolment in Australian Economics Education: Challenges and Insights from Recent RBA Research</i> Christine Dowd Queensland Economics Teachers' Association <i>Economics in Queensland: A growth state</i> Rebecca Cassells The Treasury Clare Cotton, Paul Pagani NSW Education Standards Authority <i>NSW Curriculum Review – Economics 11-12</i> PANEL DISCUSSION: THE EDUCATION OF ECONOMISTS	KEYNESIAN APPROACHES TO STEWARDSHIP OF ECONOMIES CHAIR: Prof Stephen Bartos, University of Canberra Changchen Ge Monash University <i>The Inflationary Impact of Government Spending Shocks: Do Funding Choices Matter?</i> Christopher Gibbs University of Sydney <i>Resolving New Keynesian Puzzles</i> Julian Pearce Griffith University <i>A louder bark for Australia's Fiscal Watch Dog</i>	VALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HISTORY CHAIR: Assoc Prof Duygu Yengin, University of Adelaide Md Sayed Iftekhhar Griffith University <i>Nonmarket values of ecosystem services of the coastal lagoons in small island developing states</i> Haikun Zhan University of Auckland <i>Sins of the Fathers: The Legacy of Frontier Violence on Australian Communities</i> Thames Kularatne Community and Patient Preference Research <i>The Value of Heritage to the New South Wales Community</i>	FINANCIAL MARKETS CHAIR: Dr Nadira Barkatullah, Aurecon Australasia Summer Xia Macquarie University <i>Shareholder Participation and Wealth Transfer in Rights Offerings</i> Kulsoom Bibi RMIT <i>Financial Inclusion in a Changing Macroeconomic Environment</i>	GENDER RELATIONS CHAIR: Harshit Shah, ANU Hong Ngoc (Ruby) Nguyen University of Adelaide <i>How Origin Institutions Shape Immigrants' Gender Norms: Evidence from Australia</i> Simin Tao University of Technology Sydney <i>Relative Earnings and Decision Power within the Household: Evidence from Australia</i> Luke Hartigan University of Sydney <i>House prices and divorce: evidence from Australia</i>	CONSUMER EXPENDITURE DECISIONS CHAIR: Prof Maneka Jayasinghe, Charles Darwin University Eliyathamby Selvanathan Griffith University <i>A new method to estimate the income elasticity of marginal utility of income in the absence of price data</i> Gan Xu UTS <i>Money's Identity Crisis: The Roles of Mental Accounting and Personality in Shaping Spending Behaviours</i> Debajyoti Chakrabarty Charles Darwin University <i>Domestic Tourism Demand in Fortress Australia: Insights from a Natural Experiment</i>
12.30pm – 1.30pm					
BANQUET HALL	MARBLE FOYER	BOARDROOM, LEVEL 4			
LUNCH POSTERS Meet the authors 12.50-1.20pm	CAREERS FAIR Our exhibitors: Reserve Bank of Australia The Treasury Department of Industry, Science and Resources NSW Treasury RBB Economics Oxford Economics Houston Kemp Economists NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research ACCC	HEADS OF DEPARTMENT LUNCH By invitation			

1.30pm – 3.00pm					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION ECONOMICS FROM INSIDE GOVERNMENT <i>Supported by NSW Treasury</i> CHAIR: Geraldine Carter NSW Treasury MODERATOR: Peter Achterstraat Commissioner, NSW Productivity and Equality Geraldine Carter Acting Deputy Secretary, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury <i>What is the role of economics in government and how does economic policy made by Government shape our lives?</i> PRESENTATIONS: Elliott James Principal Economist, Productivity Reform, NSW Treasury <i>NSW Productivity and Equality Commission – Housing Research</i> Laura Faulkner Senior Analyst, First Nations Economic Wellbeing, NSW Treasury Eugenia Marembo Senior Policy Analyst, First Nations Economic Wellbeing, NSW Treasury <i>First Nations Investment Framework</i> Anna Barker Assistant Secretary, Competition Taskforce, Commonwealth Treasury <i>National Competition Policy</i> PANEL SESSION MODERATOR: Peter Achterstraat, Commissioner, NSW Productivity and Equality PANELLISTS: Michael Gadiel Deputy Secretary Procurement Reform and Banking, NSW Treasury Cass Wilkinson Executive Director, Centre for Economic Evidence, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury Anna Barker Assistant Secretary, Competition Taskforce, Commonwealth Treasury Christine Duke Assistant Secretary, Aged Care, Veterans and Care Workforce, Department of Finance	SPECIAL SESSION THE ECONOMICS OF HOUSING POLICIES CHAIR: Prof Rachel Viforj, Curtin University James Graham University of Sydney <i>Monetary policy and the home ownership rate</i> Gianni La Cava e61 Institute <i>The effects of stamp duty on home purchase, mobility and prices</i> Peter Siminski University of Technology Sydney <i>Housing, Income Inequality and Progressivity of Taxes and Transfers</i>	LABOUR MARKETS; GOVERNMENT SUPPORT CHAIR: tbc Maathu Ranjan Australian National University <i>Does disability funding impact employment prospects? A study of Australian carers and disability funding recipients</i> Matthew Maltman E61 Institute <i>Who does the government support through Job Loss?</i> Brendan Coates Grattan Institute <i>Renting in retirement: Why Rent Assistance needs to rise</i>	ECONOMIC STUDENT PRESENTATIONS LIGHTNING CHAIR: Prof Gigi Foster, UNSW Bowen Zhang Brisbane Grammar School <i>The Dual Legacy of KAFTA: Trade Growth, Economic Gains, and Structural Risks in Australia-Korea</i> <i>Minerals/Metals Trade and Resource Dependency</i> Michael Dore Brisbane Grammar School <i>Australia's Trade with China Between 2014-2024 after the Signing of ChAFTA</i> Joel Pallikunnel Padua College <i>International student market</i> Anthony DeBellis Padua College <i>Trade pattern dependence on Trade Liberalisation</i> Lochlan Savoca Padua College <i>Analysation of the impact of Trade Liberalisation on Electric Vehicles in Australia</i> Thomas Moran Padua College <i>Is JAEPA still an effective FTA for the Australian economy</i>	ECONOMIC POLICY STUDIES: AUSTRALIA CHAIR: Dr Nadira Barkatullah, Aurecon Australasia Lee Mead Ninesquared <i>A Cost-Benefit Framework for Evaluating Investments in Improved Drinking Water Quality: An Australian Perspective</i> Ali Yasin Vergili e61 Institute <i>Financial Incentives and Fertility: Evidence from Linked Administrative Data on Australia's Baby Bonus</i> Aaron Korczak-Krzeczowski Productivity Commission <i>Birthday penalties? Employment effects of increases in the discontinuous age-based minimum wage. Evidence from Australian Administrative Data</i>	STUDIES OF AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION (DEMAND) CHAIR: Assoc Prof Duygu Yengin, University of Adelaide Emma Chow RBA <i>Where have all the Economics students gone? Insights from recent RBA research</i> Harshit Shah Australian National University/e61 Institute <i>From study to work: the effect of extending post-study work rights</i> Alec Zuo Flinders University <i>Mental health impacts on educational outcomes: a longitudinal study of Australian children</i>

MONDAY 7 JULY

3.00pm – 3.30pm					
BANQUET HALL					
AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS					
3.30pm-5.00pm					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION TRUMP TARIFFS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CHAIR: Dr Jenny Gordon, ANU Prof Adnan Khan London School of Economics <i>Trade and tariffs - adapting to a new system</i> Gene Tunny Adept Economics <i>Why Trump's Tariffs Are Better Than You Think—And Much Worse</i> Prof Bob Gregory ANU <i>Tariffs, Myths and the Big Picture. “Making America Great Again”</i>	AI, TECHNOLOGY AND LABOUR CHAIR: Phillipa Chong, Chong & Jones Consulting Safdar Khan CoGC <i>Employment Prospects in the Age of AI</i> Gabriela D’Souza Treasury <i>Does hiring more tech workers make other workers more productive?</i> Tris Sainsbury Department of Industry, Science and Resources <i>What drives the emergence of new technology-driven industries in Australia?</i>	2024 YOUNG ECONOMIST ADDRESS 3.30-4.15pm Nathan Deutscher The Treasury / University of Technology Sydney <i>Intergenerational mobility in Australia</i> YOUNG ECONOMIST NETWORK DEBATE 4.30-5.15pm <i>Would a huge increase in the price of oil be a good thing?</i> Moderator: Brendan Coates, Grattan Institute	COMMODITIES CHAIR: tbc Aneeq Sarwar AUSMASA <i>The Economic Impact of Critical Minerals: Nexus of strategic and analytical challenges</i> Natalia Ponomareva Macquarie University <i>Impact of commodity price uncertainty on industries in a small open economy: the case of Australia</i> Cameron Murray Fresh Economic Thinking <i>Rent-controlled resources: Why are we under-charging Australia’s mining tenants?</i>	ECONOMIC POLICY STUDIES: WORLD CHAIR: tbc Kwabena Addai Griffith University <i>Maternal Access to Rural Advisory Services and Child Nutrition: Impacts and Pathways</i> Sujan Dhungel University of Queensland <i>Consumer Preferences for Safe and Quality Milk in Nepal: Evidence from a Discrete Choice Experiment</i> Hang Anh Nguyen University of Wollongong <i>The Evolution of the Child Penalty and Impacts of Maternity Leave Reform</i>	STUDIES OF AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION (SUPPLY) CHAIR: Prof Selva Selvanathan, Griffith University Benjamin Vu University of Canberra <i>School Funding and Students’ Academic Performance: New Empirical Evidence across Geographical Locations and States in Australia</i> Tunye Qiu Australian National University <i>School Funding and Student Performance in Australia</i> Jack Buckley e61 Institute <i>Who stays, who goes? A new look at teacher attrition using administrative data</i>
5.30pm – 6.30pm					
CORINTHIAN					
PETER MARTIN HOSTS A LIVE RECORDING OF ABC RADIO NATIONAL'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID					
6.30pm					
Depart Sydney Masonic Centre, or meet at the Hotel at 6.45pm					
YOUNG ECONOMIST NETWORK SOCIAL EVENT					
SURREY HILLS HOTEL					
Cnr Elizabeth & Campbell Streets, Surry Hills					
From 6.00pm					
IONIC					
Adjacent ticketed event organised by Australian Dialogues and Australians for Science and Freedom					
A BIG DIALOGUE: AUSTRALIA'S COST OF LIVING PROBLEM - WHY IT AROSE AND HOW TO FIX IT?					
MC: Gigi Foster, UNSW					
Moderator: Cameron Murray, Fresh Economic Thinking					
Panellists:					
Jennifer Westacott, WSU					
Adam Creighton, IPA					
Alison Preston, UWA					
For more information and to purchase tickets, see here					
Special ticket price available for ACE; discount code ACE2025					

8.00am					
BANQUET HALL Registration Desk open ARRIVAL TEA AND COFFEE			QUIET ROOM, RAWSON ROOM, LEVEL 4 If you are looking for a spot for quiet contemplation, prayer, parenting duties or a little bit of ‘time out’		
9.00am – 10.30am					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION HISTORY AND ROLE OF INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC HISTORY CHAIR: Prof Hugh Harley, University of Sydney Prof Boyd Hunter ANU <i>What economics can contribute to understanding this long journey</i> Prof Dennis Foley Federation University Australia <i>The current state of play for indigenous Australia</i> Prof Stephanie Schurer University of Sydney <i>Using advanced quantitative techniques to understand the successes and pitfalls of policy interventions directed at indigenous Australians</i>	ECONOMIC ANALYSES AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE LIGHTNING CHAIR: Michael Potter Nicholas Gray RBA <i>AI-driven information retrieval from Liaison: The Reserve Bank of Australia’s new tool</i> Sarah Davies & Omer Majeed Treasury <i>A new methodology for measuring and tracking concentration and business employment at the regional and industry level</i> Carolyn Currie Public Private Sector Partnerships Pty Ltd <i>One Ocean – Stopping Oceanic Pollution is the biggest challenge of Climate Change</i> Chris Mornement Department of Industry, Science and Resources <i>A health check on Australia’s mineral exploration sector</i> Lachlan Butler Treasury <i>Migration and dwelling demand – analysis of average household representation propensity</i> Oscar Lane Department of Industry, Science and Resources <i>The impacts of business participation in the government’s largest business advisory program, the Entrepreneurs’ Programme</i>	AGED CARE AND OLDER WORKERS CHAIR: Dr Evelyn Lee, University of Sydney Heng Zhe Zhao Macquarie University <i>Distributional Impact of Means-Test Reform in Residential Aged Care</i> Alison Preston UWA <i>Caregiving and the Labour Market Outcomes of Older Australians</i> Van Trung Vu Loughborough University <i>Population aging and productivity growth</i>	DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR CHAIR: tbc Matteo Lanzafame Asian Development Bank <i>Structural Change and Growth Trajectories through Counterfactual Quantile Decomposition</i> Kerong Song The Australian National University <i>Green Finance and High-Quality Economic Development: Examining the Mediating Role of Regional Talent Dividend and the Moderating Impact of Innovation Efficiency</i> Chanyoung Lee Chonnam National University <i>Making the Invisible Visible: International Evidence on the Economic Value of Socioemotional Skills</i>	ECONOMETRIC METHODS CHAIR: tbc Meimei Chen Macquarie University <i>Causal Inference with Time-to-Event Outcomes: A Debiased Machine Learning Framework for Treatment Parameters</i> Dan Liu The University of Technology Sydney <i>Distance as a Barrier to Care: Evidence from the Expansion of Cancer Treatment Centres Using a Continuous Difference-in-Differences Approach</i> Simon Sagerer WSP <i>Applying a mixed-effects beta regression approach in rail mode share modelling—a case on Greater Sydney</i>	INFLATION, MONETARY POLICY, EXPECTATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR CHAIR: Prof Ashton de Silva, RMIT Matthew Fink Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Changes in Australian price-setting behaviour around a large shock: evidence from microdata</i> Samuel Munn Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Household Interest-Rate Expectations and Monetary Policy Decisions</i> Ashton de Silva RMIT <i>Nowcasting Australian inflation</i>

10.30am – 11.00am					
BANQUET HALL					
MORNING REFRESHMENTS					
11.00am – 12.30pm					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION CELEBRATING WOMEN ECONOMISTS IN THE PAST 100 YEARS CHAIR: Assoc Prof Lyla Zhang, Macquarie Business School This session honours the contributions of women economists who have shaped the discipline over the past century in Australia — across academia, public policy, and industry. Speakers will reflect on the legacies of pioneering figures, highlight ongoing challenges, and discuss the progress made in fostering a more inclusive economics profession. The session aims to inspire the next generation by showcasing the impact and leadership of women in economics, both past and present. Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark University of Sydney Dr Luci Ellis Westpac Banking Group Dr Jenny Gordon Lowy Institute and Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU	LABOUR AND HEALTH LIGHTNING CHAIR: Prof Gigi Foster, UNSW Christopher Carter University of Technology Sydney <i>Exploring Declining Job Mobility in Australia: The Role of Demographic Changes</i> Riley Smithers The Treasury <i>Understanding trends in full-time labour force participation of Australian-born men</i> Bowen Wang Australian National University <i>Impact of Adult Migrant English Program on Government Benefit Receipt: Evidence from Australian Humanitarian Migrants</i> Duc Vo University of Western Australia <i>Financial Literacy as a Pathway to Better Mental Health: A Global Perspective</i> Lixin Cai Department of Employment and Workplace Relations <i>Targeting Labour Market Programs Towards the Disadvantaged: An Analysis of the Effects of Job Seeker Streaming in Australia</i>	HOUSING CHAIR: Prof Stephen Bartos, University of Canberra Tim Helm Prosper Australia <i>Zoning and housing supply: empirics in search of a theory</i> Marcel Peruffo University of Sydney <i>The Short-Term Impact of Net Overseas Migration on Residential Real Estate Prices and Rents - Evidence from Australia Neighbourhood-Level Data</i> Philipp Grozinger Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Do Homeowners Consume Gains in their Home Equity by Refinancing?</i>	FOOD WASTE POLICY CHAIR: Samuel Miller, NSW Farmers Kat Heinrich Rawtec <i>The Economics of Food Waste: What Are We Really Throwing Away?</i> Sijia Liu The University of Adelaide <i>The impact of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services on recovery rate, diversion rate and total disposed: Empirical evidence from New South Wales and Victoria in Australia</i>	BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS CHAIR: Assoc Prof Virginie Masson, Adelaide University Omer Majeed & Adrian Domazet Treasury <i>Price elasticity and habit formation: The Australian Aviation Sector</i> Stan Cheung Queen Mary University of London <i>Policy Evaluation Under the Crowding-In and Out of Social Preferences</i> Russell Thomson Swinburne University of Technology <i>Persuading voters with partisan TV news: a natural experiment using spatial reception data</i>	INNOVATION CHAIR: Prof Phil Lewis, University of Canberra Brodie Dobson-Keeffe Ip Australia <i>The Impact of Labour Mobility on Innovation in Australia</i> Yi-Ling Cheng National Sun Yat-sen University <i>Product Bundling and Quality Innovation in Network Industries</i> Kevin Nguyen IP Australia <i>Exploring Innovation Pathways: An Insight into the Drivers of Patenting Among Australia's R&D Firms</i>
12.30pm – 1.30pm					
BANQUET HALL			MARBLE FOYER		
LUNCH			WEN Lunch (by RSVP only)		

1.30pm – 3.00pm					
PLENARY					
PRODUCTIVITY					
CHAIR: Prof Robert Breunig, Crawford School of Public Policy ANU					
Prof Amanda Pallais, Harvard University					
Working from Home					
Danielle Wood, Productivity Commission					
Productivity in Australia					
Prof Beth Webster, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research					
Lifting Business Productivity					
Sponsored by Department of Industry, Science and Resources					
3.00pm – 3.30pm					
BANQUET HALL					
AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS					
3.30pm – 5.00pm					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION	SPECIAL SESSION	LABOUR AND HEALTH	TARIFFS AND TRADE	PUBLIC SERVICE ECONOMICS SESSION	WEALTH AND INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS
POLICIES TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S SUPERPOWER OPPORTUNITY	HISTORY AND ROLE OF ECONOMIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (ESA)	CHAIR: Dr Evelyn Lee, University of Sydney	CHAIR: Samuel Miller, NSW Farmers	LIGHTNING	CHAIR: tbc
CHAIR: Dr Jonathan Mirrlees-Black, Morrison	CHAIR: Prof Hugh Harley, University of Sydney	Nary Hong	Xinyi Zhao	CHAIR: Michael Potter	Jamie van Netten & Josh Lipp
Dr Reuben Finighan	Dr Alex Millmow	UNSW	The University of Auckland	The Cabinet Office	Fair Work Commission
The Superpower Institute	Federation University	The Cost of Chronic Pain: Labour Market Outcomes and the Role of Painkillers	Global Supply Chain Resilience and the Trump Election	An evaluation of the economic outcomes achieved from the NSW 2021 COVID-19 business support programs	Award-reliant employees' position in the household income distribution of employees
Australia's comparative advantage in renewable energy	An Evolving Record: A Centennial History of the Economic Society of Australia	Ashani Abayasekara	Owen Gabbittas	Sam Mathieson	Silvia Griselda
Dr Ingrid Burfurd	Prof Jose Merigo	Monash University	Productivity Commission	NSW Treasury	E61 Institute
The Superpower Institute	University of Technology Sydney	Mental health and differential belief updating: Evidence from unemployment shocks	US trade policy impacts on Australia and the world – analysis	Understanding the NSW First Nations business sector	Gender, Age, and Test Premia: How Firms Shape the Distribution of Earnings Over the Lifecycle
Policies to correct market failures and to harness Australia's comparative advantage in green iron exports	Centennial anniversary of the Economic Record: A bibliometric retrospective	Juliana Goncalves	Larry Liu	Jessica Xu	Shape the Distribution of Earnings Over the Lifecycle
Prof Philip Adams		University of Sydney	Reserve Bank of Australia	NSW Treasury	Dipanwita Sarkar
Victoria University		Wings of Growth: a mindset intervention in rural China	The Trade-Inflation Nexus: The Role of Production Networks	NSW Performance and Wellbeing Framework	Queensland University of Technology
Carbon pricing when an emissions trading scheme is off the table				Patrick Elkington & Anna-Sophia Cetin	Are preferences for redistribution and fairness norms sensitive to income inequality?
Reserve Bank of Australia				Identifying Risk Characteristics of New Mortgage Lending	
				Angus Woods	
				NSW Treasury	
				Development of NSW specific carbon values which are mandatory for use in cost-benefit analysis across the NSW public sector	
7.00pm					
ACE2025 CONFERENCE DINNER					
THE STRANGERS' ROOM, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 6 MACQUARIE STREET SYDNEY					
ESA ANNUAL AWARDS AND CELEBRATION OF ESA 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY					
Dinner speaker: Prof R G Gregory					
Then and Now: 100 years of the Economics Society; Manufacturing, Good Jobs and All that Jazz					

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY

8.00am					
BANQUET HALL			QUIET ROOM, RAWSON ROOM, LEVEL 4		
Registration Desk open			If you are looking for a spot for quiet contemplation, prayer, parenting duties or a little bit of ‘time out’		
ARRIVAL TEA AND COFFEE					
9.00am – 10.30am					
GRAND LODGE					
PLENARY					
HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC POLICY					
CHAIR: Prof Guay Lim, University of Melbourne					
Andrew Hauser, Deputy Governor RBA					
What has Australian macroeconomic thought achieved in the past century – and where can it contribute in the next?					
Ross Gittins, SMH					
History of Economic Policy in Australia					
10.30am – 11.00am					
BANQUET HALL					
MORNING REFRESHMENTS					
11.00am – 12.30pm					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION	ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID	HEALTH POLICY	CLIMATE	ECONOMIC THEORY	TRADE / ENERGY
FISCAL POLICY AND TAX REFORM					
CHAIR: Prof James Morley, University of Sydney	CHAIR: Prof Gigi Foster, UNSW	CHAIR: tbc	CHAIR: Dr Tom Longden, Western Sydney University	CHAIR: Assoc Prof Duygu Yengin, University of Adelaide	CHAIR: tbc
Prof Ben Philips	Jeff Borland	Persis Eskander & Nick Sladden	Mohammad Razib Hossain	Duygu Yengin	Rahul Sen
ANU	University of Melbourne	Productivity Commission	The University of Adelaide	Uni of Adelaide	Auckland University of Technology
A better tax and transfer system for Australia	Decline to boom and back again: The Australian labour market in the COVID-19 era (2000-2024)	Financial mechanisms for better value hospital care	The University of Adelaide	Reconciling Fairness and Efficiency: A Game-Theoretic Approach to Compulsory Acquisition under Legal Uncertainty	A Quantitative Evaluation of Static and Dynamic effects of expanding CPTPP membership and free trade in the backdrop of Trade War 2.0
Stephen Bartos	William Morton & Archana Subramaniam	Sebastian Broadhurst	Rabindra Nepal	Hugh Harley	Fangyuan Liu
University of Canberra	Productivity Commission	Productivity Commission	University of Wollongong	University of Sydney	The University of Auckland
Does independent scrutiny of government spending proposals improve fiscal outcomes?	Productivity before and after COVID-19	Powering Down	Channelling aid towards equality: Climate finance funds and carbon inequality	Implications of recent advances in evolutionary biology for economic policy and theory	The “She-Power” in the Household: The Managerial Advantage of Women in China’s Energy Poverty and Its Boundary
Robert Breunig	Blair Chapman	Nataliya Ilyushina	Sadhana Srivastava	Riko Stevens	
ANU	Seek	RMIT	Infisum Modelling Inc	University of Notre Dame	
Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform: Where are we headed?	The Australian Beveridge curve in the wake of COVID-19	How Digital Abilities Shape Wellbeing and Social Inclusion: An Empirical Study of Victorians	Climate change risks and its differential impacts on income inequality: An empirical investigation using threshold analysis	Alfred Marshall on the Microeconomics of Speculation	
12.30pm – 1.15pm					
BANQUET HALL					
LUNCH					

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY

1.15pm – 2.45pm					
GRAND LODGE	IONIC	CORINTHIAN	COMPOSITE	TUSCAN	DORIC
SPECIAL SESSION INEQUALITY CHAIR: Prof Alison Preston, UWA Catherine De Fontenay Productivity Commission Roger Wilkins University of Melbourne Victoria Baranov University of Melbourne	ENERGY CHAIR: Dr Tom Longden, Western Sydney University	ECONOMIC POLICY MODELLING CHAIR: tbc	PRODUCTIVITY AND ASSET PRICING CHAIR: Dr Alex Millmow, Federation University	SUSTAINABILITY, TRUST, AND PERFORMANCE CHAIR: tbc	LABOUR MARKETS: GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION CHAIR: Prof Jeff Borland, University of Melbourne
	Anthony Rush Australian Energy Market Commission <i>Projecting electricity and energy costs over the transition</i>	James Morley University of Sydney <i>Assessing monetary-fiscal interactions in New Zealand using a regime-switching Bayesian Local Projection model</i>	Hong Gayeon Seoul National University <i>Demand-Shifting Intangibles, Market Concentration and the Pricing of Risk</i>	Hassan Gholipour Fereidouni Western Sydney University <i>The Impact of Anti-Money Laundering Regulations on House Prices in OECD Countries</i>	Joel Bowman Domain <i>Examining the Macroeconomic Costs of Occupational Entry Regulations</i>
	Marc Jim Mariano CSIRO <i>Understanding structural change from transitioning to a low-carbon economy: an integrated multi-model approach for Australia</i>	James Lennox Victoria University <i>Planning to Construct: a DSGE model of the Australian Economy</i>	John Hawkins & Jack Wasson University of Canberra <i>The Pricing of Real and Virtual Collectibles: the Case of Damien Hirst's 'Currency'</i>	Susantha Dissanayake University of New England <i>Measuring fiscal sustainability: A novel multidimensional index, a developed country perspective</i>	Andrew Wait University of Sydney <i>Depression, unobserved management effects and the endogeneity of job demands and control at work</i>
	Nadira Barkatullah Director of Economics - Advisory, Aurecon Australasia/ UN Representative <i>Economic Impact Assessment and Energy Asset Transition</i>	John Dundas NSW Treasury <i>Smarter regulation through experiments</i>	Ayasha Akter Office of the South Australian Productivity Commission <i>Drivers of Productivity in the Australian States and Territories: A Comparative Analysis</i>		Andrew Clarke University of Melbourne <i>Gender Differences in Labour Market Outcomes for Recent Skilled Immigrants to Australia: The Confounding Effects of Gender and Application Status</i>
2.45pm – 3.00pm					
MARBLE FOYER Stretch and drink break					

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY

3.00pm – 4.00pm
<div>GRAND LODGE</div> <div>PLENARY</div> <div>SHAPING AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE: PROSPERITY, PRODUCTIVITY AND COUNTERING INEQUALITY</div> <div>Panel Q&A</div> <div>Moderator: Prof Peter Abelson, ESA NSW President</div> <div>Panellists:</div> <div>Dr Angelia, Grant The Treasury</div> <div>Prof Deborah, Cobb-Clark University of Sydney</div> <div>Prof Gigi Foster, UNSW</div> <div>Prof James Morley, University of Sydney</div> <div>Prof Jeff Borland, University of Melbourne</div> <div>Prof Warwick McKibbin, ANU</div>
4.00pm – 4.15pm
<div>CONFERENCE CLOSE</div> <div>ESA President, Catherine de Fontenay</div> <div>2026 CONFERENCE LAUNCH</div> <div>ACE2026 Convenor</div>
4.15pm
<div>MARBLE FOYER</div> <div>AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS</div>

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation titles and presenter biographies
in order of program schedule

PLENARY: ECONOMICS FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Dr Guy Debelle, University of Adelaide

Challenges for Economics and the Economics Profession

Dr Debelle will talk about the challenges facing the profession in terms of being listened to in the policy debate as well as areas where economic understanding could be improved to help policymakers implement appropriate policies. He will also discuss why it has got to the point that the President of the United States is implementing policies that much of the economics profession rejects and will talk about the challenges of declining and less diverse student numbers.

Dr Guy Debelle is chair of FundsSA and a board member of Tivan, e61 and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. He is also an adviser to the Investment Committee of Australian Retirement Trust, chair of the advisory board at Famille Capital and honorary professor of economics at Adelaide University.

Guy was the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia for six years having worked at the RBA for 25 years. After leaving the RBA, Guy worked at Fortescue Future Industries as CFO. He has a PhD from MIT and a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from the University of Adelaide.

Prof Warwick McKibbin, ANU

The global economic impacts of President Trump's policies with a focus on Australia

The presentation will explore the implications for Australia of the economic policies President Trump proposed during the 2024 election, some of which are currently being implemented, that have serious consequences for the global economy. It will focus on immigration policy, trade, and erosion of the Federal Reserve Board's political independence. Each policy has differing macroeconomic and sectoral impacts on the United States and other countries. The presentation will draw out the economic implications for Australia in a fundamentally changing global environment.

Professor Warwick J. McKibbin, AO, FASSA is a Distinguished Professor of Economics and Public Policy and Director of the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis (CAMA) in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University (ANU). He is a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) in Washington, DC. and a Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (London).

He served on the Policy Board of the Australian Central Bank (the Reserve Bank of Australia) from 2001 to 2011 and worked on the staff at the Reserve Bank from 1975 to 1991. From 1991-1993, he was a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C. and a non-Resident Senior Fellow from 1993-2023.

Professor McKibbin was awarded the Order of Australia in 2016 "For Distinguished Service to Education as an Economist, particularly in the Area of Global Climate Policy, and to Financial Institutions and International Organizations" and the Centenary Medal in 2003 "For Service to Australian Society through Economic Policy and Tertiary Education".

SPECIAL SESSION: EDUCATION OF ECONOMISTS FOR A CHANGING WORLD RC MILLS LECTURE

Sponsored by the University of Sydney School of Economics

Introduction: Prof Stephen Whelan, University of Sydney

Unintended consequences of education reforms

Prof Julie Berry Cullen, University of California

Julie Berry Cullen is a public finance economist whose primary research interests are the economics of education and fiscal federalism. She received her PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1997, was on the faculty at the University of Michigan until 2004, and has been at the University of California, San Diego, ever since. She has served in a variety of editorial positions, including as co-editor at the Journal of Human Resources and Journal of Public Economics, and in policy advisory roles for the states of California and Michigan. She has authored papers investigating the intended and unintended consequences of school finance reforms, school choice policies, and school accountability systems. Her work has been published in leading outlets such as American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Econometrica, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Public Economics, and Review of Economics and Statistics.

Julie will discuss the findings from several of her studies evaluating reforms intended to improve the efficiency or equity of the provision of education. The reforms span school finance equalisation, school accountability, and guaranteed college admission. The focus is on consequences that are unintended, such as school or student gaming responses, and the lessons for policy design.

Declining Diversity and Enrolment in Australian Economics Education: Challenges and Insights from Recent RBA Research

Tanya Livermore, Senior Manager, Public Education, Reserve Bank of Australia

Over the past three decades, there has been a stark decline in the size and diversity of the economics student population in Australia. Year 12 economics enrolments have fallen by around 70 per cent since the early 1990s. Alongside the decline in numbers, the gender balance has diminished such that male students outnumber females two-to-one, and the shares of economics students from low socio-economic backgrounds and regional locations have also fallen substantially (Dwyer 2024). These trends pose significant challenges for the level of economic literacy in the population and the pipeline of future economists.

Tanya is the Senior Manager Public Education at the Reserve Bank of Australia. Tanya holds a Masters in Economics from the London School of Economics, and an Honours (Economics) degree from the University of Wollongong.

Economics in Queensland: A growth state

Christine Dowd, Queensland Economics Teachers' Association

NSW Curriculum Review – Economics 11-12

Clare Cotton, NSW Education Standards Authority

Paul Pagani, NSW Education Standards Authority

PANEL DISCUSSION: THE EDUCATION OF ECONOMISTS

Panellist include:

Rebecca Cassells, The Treasury

Facilitator: Prof Gigi Foster, UNSW

KEYNESIAN APPROACHES TO STEWARDSHIP OF ECONOMIES

The Inflationary Impact of Government Spending Shocks: Do Funding Choices Matter?

Mr Changchen Ge, Dr Solmaz Moslehi, Professor Giovanni Caggiano, Dr Xuan Zhou

¹Monash University, Clayton, Australia

Biography:

Changchen Ge is a passionate and driven macroeconomic researcher who is pursuing a PhD in Macroeconomics at Monash University. He has been working as a teaching associate and a research assistant at Monash Business School since 2022, contributing to the academic excellence and research impact of the school.

His research focuses on measuring the effect of fiscal policies in a commodity exporting economy, using advanced econometric methods and tools.

Resolving New Keynesian Puzzles

A/Prof Christopher Gibbs¹

¹University Of Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Sydney.

A Louder Bark for Australia's Fiscal Watch Dog

Mr Julian Pearce¹, Professor Emeritus Ross Guest¹

¹Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia

Biography:

Julian Pearce has worked in the Australian Treasury providing advice on fiscal and monetary policy and economic forecasting. He then became NAB's Chief Economist and led NAB's distribution strategy, before being appointed as State General Manager for NAB in Qld. He has Chaired the Economics and Finance School Advisory Committee for QUT, been an external representative on QUT's Business Faculty Academic Board and President of the Economic Society in Qld.

VALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HISTORY

Nonmarket values of ecosystem services of the coastal lagoons in small island developing states

A/Prof Md Sayed Iftekhar¹

¹Griffith University, Australia

Biography:

A/Prof Iftekhar is an applied and environmental economist with extensive experience in research, teaching, consultancy, and policy advice. He specializes in cost-benefit analysis, non-market valuation, impact assessment, mechanism design, and the sustainable management of natural resources, including water, land, energy, and the environment. He has secured competitive research and industry grants from many organizations such as ARC, ACIAR, DFAT, and CRCs.

Sins of the Fathers: The Legacy of Frontier Violence on Australian Communities

Dr Haikun Zhan¹, Associate Professor Cain Polidano², Associate Professor Julie Moschion³

¹University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, ²University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, ³University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Biography:

Haikun an Assistant Professor (Lecturer in New Zealand) in the Department of Economics at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. My research interests are in the fields of Political Economics, Development Economics, and Economic History.

The Value of Heritage to the New South Wales Community

Dr Thames Kularatne², Dr Simon Fifer¹, Prof John Rose³, Mr Nelson Odin-Jones⁴, Dr Elizabeth Heagney⁵

¹Community and Patient Preference Research, Sydney, Australia, ²Community and Patient Preference Research, Sydney, Australia, ³The University of Sydney Business School, Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies, Sydney, Australia, ⁴Community and Patient Preference Research, Sydney, Australia, ⁵Natural Capital & Analytics, Lismore, Australia

Biography:

Dr Thames Kularatne is Project Director of Government Research & Economics at Community and Patient Preference Research (CaPPRe). She is an economist with a PhD in Environmental and Tourism Economics from Queensland University of Technology. Thames has wide ranging experience in the design and application of Discrete Choice Experiments across a range of sectors including environment, tourism, transport, health, infrastructure, arts and culture, energy, and natural hazards. At CaPPRe, she leads projects from briefing through to results delivery, with a strong focus on analytics and non-market valuation. Prior to joining CaPPRe, she worked on business cases and economic analyses for infrastructure projects in NSW.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Shareholder Participation and Wealth Transfer in Rights Offerings

Ms Summer Xia¹, Prof Sean Foley, Jiri Svec

¹Macquarie University, Australia

Biography:

Qinqin Xia is a researcher with a strong interest in capital markets, corporate finance, and investment behavior. She holds an MBA from Sydney Business School and is currently pursuing a PhD in finance, focusing on empirical studies of equity financing mechanisms. Before entering academia, she gained valuable industry experience in the mining and metals sector, where she worked on corporate strategy and investor relations. Her research is motivated by real-world issues in capital raising, particularly those relevant to Australian firms and retail investors. She is particularly interested in how market structure, information asymmetry, and governance affect shareholder outcomes. She has presented at national and international finance conferences and is passionate about bridging academic research and financial policy. In addition to her academic work, she is actively engaged in promoting financial literacy and ethical investment practices.

Financial Inclusion in a Changing Macroeconomic Environment

Ms. Kulsoom Bibi¹, Dr Sarah Sinclair¹, Prof Ashton de Silva¹

¹RMIT, Australia

Biography:

Kulsoom Bibi received her M.Phil. in Economics from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at RMIT University, specializing in development economics with a focus on financial inclusion. Her research investigates the trichotomy of financial inclusion through traditional, digital, and CBDC perspectives, aiming to offer actionable insights for policymakers aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. As a Research Assistant at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), she evaluated policies on poverty, inequality, and sustainable development, further honing her expertise in policy analysis and quantitative research.

GENDER RELATIONS

How Origin Institutions Shape Immigrants' Gender Norms: Evidence from Australia

Dr Hong Ngoc (Ruby) Nguyen¹, Dr Toan Nguyen¹

¹School of Economics and Public Policy, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia

Biography:

Dr. Hong Ngoc (Ruby) Nguyen is a Lecturer in Economics at the School of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Adelaide. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Queensland (UQ), Australia. Her research interests include applied microeconomics, econometrics, productivity and efficiency analysis, and gender economics. Her work has been published in the European Journal of Operational Research, Omega (The International Journal of Management Science), and Journal of Productivity Analysis, among others. Dr. Nguyen is currently affiliated with the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). She is also an active member of the Econometric Society, the Economics Society of Australia, the Women in Economics Network, and the Fay Gale Centre for Research on Gender.

Relative Earnings and Decision Power within the Household: Evidence from Australia

Ms Simin Tao¹

¹University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Simin Tao is a third-year PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Her research lies at the intersection of labor economics and household decision-making, with a particular focus on gender identity, and social norms. Her current work investigates how relative income within households influences intra-household decision-making power, drawing on large-scale panel data from Australia. Simin holds a strong interest in applied microeconometrics and policy-relevant empirical research. Simin is passionate about using data-driven methods to inform social policy.

House prices and divorce: evidence from Australia

Dr Luke Hartigan¹, Prof Stephen Whelan¹, Professor Kadir Atalay¹, Ms Ruoran Wang¹

¹University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Luke Hartigan received his Ph.D. in Economics from The University of New South Wales in 2017. His research interests relate to macro-econometrics, focusing on methods useful for the empirical analysis of business cycles and summarising and nowcasting economic and financial conditions. Prior to joining the School of Economics, Luke was an Economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURE DECISIONS

A new method to estimate the income elasticity of marginal utility of income in the absence of price data

Professor Maneka Jayasinghe², Professor Eliyathamby Selvanathan¹, Professor Saroja Selvanathan¹

¹Griffith University, Nathan, Australia, ²Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia

Biography:

Selva Selvanathan is the Director of the Economics Policy Analysis Program and Professor of Econometrics. Griffith University. He is one of the authors of the best-selling textbook, *Business Statistics*, published by Cengage, currently in the eighth edition. His interests include applied econometrics, tourism economics, consumer demand models, and stochastic index numbers. He has published nine research monographs and well over 100 articles in journals such as *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Energy Economics*, *Journal of Travel Research*, and *Tourism Economics*. Selva has received several research and teaching awards, including the Minister's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Improving Literacy and/or Numeracy – Queensland state winner, Pro-Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Research Award (Research Supervision), Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching – Innovation Across the Institution, STARDS group, and the Inaugural University of Western Australia 75th Anniversary Distinguished Teaching Award.

Money's Identity Crisis: The Roles of Mental Accounting and Personality in Shaping Spending Behaviors

Mr Gan Xu¹

¹University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Gan Xu received his bachelor degree in Money, Banking and Finance from the University of Birmingham with the Hargreave Beare award and then, went to University of Cambridge with the Christ's College Bursary and Cambridge International Trust Scholarship. He studied the degree of master of philosophy in economic research and graduated with distinction from Cambridge.

Gan took projects studying the income inequality issues using China Household Income projects (CHIPs) back in Cambridge and his main research areas focus on income, consumption and machine learning.

Domestic Tourism Demand in Fortress Australia: Insights from a Natural Experiment

Dr Debajyoti Chakrabarty¹

¹Charles Darwin University, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Debajyoti is a lecturer in the Discipline of Business & Accounting specializing in Economics and Finance. He has taught a wide range of economics, Finance, and statistics courses. Before joining CDU, he was a lecturer at Australian National University and Sydney University. Debajyoti completed his MA and PhD in Economics at Rutgers University. He has published in journals such as the *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization*, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, *BE Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Social Science and Medicine* and *The Economic Record*.

SPECIAL SESSION: ECONOMICS FROM INSIDE GOVERNMENT

Case study presentations and panel discussion by NSW Treasury and Commonwealth Treasury on the role of economics in government

The Economics from inside Government session will promote a broader understanding and awareness of Treasuries as public economic institutions, both NSW and Commonwealth, and the role each play in the state and country's economy. It will focus on how Treasuries play a key role in shaping economic policies and how these policies aim to make a positive impact on society and create better outcomes for communities.

The session is also an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of government – from delivering key economic advice to support jobs, services, housing, First Nations investments, and a more prosperous future for all. Hear firsthand how economics plays a critical role through case studies on:

- the key findings and recommendations from the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission's research and how these have informed policymaking in NSW and encouraged a public conversation about how to make housing more affordable in Australia
- the work in Commonwealth Treasury on revitalising National Competition Policy (NCP), and how economics informed the design of the NCP framework and the choice of reforms under NCP
- how the five steps of the First Nations Investment Framework support partnerships with First Nations people and communities when developing and using evidence.

Whether you're an experienced economist, student, or simply curious about how economic decisions impact society, join us to learn more about how NSW and Commonwealth Treasury advise on economic solutions that can make a positive impact and a meaningful difference to the lives of people in our communities – today and for future generations.

What is the role of economics in government and how does economic policy made by Government shape our lives?

Geraldine Carter, Acting Deputy Secretary, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury

Geraldine Carter, Acting Deputy Secretary of Economic Strategy and Productivity at NSW Treasury. Geraldine joined in 2018 after her tenure at the Department of Premier and Cabinet. She leads strategic economic policy advice and has significantly contributed to reviews on infrastructure contributions and housing supply. Geraldine previously worked at Commonwealth Treasury on tax policy and for The Allen Consulting Group on various regulatory and competition policy issues. She holds a Bachelor of Economics with First-Class Honours from Monash University and actively engages with economic strategies while balancing motherhood.

NSW Productivity and Equality Commission – Housing Research

Elliott James, Principal Economist, Productivity Reform, NSW Treasury

Elliott James is a Principal Economist at NSW Treasury. Elliott has previously worked at The Cabinet Office (New South Wales) and the Reserve Bank of Australia. He holds a Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and a Bachelor of Arts/Commerce (Honours) from the University of Melbourne.

First Nations Investment Framework

Laura Faulkner, Senior Analyst, First Nations Economic Wellbeing, NSW Treasury

Laura Faulkner is a Senior Analyst in NSW Treasury's First Nations Economic Wellbeing Branch. Laura provides advice on the application of cost-benefit analysis to initiatives that impact on First Nations people and communities. Laura has ten years of experience in economics and public policy, with prior roles in consulting and the (former) NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Eugenia Marembo, Senior Policy Analyst, First Nations Economic Wellbeing, NSW Treasury

Eugenia Marembo, PhD (UNSW), is a senior policy analyst in NSW Treasury. She has over a decade of experience in public policy, providing advice on program and policy evaluation. She has worked on diverse public policy issues and contributed to the development of the NSW Evaluation Guidelines and First Nations Investment Framework.

National Competition Policy

Anna Barker, Assistant Secretary, Competition Taskforce, Commonwealth Treasury

Anna Barker is a seasoned economist with around 20 years of experience across Australian, UK, and international public policy and regulatory institutions. Her expertise spans competition policy, economic regulation, consumer protection, and the digital economy. She is currently part of the senior executive team in Treasury's Competition Taskforce, leading work on National Competition Policy. Anna has held senior roles at the ACCC, the OECD (France), and Ofgem (UK), and began her career at the Productivity Commission and Queensland Treasury. She holds a First-Class Honours degree in Economics from the University of Queensland and a Master of Competition and Consumer Law from the University of Melbourne.

PANEL SESSION

Moderator: Peter Achterstraat, Commissioner, NSW Productivity and Equality

Peter Achterstraat AM was appointed as the inaugural NSW Productivity Commissioner having been appointed in May 2018. In May 2024, the role was enhanced to become the NSW Productivity and Equality Commissioner. Peter was the Auditor-General of NSW from 2006 to 2013. He was admitted as a Barrister in the High Court of Australia in 1985. Peter has University Prizes in Law, Company Finance and Accounting. In 2006 Peter was admitted into the ANU College of Business and Economics Hall of Fame. Peter was a Principal (Infrastructure Advisor) at WorleyParsons from 2013-2016. He was the President of the NSW Division of the Australian Institute of Company Directors from 2015 -2020. He is the Chairman of Bankstown Airport Ltd. He was the Chairman of the Sydney Financial Forum from 2016 – 2022.

Panellists:

Michael Gadiel Deputy Secretary, Procurement Reform and Banking, NSW Treasury

Michael Gadiel is the Deputy Secretary of the Procurement Reform and Banking Group. Prior to this he led Treasury's Centre for Economic Evidence. He has extensive experience in Treasury, leading various initiatives including economic strategy and budget reform. Before joining Treasury in 2007, he served as a Senior Policy Advisor and coordinated the efforts of the Labor Council of NSW. Michael holds a Bachelor Degree in Science and a Masters in Economics with First Class Honours from the University of Sydney, winning the 2008 University of Sydney Econometric Modelling Prize. He has received multiple awards for his contributions, including the 2023 Treasury Inclusivity Award.

Cass Wilkinson Executive Director, Centre for Economic Evidence, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury

Cassandra Wilkinson OAM was recently appointed Executive Director of the Centre for Economic Evidence division at NSW Treasury after a decade in budget development roles. Prior to joining NSW Treasury, she had roles in public and private sector including as Director of Microeconomic Reform at COAG Reform Council, Director in the Economic practice in Deloitte and as Director of Policy for Treasurer Michael Costa. Cass is the Executive Sponsor for the NSW Treasury Reconciliation Action Plan and Executive Sponsor for Cultural and Linguistic Diversity. Cass is a non-executive Director of SBS where she chairs the audit and risk committee.

Anna Barker Assistant Secretary, Competition Taskforce, Commonwealth Treasury

Anna Barker is a seasoned economist with around 20 years of experience across Australian, UK, and international public policy and regulatory institutions. Her expertise spans competition policy, economic regulation, consumer protection, and the digital economy. She is currently part of the senior executive team in Treasury's Competition Taskforce, leading work on National Competition Policy. Anna has held senior roles at the ACCC, the OECD (France), and Ofgem (UK), and began her career at the Productivity Commission and Queensland Treasury. She holds a First-Class Honours degree in Economics from the University of Queensland and a Master of Competition and Consumer Law from the University of Melbourne.

Christine Duke Assistant Secretary, Aged Care, Veterans and Care Workforce, Commonwealth Treasury

Christine Duke leads the Aged Care, Veterans and Care Workforce Branch in Budget Group in the Commonwealth Department of Finance. Prior to this, Christine worked at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet providing advice on the COVID-19 Health Response. Christine has also worked as a consultant at Deloitte Access Economics, as a Ministerial Adviser and commenced her career as a graduate at Treasury. She holds a Master in Economics from ANU and Bachelor degrees in political science and chemistry from the University of Melbourne.

SPECIAL SESSION: THE ECONOMICS OF HOUSING POLICIES

The Economics of Housing Policies

Australia is grappling with a significant and persistent housing affordability problem that some have described as a national crisis. Over the past three decades, the dwelling price to income ratio has climbed rapidly, especially in major cities. The private rental sector continues to be plagued by rental affordability stress and tenure insecurity, especially for low-income groups. There are around 170,000 households on the public housing waitlist, and the number of homeless persons has risen from 95,000 to 122,000 in the two decades to 2021.

The current policy focus is primarily on addressing constraints to new supply. Whilst such constraints are undoubtedly important, there are system-wide complexities driving our housing challenge that include, but go beyond, new supply concerns. This special session will feature various policies beyond new supply measures that influence housing outcomes, including monetary policy (James Graham), stamp duty and land taxes (Gianni La Cava), and the income tax treatment of the family home (Peter Siminski). Together, these papers address the challenges of housing unaffordability, inefficiency and inequality perpetuated by current policy settings. In doing so, the session will shed light on the multidimensionality of Australia's housing challenge, all of which require policy consideration.

Monetary policy and the home ownership rate

This paper studies how monetary policy affects the homeownership rate. While much of the existing literature treats tenure choice as fixed, we focus on transitions into and out of homeownership, which are central to how monetary shocks are transmitted through the household sector. Higher interest rates raise mortgage costs and reduce income, discouraging home purchases. But they also lower house prices, which can make housing more affordable. These opposing forces imply that the effect of monetary policy on homeownership is theoretically ambiguous.

We build a heterogeneous household model calibrated to key features of the Australian housing market, including income risk, housing tenure choice, and long-term mortgage contracts. The model includes three institutional features specific to Australia. First, mortgages are mostly on floating rates, so policy changes pass through quickly. Second, offset accounts are common, increasing liquidity and reducing effective interest costs. Third, macroprudential rules impose a debt-servicing constraint at origination, based on surplus income and a buffer over the prevailing interest rate.

Rather than solving for a full general equilibrium, we follow Chen et al. (2020), Wong (2021), and Eichenbaum et al. (2022) in modeling the macroeconomy via an exogenous first-order Markov process. This process governs the joint evolution of interest rates, aggregate income, and house prices, and is estimated from a structural Vector Autoregression (VAR) using Australian data. Monetary policy shocks are identified via a Cholesky decomposition of the error covariance matrix. Households form expectations consistent with this VAR: they understand that an interest rate increase is typically followed by declining income and house prices. We use the calibrated model to study the homeownership response to a contractionary monetary shock. Following a 100 basis point increase in the interest rate, income falls by 0.3 percent over two years and house prices fall by 2 percent within one year. Homeownership initially declines by 1 percentage point, driven by fewer transitions into ownership and more exits into renting. But after the first year, the ownership rate rises to 0.75 percentage points above steady state and remains elevated for several years. This medium-run expansion reflects increased housing affordability: lower house prices allow some renters to purchase homes, and these purchases persist even as prices recover.

To isolate the contribution of different transmission channels, we conduct a decomposition exercise similar to Kaplan et al. (2018) and Auclert (2019). We simulate the model with only one aggregate variable responding to the monetary policy shock at a time—interest rates, income, or house prices—holding the others fixed. Higher interest rates alone reduce homeownership sharply by raising financing costs and tightening credit constraints. Income effects are small, as aggregate income responds only modestly. By contrast, falling house prices raise homeownership significantly, with a delayed but persistent effect. Thus, the medium-run rise in ownership after a monetary contraction is entirely due to the indirect effect of lower house prices.

Finally, we explore how non-monetary housing market features affect this response. We vary credit conditions by changing the tightness of borrowing constraints; we adjust mortgage structure by altering maturities and removing offset accounts; and we modify household expectations over future macroeconomic variables. In each case, the volatility of the homeownership response increases. This amplification occurs mainly through the interest rate channel, suggesting that institutional details around mortgage finance and credit regulation matter significantly for how monetary policy affects tenure choice.

Our results yield three key conclusions. First, monetary policy affects not only consumption and investment but also the composition of household tenure. Second, although a monetary contraction initially reduces homeownership, the resulting decline in house prices can increase ownership over the medium term. Third, institutional features of the mortgage market and household expectations formation amplify the homeownership response, particularly through the credit channel. These findings highlight the importance of accounting for tenure transitions and housing market institutions when evaluating the distributional consequences of monetary policy in economies like Australia, where housing plays a dominant role in household balance sheets.

Speakers:

James Graham, University of Sydney

James Graham is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney, specialising in Macroeconomics. His research focuses on housing markets, household behaviour, and cyclical fluctuations in the macroeconomy. He has incorporated both empirical analysis and quantitative macroeconomic modelling in studies of house prices, homeownership, credit conditions, household spending, neighbourhood choice, education, labour markets, and monetary and fiscal policies. His work speaks to both academic and policy audiences, with a recent focus on the challenges of housing affordability in Australia. James graduated with a PhD in Economics from New York University in 2020. Since then, he has published in leading academic economics journals, and he is currently the Editor of New Zealand Economic Papers. He previously worked at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and has held research internships at the Bank of England, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

The effects of stamp duty on home purchase, mobility and prices

Stamp duty is widely viewed as an inefficient housing tax, yet its precise effects remain contested. We examine a sharp increase in stamp duty for owner-occupiers in Queensland in 2011 using a natural experiment framework. Purchase volumes fell by 13% relative to other states and investor buyers, with two percentage points attributable to re-timed transactions. Household mobility declined by 10%. These effects are consistent across types of housing, price points, and moving distances. Strikingly, there was no impact on housing prices, suggesting equal effects on buying and selling incentives. Our findings offer robust evidence of the efficiency costs of stamp duty.

Gianni La Cava, e61 Institute

Gianni La Cava is the Research Director at the e61 Institute. Gianni previously held several senior positions at the Reserve Bank of Australia, including establishing and leading a research team – Micro Analysis and Data (MAD) – dedicated to examining macroeconomic issues using microeconomic data. He also worked at the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland. Gianni holds a PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts/Commerce from the University of Sydney.

Housing, Income Inequality and Progressivity of Taxes and Transfers

We examine the implications of housing income for inequality and tax progressivity in Australia. Positioning lifetime Haig-Simons income as our benchmark, we argue that it is defensible to treat accrued capital gains from owner-occupied housing as income. We construct new measures of imputed rent and accrued capital gains for the HILDA Survey, covering 2001 to 2023. Our measure of accrued capital gains uses inflation-adjusted, hedonic price indices. Remarkably, total income from owner-occupied housing exceeded total disposable (cash) income in 2021; in some other years, it was negative. Our preferred capital gains measure smooths these fluctuations while still capturing heterogeneity in the timing and location of home purchases and sales. Average income of outright home owners is 34% higher than for renters, but 86% higher when housing income is included. Housing income has major implications for both the level of income inequality and its trend, as well as the demographic profile of the rich and the poor. When imputed rent and accrued capital gains—neither of which are taxed—are included in the income base, measured income tax progressivity is reduced by 40%. The progressivity of government transfers is also reduced, by 16%, since housing is exempt from welfare means testing.

Peter Siminski, University of Technology Sydney

Peter Siminski is a Professor of Economics at UTS. His research is in applied microeconomics and microeconometrics in the fields of inequality and economic mobility, education, health, labour and public economics. Much of his work applies modern impact evaluation techniques to estimate the causal effects of Australian government policies and programs on people's lives. The measurement of inequality and intergenerational economic mobility is a key theme of his work, and the topic of a new ARC Discovery Grant held with Roger Wilkins, Nathan Deutscher and Bhash Mazumder. He has published in leading journals such as the American Economic Review, AEJ: Applied Economics, the Journal of Labor Economics, and the Review of Economics and Statistics. He is Co-Editor of the Economic Record.

Facilitator: Prof Rachel Ong ViforJ, Curtin University

LABOUR MARKETS; GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Does disability funding impact employment prospects? A study of Australian carers and disability funding recipients

Ms Maathu Ranjan¹

¹Australian National University, Australia

Biography:

Maathu Ranjan is a Sir Roland Wilson Scholar at the Australian National University's Crawford School of Public Policy and Vice President of the Actuaries Institute. Maathu's doctoral research investigates the effectiveness of individualised disability schemes in achieving outcomes for people with disability using a data driven approach.

Who does the government support through Job Loss?

Mr Matthew Maltman¹, Dr Matt Nolan, Mr Zachary Hayward

¹E61 Institute, Australia

Biography:

Matthew Maltman is a Research Economist at the e61 institute.

He previously worked at the Australian Productivity Commission, where he focused on various policy issues including education, public transport, and housing policy. He is passionate about housing affordability and writes on the impact of housing supply reforms globally.

Matt holds a degree in Economics from the University of Western Australia, where he graduated with First Class Honours.

Renting in retirement: Why Rent Assistance needs to rise

Mr Brendan Coates¹, Mr Matthew Bowes¹, Mr Joey Moloney¹

¹Grattan Institute, Australia

Biography:

Brendan Coates is the Housing and Economic Security Program Director at Grattan Institute, where he leads Grattan's work on housing, retirement incomes, and superannuation.

He is a former macro-financial economist with the World Bank in Indonesia and consulted to the Bank in Latin America. Prior to that, he worked in the Australian Treasury in areas such as tax-transfer system reform and macro-economic forecasting, with a strong focus on the Chinese economy.

Brendan holds a Masters of International Development Economics from the Australian National University and Bachelors of Commerce and Arts from the University of Melbourne.

ECONOMIC STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

The Dual Legacy of KAFTA: Trade Growth, Economic Gains, and Structural Risks in Australia-Korea Minerals/Metals Trade and Resource Dependency

Mr Bowen Zhang

¹Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane, Australia

Biography:

Bowen Zhang is a Year 12 student at Brisbane Grammar School with a keen interest in Economics. Driven by a desire to contribute to Australian society and business, Bowen hopes to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at the University of Sydney. He applies his academic passions through competitions such as the Australian Economics Olympiad, National History Challenge, and Queensland Debating Union tournaments, honing his analytical and public speaking skills. As a School Prefect and Vice-Captain of Debating, Bowen encourages peers and younger students to collaborate, and problem solve. Beyond academia, he balances playing the cello, football games, and volunteer work for school-led public-purpose initiatives. His fascination with finance fuels his independent study of stock markets, and he aspires to leverage his critical thinking to innovate solutions to societal challenges, ultimately contributing meaningfully to Australia's future.

Australia's Trade with China Between 2014-2024 after the Signing of ChAFTA

Mr Michael Dore

¹Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane, Australia

Biography:

Michael Dore is a 17-year-old student at Brisbane Grammar School. He thoroughly enjoys studying economics and wishes to pursue future studies in the field of economics at university, specifically in the Bachelor of Advanced Finance and Economics program at the University of Queensland. He has been fortunate to attend a range of economic and finance related functions including the Economic Society of Australia (QLD) 100th Birthday Anniversary with a range of peers and guest speakers. He also attended the FINVEST Program and ECOMAN programs where a range of economic theories were tested. Michael also enjoys a range of sports, including cricket, basketball and rugby for school and enjoys the collaboration with peers and fierce rivalry between schools.

International Student market

Mr Joel Pallikunnel

¹Padua College, Queensland

Trade pattern dependence on Trade Liberalisation

Mr Anthony DeBellis¹

¹Padua College, Queensland

Biography:

Anthony DeBellis is an aspiring student at Padua College, Kedron.

Currently a full-time student, he puts his all into his research and learning with integrity. He is interested in the field of Economics as a potential area to go into university. Anthony values hard work, as he always seeks feedback to improve. He also values positive relationships and humility. Anthony loves sports like soccer and is always inspired by people around him to do his best.

Analysation of the impact of Trade Liberalization on Electric Vehicles in Australia

Mr Lochlan Savoca

¹Padua College, Queensland

Is JAEPA Still an Effective FTA for the Australian Economy?

Mr Thomas Moran¹

¹Padua College, KEDRON - QLD, Australia

Biography:

Thomas Moran is a Year 12 Student at Padua College that enjoys the critical and thought-provoking nature of Economics and how the data can challenge the perspective. He is looking forward to continuing this field of study after graduating this year.

ECONOMIC POLICY STUDIES: AUSTRALIA

A Cost-Benefit Framework for Evaluating Investments in Improved Drinking Water Quality: An Australian Perspective

Mr Lee Mead¹

¹Ninesquared, Brisbane City, Australia

Biography:

Lee Mead is a Manager at NineSquared with demonstrated experience applying economic principles to inform decision-making across diverse industries, including water, transport, infrastructure, and health, for both public and private sector clients.

He specializes in economic appraisal techniques, with a particular focus on cost-benefit analysis, economic impact assessment, and market analysis. Lee has a strong interest in advancing the use of cost-benefit analysis to support better decision-making and has developed innovative approaches to quantifying and monetising benefits across a wide range of projects.

Financial Incentives and Fertility: Evidence from Linked Administrative Data on Australia's Baby Bonus

Dr Ali Yasin Vergili¹

¹e61 Institute, Australia

Biography:

Ali recently completed his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Technology Sydney. His research focuses on applied microeconomics, specifically in development economics, education economics, and demographic economics. Ali utilised microdata to investigate various micro behaviors, providing insights into the consequences of legal reforms, fertility decision-making processes, and the dynamics of auction markets.

Birthday penalties? Employment effects of increases in the discontinuous age-based minimum wage. Evidence from Australian Administrative Data.

Mr Aaron Korczak-Krzeczowski¹

¹Productivity Commission, Australia

Biography:

Aaron is an economist at the Productivity Commission, contributing to research and policy analysis on economic and social issues for the Australian Government. He studied a Bachelor of Commerce (honours) at the University of Melbourne. and will present his honours thesis.

Aaron will present in his capacity as a University of Melbourne student and not as a Productivity Commission employee.

STUDIES OF AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION (DEMAND)

Where Have All The Economics Students Gone? Insights from Recent RBA Research

Ms Emma Chow¹

¹Reserve Bank of Australia, Australia

Biography:

Emma is an economist in the Public Education team (Communications Department) at the Reserve Bank of Australia. The Education team aims to introduce economics to a broader and more diverse student population and raise the level of economic literacy in Australia. Emma has previously held roles in the Economic Analysis and Domestic Markets Departments. Emma holds a double degree in Economics (Honours) and Commerce from the University of New South Wales.

From study to work: the effect of extending poststudy work rights

Dr. Silvia Griselda², Mr Harshit Shah^{1,2}

¹Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, ²e61 Institute, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Harshit Shah is a PhD Intern at the e61 Institute. He holds a master's degree in economics from the Australian National University and is currently pursuing his PhD in Economics at the same institution. His doctoral research investigates the causal effects of improving inheritance rights for women on their children's educational outcomes, role of women politicians in affecting crime against women in India and international migration in Australia.

Silvia Griselda is a Research Manager at the e61 Institute, where she leads projects on the gender pay gap, childcare, labour force participation, and education policies. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Melbourne in 2021. Her research interests include education, labor, and human capital development, with a particular focus on gender.

Mental health impacts on educational outcomes: a longitudinal study of Australian children

Dr Ying Xu¹, Professor Alec Zuo¹, Professor Sarah Wheeler¹

¹Flinders University, Australia

Biography:

Alec Zuo a professor and ARC Future Fellow in the College of Business, Government and Law (CBGL), Flinders University.

SPECIAL SESSION: TRUMP TARIFFS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Trade and tariffs – adapting to a new system

Liberation day tariffs have accentuated a steady rise in protectionist policies over the last decade. In this presentation, Professor Adnan Khan, will share his global economic outlook in light of such policies and assess their impacts in today's dynamic and increasingly uncertain world. With potential for US tariffs and wider protectionist measures to reshape the global trading system, the presentation will explore the adaptation strategies for proponents of the rules-based system.

Speakers:

Prof Adnan Khan, FCDO Chief Economist and Director of Analysis

Professor Adnan Khan is the Chief Economist and Director of Analysis Directorate in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). He is seconded from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he is Professor in the School of Public Policy.

Adnan has focused his career on advancing the understanding of development economics, political economy, entrepreneurship, and public sector reform. He has taught courses at the London School of Economics on development economics, public organisations, and political economy. He has taught at Harvard Kennedy School and has also been an Academic Director at the School of Public Policy.

Adnan has used real-time, cutting-edge analytical work that feeds directly into policy. He has also applied frontier research on real-world questions conducted through collaboration with policy partners to achieve policy and academic impact.

Adnan co-chaired LSE-Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development. He continued to work on the theme of fragile states through the follow-up Reducing Fragilities Initiative. He has published in journals on issues such as promoting value-for-money in public procurement, building state capacity by motivating civil servants to perform better, and on promoting entrepreneurship and social protection.

Adnan served as Research and Policy Director at the International Growth Centre (IGC) at the LSE. He led research and policy initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth through policymaker-researcher collaboration and by generating ideas based on frontier research on important drivers of economic growth.

Adnan has spent more than a decade in policy roles in different capacities and in various government departments. He originally trained as an engineer but moved to public policy and economics, studying at Harvard Kennedy School and Queen's University.

Gene Tunny, Adept Economics

Gene Tunny is a Senior Associate at Lateral Economics and Director of Adept Economics. Gene is an Adjunct Fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies and an Adjunct Lecturer in economics at Griffith University. Since June 2024, Gene has been the President of the Queensland branch of the Economic Society of Australia. He is a former Australian Treasury official.

Why Trump's Tariffs Are Better Than You Think—And Much Worse

Donald Trump is wrong that foreigners will pay his tariffs. But he's not all wrong. When large countries trade, they move prices. And that means foreigners do effectively pay some of their tariffs. Economists have known about the so-called 'optimal tariff' argument since at least an 1844 essay by John Stuart Mill. The terms of trade effect means that, for a large country, a moderate tariff could be welfare-enhancing under certain conditions, even after retaliation from other countries. However, any net benefit to the large country would come at the cost of longer-term damage, such as disrupted supply chains and reduced trust in international agreements with it. So even if the United States could win a trade war, it would likely regret it over the long run. This presentation reviews the theory and evidence regarding optimal tariffs and trade wars and applies them in the current context.

Prof Bob Gregory, ANU

Bob is Professor Emeritus (ANU), ex Board member Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Science and Technology Council. He held the Chair of Australian Studies, Harvard, 1983-84,. He has been President of the Economic Society of Australia (1996-1999), Editor of the Economic Record and was awarded the Economic Society Distinguished Fellow Award (2001). Previous academic appointments include University of Melbourne, London School of Economics, Australian National University, Northwestern University, and visiting positions at The Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, Washington, Harvard University, and the University of Chicago. He was Head of the Economics Department, RSSS, ANU, 1986-2006. His research interests include international trade, labour economics, income support systems.

Dr Rob Bray, ANU

Rob Bray has been a research fellow at POLIS: The Centre for Social Policy Research, at the Australian National University since 2010. This follows a long public service career with a focus on the interaction of economic and social policies, culminating in the award of a Public Service Medal recognising his role as a policy analyst and researcher. At the ANU he has been involved in major research and evaluation projects including childcare, employment services and conditional welfare. His 2018 PhD considered the evolution of the Australian minimum wage and family support from the Harvester Decision to today.

Tariffs, Myths and the Big Picture. “Making America Great Again”

The refocussing of US tariff policy under President Trump is potentially the most important shift in “world economic” policy in the last three quarters of a century. We discuss how US and world economic outcomes generated this tectonic shift, the policy relationships to basic economic theory, empirical research and “big picture” facts and myths in the US and other economies.

MONDAY 7 JULY, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, CORINTHIAN

3.30PM - 4.15PM

2024 YOUNG ECONOMIST ADDRESS

Nathan Deutscher, The Treasury / University of Technology Sydney

Intergenerational mobility in Australia

Equality of opportunity underpins many conceptions of a just society. Economists have frequently measured and explored such opportunity through intergenerational mobility – the extent to which outcomes persist from one generation to the next.

This address will survey recent research drawing on administrative data in Australia and abroad. Following millions of individuals over their lives, rather than the thousands typically observed in survey data, has provided new insights on the influence of parents, place, and peers on individual outcomes. It will also discuss future directions for research, including looking beyond mobility in incomes to broader measures of wellbeing and a richer understanding of influences across the life course.

4.30PM – 5.15PM

YOUNG ECONOMIST NETWORK DEBATE

Would a huge increase in the price of oil be a good thing?

Moderator: Brendan Coates, Grattan Institute

AI, TECHNOLOGY AND LABOUR

Employment Prospects in the Age of AI

Dr Safdar Khan¹

¹Cogc, VARSITY LAKES, Australia

Biography:

Safdar Khan is an experienced Senior Economist, Academic, and central banker with a PhD (from Bond University, Gold Coast – Australia) in Business and over 20 years of expertise in economic modelling, policy analysis, and strategic planning.

Does hiring more tech workers make other workers more productive?

Miss Gabriela D'Souza¹

¹Treasury, Melbourne, Australia

What drives the emergence of new technology-driven industries in Australia?

Dr Tris Sainsbury¹

¹Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Canberra, Australia

Biography:

Tris is manager of the Firm, Innovation and Technology Analysis team at the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. He was a Sir Roland Wilson PhD scholar (graduating 2023) whose research focussed on empirical evaluations of COVID-19 fiscal policy. He has previously worked in the Australian Treasury, the Lowy Institute for International Policy, and the Crawford School at the Australian National University and been a visiting scholar at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, the Kiel Institute for the World Economy in Germany and the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University.

COMMODITIES

The Economic Impact of Critical Minerals: Nexus of strategic and analytical challenges

Dr Aneeq Sarwar¹

¹AUSMASA, Melbourne, Australia

Biography:

Dr Aneeq Sarwar is Senior Manager, Workforce Planning and Policy at AUSMASA, overseeing our research, workforce planning, and policy functions. Aneeq is an experienced research leader who has managed quantitative and qualitative research projects across industry, academia, and government. He is widely published with various national and international bodies and is passionate about using data insights to drive decision-making that benefits society and communities. Aneeq helps drive policy, research and decision-making by leveraging stakeholder consultations.

Impact of commodity price uncertainty on industries in a small open economy: the case of Australia

Dr Natalia Ponomareva¹, Prof Jeffrey Sheen¹, A/Prof Ben Wang¹

¹Macquarie University, Australia

Biography:

Natalia Ponomareva is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics at Macquarie University. Her research focuses on Macroeconomics, International Economics, and Applied Econometrics. She has published in esteemed academic journals, including the Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, and Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, among others. Her research topics include the determinants of macroeconomic and financial indicators such as the sacrifice ratio and exchange rates, the role of revisions in the Penn World Tables, and the effects of commodity price uncertainty on the global economy. She also has a particular interest in the Australian economy, having analysed labour flows in Australia and their relationship to business cycles, as well as the role of uncertainty in Australian monetary policy decisions. Her current work examines the impact of commodity price uncertainty on various industries in Australia.

Rent-controlled resources: Why are we under-charging Australia's mining tenants?

Dr Cameron Murray¹, Dr Tim Helm¹

¹Fresh Economic Thinking, Australia

Biography:

Dr Murray is the Chief Economist at Fresh Economic Thinking, a new think-tank elevating the quality of our public economic conversation. He is the author of The Great Housing Hijack, a book that explains how policy debates about housing are hijacked by interest groups.

ECONOMIC POLICY STUDIES: WORLD

Maternal Access to Rural Advisory Services and Child Nutrition: Impacts and Pathways

Mr Kwabena Addai¹, A/Prof Md Sayed Iftekhar¹, Prof Nicholas Rohde¹

¹Griffith University, Brisbane, Nathan Campus, Australia, ²Griffith University, Brisbane, Nathan Campus, Australia

Biography:

Kwabena Nyarko Addai is a PhD student at the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics, Griffith Business School, Griffith University now. His research focuses on applied microeconometrics in agricultural, resource, environmental, and development economics. He had his MPhil Agricultural Economics and BSc Agriculture from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; MA Environmental Management and Policy from University of Cape Coast, Ghana and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from University of Education, Winneba, Ghana.

Consumer Preferences for Safe and Quality Milk in Nepal: Evidence from a Discrete Choice Experiment

Mr. Sujan Dhungel^{1,2}, Dr. Abdul Ammar Aziz¹, Dr. Uttam Khanal³, Dr Rajendra Adhikari¹

¹University of Queensland, Lawes, Australia, ²Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kathmandu, Nepal,

³Australian Government Productivity Commission, Docklands Australia

Biography:

Sujan Dhungel is a Senior Agricultural Economist at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal, with over 16 years of experience in agricultural commercialization and food security. He has worked with major development partners, including the World Bank, ADB, EU, and USAID, contributing to key initiatives like the Rural Enterprise and Economic Development Project and Agriculture and Food Security Project in Nepal. He played a key role in formulating the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project, a mega project for agriculture sector transformation in Nepal.

Mr. Dhungel holds a Master's in Agricultural Economics and is currently pursuing an MPhil at the University of Queensland. He has presented papers at national and regional forums and published widely on food security, public policy, climate change, and value chains. He has been awarded with academic excellence award for his academic excellence.

The Evolution of the Child Penalty and Impacts of Maternity Leave Reform

Miss Hang Anh Nguyen¹

¹University Of Wollongong, Australia

Biography:

Hang Anh Nguyen is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Wollongong. Her research focuses on labour economics, with a particular interest in gender disparities and the evaluation of labour policies in developing contexts through empirical analysis. Hang Anh holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Master of Economics from Nagoya University, Japan. Alongside her research, she works as an Associate Lecturer and Academic Tutor at the University of Wollongong and the University of New South Wales, where she teaches subjects in Statistics, Data Analysis, and Econometrics. Her work aims to contribute to evidence-based policymaking that supports equitable labour market outcomes.

STUDIES OF AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION (SUPPLY)

School Funding and Students' Academic Performance: New Empirical Evidence across Geographical Locations and States in Australia

Dr Benjamin Vu¹

¹University of Canberra, Australia

Biography:

Dr. Benjamin Vu is a lecturer in Economics and Data Analytics at the University of Canberra (UC), Australia. His research interests are Applied Economics and Health Economics.

He has published twenty-one journal articles in prestigious journals such as Renewable Energy, Applied Economics, Economic Analysis and Policy, Health Economics Review, Applied Health Economics and Health Policy, and Public Health. He is currently leading a seed funding project, and as economic lead, he has completed nine industry/government projects in Australia and overseas. His awarded academic and commercial grants were over \$312,000.

He possesses strong skills in tertiary teaching, desktop research, field research, economics, economic modelling, data analysis, cost-benefit analysis, economic evaluation, policy evaluation, public policy, project management, stakeholder engagement, econometrics, Stata, Eviews, SPSS, Tableau, and Power BI.

School Funding and Student Performance in Australia

Ms Bowen Wang¹, Mr Tunye Qiu¹

¹Australian National University, Australia

Biography:

Tunye Qiu is a PhD candidate in Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (ANU), currently finalizing his dissertation and actively seeking academic opportunities. His research centers on China's housing market, exploring the causal effects of government policies on fertility, land supply behavior, and housing demand. His broader expertise spans labor, urban, demographic, and development economics. Tunye has also worked on projects related to international trade, South Pacific labor markets, and Australian education policy. From 2023 to 2024, he worked as an Associate Lecturer at the Research School of Economics, ANU. Tunye currently serves as Program Manager of the China Economy Program at ANU and as Assistant Editor for the Journal of Chinese Economic and Foreign Trade Studies. Tunye has extensive teaching experience across diverse economics courses, including game theory and policy evaluation.

Who stays, who goes? A new look at teacher attrition using administrative data

Mr Jack Buckley¹, Dr. Silvia Griselda

¹e61 Institute, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Jack Buckley is a Senior Research Economist at the e61 Institute where he works across the structural policy and education workstreams. He has previously co-authored research looking at the mental health costs of job loss, the economic impact of unfair dismissal laws and productivity-enhancing labour reallocation.

Jack graduated from the University of New South Wales with First Class Honours and the University Medal in economics and a Bachelor of Science majoring in statistics.

SPECIAL SESSION: HISTORY AND ROLE OF INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC HISTORY

Our overall objective is to place the current situation of indigenous Australians in long-term historical context, and to provide a balanced view of the current situation and potential paths forward. The importance of trust-building will be an important theme.

Professor Boyd Hunter will set the scene with a long-run historical narrative, including 60000 years of demography and the impact of colonisation. A particular focus will be a discussion on what economics can contribute to understanding this long journey.

Professor Dennis Foley will give a more contemporaneous perspective on the current state of play for indigenous Australia, including sharing his expertise in indigenous business enterprises.

Professor Stefanie Schurer will conclude with by exploring her research on using advanced quantitative techniques to understand the successes and pitfalls of policy interventions directed at indigenous Australians, with a particular emphasis on the importance of trust and trust-building.

The session will conclude with Q+A.

Speakers:

Indigenous Economic History and Demography

Professor Boyd Hunter, ANU

Boyd Hunter is an Emeritus Professor associated with the Centre for Social Research and Methods, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. He has been President of the Australian Society of Labour Economics and is a Fellow of IZA. Boyd has been the Managing Editor and Editor of the *Australian Journal of Labour Economics* and the *Australian Journal of Social Issues*. His main area of research and teaching involve the economic history of 'The Indigenous Economy' and the implications for contemporaneous social and economic policy. In addition to his extensive engagement with labour economics and social policies debates, he has considerable expertise in econometrics, economic history, geography, poverty studies, survey design and analysis, and Indigenous economic policy. He conducted the first longitudinal analysis of Indigenous jobseekers. He has worked with Indigenous researchers on numerous projects including the recently concluded, 'Making Indigenous-Friendly Businesses'. Boyd is currently working on an ARC Discovery Project (DP220101336), 'Historical frontier violence: drivers, legacy and the role of truth-telling', where he works to estimate the spatial distribution of Indigenous population prior to colonisation, and to ultimately facilitate the analysis of the effect of historical frontier violence on contemporaneous social and economic outcomes

Current Perspective on Indigenous Australia

Professor Dennis Foley, University of Canberra

Dennis Foley is from the Cammeragal clan, of the Gai-mariagal first nations peoples of Sydney. He has lived and worked around Australia, Hawaii, the Pacific and Aotearoa. Several years were spent in Vietnam, and adjoining countries. Employment has been eclectic from National Parks law enforcement to Corporate Banking, Tourism Management to a multidisciplinary academic.

Academically he helped establish the research area that is Indigenous Entrepreneurship. He has researched and taught extensively in Australia, Ireland, Aotearoa, and Hawaii. Professor Foley is a Fulbright Scholar and dual Endeavour Fellow. His publications focus on social inclusion and the Indigenous cross disciplines including Literature, History, Business Management (Entrepreneurship) land use/ resource management, tourism, including the discipline of education understanding Indigenous Epistemology and Pedagogies.

Using data to improve policy and trust outcomes

Professor Stefanie Schurer, University of Sydney

Stefanie Schurer is a Professor of Economics in the School of Economics at the University of Sydney. She has produced a program of research on lifecycle dynamics of inequality in health, non-cognitive skills, and economic preferences. In recent years, she has shifted her focus of attention to the question of whether and how public policy should deal with alleged problem behaviours that have negative externalities for families and the community. She is particularly interested in the cost and benefits of paternalism in decision-making. In her research, she uses linked administrative, cohort and longitudinal survey data, in combination with solid causal identification strategies (where possible). Prof Schurer is a chief investigator on several (sensitive) linked administrative data projects in Australia, which she has used to study the consequences of Australia's most paternalistic policies for (Indigenous) children. Professor Schurer has been deeply engaged with Indigenous researchers and research on Indigenous children in the past years. She leads the NHMRC-funded *Against the Odds: Indigenous Youth Wellbeing* project, has led multiple evaluations on the impact of the Northern Territory's controversial income management and alcohol restriction policies, is a co-investigator on multiple evaluations of the NSW child protection system where Indigenous children are heavily over-represented. She is the secretary and board member of the

international [Association for Economic Research of Indigenous Peoples](#), and a member of the Charles Perkins Centre's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Steering Committee. Since 2020, she is also a member of the [National Economic Panel](#) of the Economic Society of Australia. In 2021, she was awarded the Economic Society of Australia's [Young Economist of the Year](#) award and the *Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Research*. She is a co-Editor of *Labour Economics*, a leading international, peer reviewed journal for cutting-edge policy evaluations in the context of labour economics and related fields. At University of Sydney she teaches modern policy evaluation methods and is currently the program director of the School of Economics' prestigious Honours program.

Chair: Prof Hugh Harley, University of Sydney

ECONOMIC ANALYSES AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE

AI-driven Information Retrieval from Liaison: The Reserve Bank of Australia's New Tool

Mr Nicholas Gray¹

¹Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Nicholas is a Data Scientist in the Economic Research department. He has previously worked as a data scientist at the Australian Taxation Office and holds a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Hons) majoring in Physics from UNSW. Nicholas' engages closely with subject-matter experts to develop innovative solutions to analytical, operational and policy problems across the RBA. Nicholas' research focuses on natural language processing techniques and AI to address a variety of policy questions related to economics, financial stability and banking.

A new methodology for measuring and tracking concentration and business employment at the regional and industry level

Ms Sarah Davies¹, Dr Nabeeh Zakariyya¹, Dr Omer Majeed¹, Ms Yun Jiang¹, Ms Lydia Wang¹, Dr Neil Crighton²

¹Treasury, Australia, ²Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Australia

Biography:

Sarah Davies is an Assistant Director in the Treasury, currently in the Competition Taskforce's Data and Evaluation team. She has previously held roles in Treasury's Macroeconomic Conditions Division and the Department of Industry, Science and Resource's Office of Supply Chain Resilience. Sarah holds a B.Ec(hons) from the University of New South Wales. Her work focuses on using microdata to explore competition dynamics in the Australian economy.

One Ocean – Stopping Oceanic Pollution is the biggest challenge of Climate Change

Dr Carolyn Currie¹

¹Public Private Sector Partnerships Pty Ltd, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Carolyn Currie is a member of the Association of Certified Practising Accountants, and a Fellow of FINSIA. Her qualifications include:

- an Honours Degree in Economics from Sydney University,
- a Bachelor of Commerce (Pass with Merit),
- a Master of Commerce (Honours) from the University of NSW,
- a Master of Forensic Accounting from the University of Wollongong and
- a PhD in Economics from the University of Sydney; in financial markets regulation, financial systems crises and financial institutions management.

Dr Currie's experience represents almost five decades in the public and private sector, as a merchant banker, regulator, internal auditor and financial trainer. She has specialised in regulation of financial systems involving corporate financial analysis, public finance (monetary and fiscal policy), accounting and auditing issues, economic growth issues and used these skills to consult with banks and governmental bodies in Asia, Pacific and the Middle East.

A health check on Australia's mineral exploration sector

Mr Chris Mornement¹

¹Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Canberra, Australia

Biography:

Chris Mornement is a Special Advisor on Resource Economics in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. Chris has worked in the commodities and trade space for about 6 years, including with ABARES, Treasury and most recently with DISR. Over the past 3 years in DISR, Chris has worked as a commodity analyst on the Resources and Energy Quarterly and he has led economic analysis for critical minerals and resources policymaking. Chris has an honours degree in Geology and a Master of Applied Economics from the ANU.

Migration and dwelling demand – analysis of average household representation propensity

Mr Lachlan Butler¹

¹Department of the Treasury, Australia

Biography:

Lachlan Butler has a Bachelor of Applied Economics with first class honours and a Bachelor of Politics and International Relations from the University of Canberra. Lachlan is currently an analyst at the Centre for Population within Treasury, with a focus on net overseas migration.

The impacts of business participation in the government’s largest business advisory program, the Entrepreneurs’ Programme

Mr Oscar Lane¹

¹Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Australia

Biography:

Oscar Lane is Manager of Business Microdata and Impact Analysis at DISR where he leads efforts to uplift the quality and use of departmental program data to undertake analysis of program impacts. Oscar previously worked at the Commonwealth Treasury, which included roles as a member of the Employment Taskforce working on the Employment White Paper. Prior to this he worked in Treasury’s microdata team, where he conducted research and analysed the effects of economic support programs introduced during COVID-19. He holds a first-class honours degree in economics from Monash University, and a master’s degree from the Barcelona School of Economics.

AGED CARE AND OLDER WORKERS

Distributional Impact of Means-Test Reform in Residential Aged Care

Mr Heng Zhe Zhao¹, Dr Jinhui Zhang¹, Dr Yuanyuan Gu¹

¹Macquarie University, Macquarie Park, Australia

Biography:

Heng Zhe Zhao is a PhD student jointly affiliated with the Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics and the Macquarie University Centre for the Health Economy (MUCHE). His research focuses on residential aged care in Australia, with particular interest in the design and distributional impact of funding reforms. In earlier work, he developed a microsimulation model of residents' length of stay to project future RAC demand and government expenditure. His research applies machine learning, simulation, and economic modelling to inform long-term system sustainability.

Caregiving and the Labour Market Outcomes of Older Australians

Prof Alison Preston¹

¹UWA, Perth, Australia

Biography:

Alison is a Professor of Economics at The University of Western Australia. Her interest is in gender dimensions of employment and wages.

Population aging and productivity growth

Dr Van Trung Vu¹, Dr Lei Xu¹

¹Loughborough University, United Kingdom

Biography:

Trung is a Vietnamese economist with expertise in development economics, political economy, and applied econometrics. He joined Loughborough University as a Lecturer in Economics in 2022, having previously completed a PhD in Economics at the University of Otago. He is also a Research Associate in the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis at Australian National University.

Trung's research interests are mainly in the area of empirical modelling of economic growth and development. His current research examines the fundamental determinants of comparative development, focusing on the role of deep-rooted institutional, cultural, and human characteristics.

Trung has published articles in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, the Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, and Oxford Economic Papers, among other journals. His research has featured in LSE Business Review, Harvard Kennedy School's 'The Journalist's Resource', and The Marginal Revolution.

DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR

Structural Change and Growth Trajectories through Counterfactual Quantile Decomposition

Dr Matteo Lanzaforme¹

¹Asian Development Bank, Philippines

Biography:

Matteo Lanzaforme is Principal Economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He is an applied macroeconomist and conducts research in many areas, with a particular focus on growth and development issues. He is part of the team that produces ADB's flagship report "Asian Development Outlook" and conducts macroeconomic surveillance and monitoring. Prior to joining ADB in 2019, Matteo was Associate Professor of Political Economy at the University of Messina, in Italy. He holds an MA in Development Economics and a PhD in Economics from the University of Kent, in the UK.

Green Finance and High-Quality Economic Development: Examining the Mediating Role of Regional Talent Dividend and the Moderating Impact of Innovation Efficiency

Miss Kerong Song¹

¹The Australian National University, Braddon, Australia

Biography:

Kerong Song is a Master's student in Applied Economics at the Australian National University. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Finance from Huazhong University of Science and Technology, where she received multiple academic honors and led a provincial-level research project on intelligent manufacturing strategy. Her current research focuses on green finance, regional innovation, and sustainable economic development. Kerong has participated in the Oxford University Summer School, where she wrote an academic paper on green credit. She also interned at Minsheng Securities Research Institute, contributing to industry reports using macroeconomic and policy analysis. Her thesis explores how regional talent and innovation efficiency shape the impact of green finance across Chinese provinces. She brings a strong foundation in econometric modeling, qualitative analysis, and policy evaluation, with practical experience in banking, auditing, and financial data analysis.

Making the Invisible Visible: International Evidence on the Economic Value of Socioemotional Skills

Mr. Jawid Ahmad Gulistani¹, Professor Chanyoung Lee¹

¹Chonnam National University, Gwangju, South Korea

Biography:

Chanyoung Lee is a Professor at Chonnam National University, South Korea.

ECONOMETRIC METHODS

Causal Inference with Time-to-Event Outcomes: A Debiased Machine Learning Framework for Treatment Parameters

Ms Meimei Chen¹, Dr Yuanyuan Gu¹, Professor Henry Cutler¹

¹Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Meimei Chen is a PhD student at the Macquarie University Centre for the Health Economy, specialising in causal inference, machine learning, and econometrics. Her research focuses on leveraging machine learning techniques to enhance causal inference and explore preference heterogeneity.

Distance as a Barrier to Care: Evidence from the Expansion of Cancer Treatment Centres Using a Continuous Difference-in-Differences Approach

Dr Dan Liu¹, Dr Serena Yu¹, Dr Mei Ling Yap², Dr Philip Haywood³

¹The University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia, ²The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, ³The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Dan Liu is a Senior Research Fellow at CHERE. Prior to joining CHERE, Dan worked as a Research Fellow at the University of York, UK. She has experience working at the World Health Organization (Switzerland) and Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China). She holds a PhD in Economics from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Italy). She has experience in teaching Introductory Health Economics and STATA, and supervising PhD students. She specialises in econometrics modelling using large patient-level data. Her research interests include health policy and program evaluation, competition policy and market structure, mental health, climate change and health, digital health and spatial econometrics.

Applying a mixed-effects beta regression approach in rail mode share modelling—a case on Greater Sydney

Mr Simon Sagerer¹, Miss Amber Jieyi Chen¹, Mr. Callum Morgan², Ms. Kanya Raj¹

¹WSP Australia, Sydney, Australia, ²Transport for NSW, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Simon is an experienced infrastructure economist who has held senior positions in a range of consulting firms. His work focusses on strategic assessments of the likely demand and associated economic effects of major infrastructure assets ranging from roads and railways, airports and pipelines to urban redevelopments. He has been responsible for developing and delivering forecasting and valuation models to inform commercial strategies, business cases, due diligence processes and expert witness statements.

INFLATION, MONETARY POLICY, EXPECTATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR

Changes in Australian price-setting behaviour around a large shock: evidence from microdata

Mr Matthew Fink¹, Mr Jonathan Hambur

¹Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Matt is a research economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia. His work focuses on using microdata to study the evolution of prices, wages and the labour market. Matt previously held roles in the Bank's Economic Analysis and International Departments. He holds a Master of Economic Analysis degree from the University of Sydney.

Household Interest-Rate Expectations and Monetary Policy Decisions

Mr Samuel Munn¹, Emily Shaw¹

¹Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Sam Munn is an economist in the Economic Research department at the Reserve Bank of Australia. Sam is currently working on understanding household expectation formation using microdata, and is interested in household decision making, uncertainty, and monetary policy transmission. Sam completed his Bachelor of Economics (Honours) at the University of Adelaide.

Nowcasting Australian inflation

Prof Ashton de Silva¹, Dr Sarah Sinclair¹, Dr Sveta Angelopoulos¹, Dr Yonatan Navon¹, Dr Maria Yanotti²

¹RMIT, Australia, ²University Of Tasmania, Australia

Biography:

Ashton is an applied economist whose areas of expertise include forecasting, policy analysis, and the economics of well-being. He has successfully led and contributed to numerous projects addressing economic and social challenges, including exploring the benefits of ageing-in-place and modelling local economic development and recovery. He has collaborated widely with NGOs, government departments, and businesses, including the Brotherhood of St Laurence, ATO, and ANZ. Additionally, he has worked extensively with peers across disciplines from various locations.

Throughout his career, he has been appointed to and carried out various leadership roles, including Head of the Economics Department and manager of research and coursework programs across various locations. Recent teaching includes the economics of blockchain and, more generally, exploring digital solutions to industry challenges. He currently serves his profession and the wider community as a council member of the Economics Society (Victorian Branch).

SPECIAL SESSION: CELEBRATING WOMEN ECONOMISTS IN THE PAST 100 YEARS

This session honours the contributions of women economists who have shaped the discipline over the past century in Australia — across academia, public policy, and industry. Speakers will reflect on the legacies of pioneering figures, highlight ongoing challenges, and discuss the progress made in fostering a more inclusive economics profession. The session aims to inspire the next generation by showcasing the impact and leadership of women in economics, both past and present.

Speakers:

Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark, University of Sydney

Deborah Cobb-Clark AO FASSA is Professor and Deputy Head (Research) in the School of Economics at the University of Sydney. She is Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families Over the Life Course; an Officer of the Order of Australia; an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia; and a Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia. She is passionate about preventing poor children from becoming poor adults. Her research centres on building psychological concepts (locus of control, self-control, risk attitudes) into economic models of family decision-making. She studies the way that poverty affects the attention (cognitive capacity) parents have available; the role of depression, risk attitudes, and welfare receipt in risk-taking behaviour; the role of locus of control and self-control in human capital formation; and the link between parents' self-control and children's outcomes.

Dr Luci Ellis, Chief Economist at Westpac Banking Group

Luci Ellis has been Westpac Group's Chief Economist since October 2023. Prior to joining Westpac, Australia's first bank, Luci held various senior positions over a three-decade career in central banking, including RBA Assistant Governor (Economic) 2017–2023, RBA Head of Financial Stability 2008–2017 and stints at the Bank of International Settlements and the European Central Bank. She has a PhD from UNSW, a Masters in Economics from ANU and a B.Com (Hons) degree from University of Melbourne. Luci has been a member of the Australian Statistical Advisory Council since 2015 and is a member of the Melbourne Institute Advisory Board.

Dr Jenny Gordon, Non-resident Fellow at the Lowy Institute and Honorary Professor at the Centre for Social Research and Methods at the Australian National University

Dr Jenny Gordon is a Honorary Professor at POLIS: the Centre for Social Policy Research at the Australian National University. She is also a non-resident fellow at the Lowy Institute, one of Australia's leading think tanks on foreign policy. Jenny serves on the Asian Development Bank Institute's (ADBI) Advisory Committee, and is a non-executive director for NCEconomics, part of the Alluvium Group. In 2024 Jenny was a visiting fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Kennedy School at Harvard University and at Blavatnik School of Government and Business at Oxford University. Jenny was a member of the Australian International Agricultural Research Centre's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Advisory Panel from 2020 to 2024, and in 2023 she served as a co-chair for the Taskforce on Peace, Stability and Governance for the T7, organised by the ADBI. Jenny was the Chief Economist at DFAT from 2019 to 2021, joining DFAT from Nous Group, where she was the Chief Economist. Jenny spent 10 years with the Australian Productivity Commission as Principal Adviser (Research) from 2008. From 1995 to 2008 worked at The Centre for International Economics (TheCIE), becoming a pattern in 2002. She has a PhD in Economics from Harvard University and started her professional career at the Reserve Bank of Australia.

LABOUR AND HEALTH

Exploring Declining Job Mobility in Australia: The Role of Demographic Changes

Mr Christopher Carter¹, Professor Peter Siminski¹

¹Economics Discipline Group, University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Christopher Carter is a economics PhD student at the University of Technology Sydney researching in the fields of Applied Econometrics, Labour Economics and Economics of Education. Peter Siminski is a Professor of Economics at the University of Technology Sydney. His research interests include Applied Microeconomics and Microeconometrics: Impact Evaluation, Inequality and Economic Mobility, Education, Health, Labour, Public Economics.

Understanding trends in full-time labour force participation of Australian-born men

Mr Riley Smithers¹

¹The Australian Government, The Treasury, Australia

Biography:

Riley Smithers is an analyst at the Australian Government, The Treasury in the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Division. His work focuses on leveraging Australian microdata assets to support the Government on areas such as labour market engagement and household incomes.

Impact of Adult Migrant English Program on Government Benefit Receipt: Evidence from Australian Humanitarian Migrants

Ms Bowen Wang^{1,2}

¹Commonwealth Treasury, Australia, ²Australian National University, Australia

Financial Literacy as a Pathway to Better Mental Health: A Global Perspective

Dr Duc Vo¹

¹University of Western Australia, Crawley, Australia

Biography:

Duc Vo is currently a staff member at the Business School, the University of Western Australia. He was working for the Australian public sector including the Australian Energy Regulator for 15 years until 2021. Duc's research interests cover a wide range of topics from applied economics to sustainable finance. Duc Vo has published in various refereed academic journals including Journal of Economic Surveys; Empirical Economics; International Business Review; Journal of Knowledge Management; Australian Journal of Management; Scottish Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Behavioural Finance, among many others.

Targeting Labour Market Programs Towards the Disadvantaged: An Analysis of the Effects of Job Seeker Streaming in Australia

Dr Lixin Cai¹, Dr Patrick Hamshire

¹Department Of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australia

Biography:

Lixin is an applied labour economist, interest in labour market program evaluation and research on low pay dynamics; income distribution, inequality and poverty; the effects of tax and transfers on labour supply; (dynamic) labour supply of women; the relationship between health and labour market outcomes; the relationship between socioeconomic status and health; the distribution of wages and wage inequality; and the dynamics of income support recipients.

In addition to authoring numerous evaluation and research reports, Lixin has published near 40 refereed journal articles in international and Australian journals, such as the Journal of Comparative Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A, British Journal of Industrial Relations, Labour Economics, Health Economics, Fiscal Studies, Economic Record, Empirical Economics, International Journal of Manpower, and Journal of Sociology.

HOUSING

Zoning and housing supply: empirics in search of a theory

Dr Tim Helm¹, Dr Cameron Murray²

¹Prosper Australia, North Melbourne, Australia, ²Fresh Economic Thinking

Biography:

Dr Tim Helm is an economic consultant and the Director of Research and Policy at think tank Prosper Australia. He has a PhD from the University of Melbourne focusing on the economics of land tax.

The Short-Term Impact of Net Overseas Migration on Residential Real Estate Prices and Rents - Evidence from Australia Neighborhood-Level Data

Mr. Marcel Peruffo¹, Ms. Maddeleine Check

¹University of Sydney, Australia

Biography:

I am a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) at the University of Sydney I obtained my PhD in Economics from Brown University in 2022. Previously, I also served as a Senior Economist at the DG-Research/Monetary Policy at the European Central Bank.

My research agenda is primarily focused on Macroeconomics, with special attention to heterogeneity. I am interested in the allocational and distributional consequences of macroeconomic shocks, and in the role of redistribution policies.

Do Homeowners Consume Gains in their Home Equity by Refinancing?

Mr Philipp Grozinger¹

¹Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Philipp Grozinger is a Research Economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia, specialising in microeconometrics and business and household finances. He holds an MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics from the London School of Economics and an Honours Degree in Economics from the University of Adelaide.

FOOD WASTE POLICY

The Economics of Food Waste: What Are We Really Throwing Away?

Ms Kat Heinrich¹

¹Rawtec, Australia

Biography:

Kat Heinrich is a Circular Economy Specialist and Director of Rawtec with over a decade of experience in sustainable resource management. A past recipient of the Green Industries SA Women in Circular Economy Award, Kat was a key contributor to national Sector Action Plans for the Bread and Bakery, Dairy, and Catering sectors, working directly with producers, retailers, and government to identify solutions to reduce food waste. She is passionate about shaping a more sustainable, resilient, and fair food system in Australia. Kat also serves as Director of the Schools Outreach Program for the SA Women in Economics Network. She was the global chair of the International Solid Waste Association's Young Professionals Group, reflecting her international leadership in the waste and resource management sector.

The impact of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services on recovery rate, diversion rate and total disposed: Empirical evidence from New South Wales and Victoria in Australia.

Miss Sijia Liu¹

¹The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia

Biography:

My name is SIJIA LIU and you can call me Scarlett. I am a third-year PhD student in the Department of Economics at the University of Adelaide. My research focusses on food waste management strategies, specifically examining Food Organic and Garden Organic (FOGO) services through the application of data and econometric models. I have conducted a series of empirical policy analysis in this area and plan to extend my work using spatial econometric techniques.

BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS

Price elasticity and habit formation: The Australian Aviation Sector

Prof Robert Breunig², Ms Christina Lim¹, Mr Adrian Domazet¹, Dr Omer Majeed¹

¹Treasury, Australia, ²Australian National University, Australia

Biography:

Dr Omer Majeed is the Director for the Research and Evaluation (R&E) Team within the Competition Taskforce.

Under Omer, the R&E team has undertaken pioneering work on aviation, non-competes, automation, mergers, and dynamism. Prior to this, Omer held positions at the RBA, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

Omer completed his PhD at the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University (ANU), where he studied issues relating to inequality, economic growth and trade. He has published journal articles on economic growth, innovation, firm growth, dynamism, R&D, inequality, poverty, monetary policy, and trade. Omer is currently a Visiting Fellow at ANU as well.

Policy Evaluation Under the Crowding-In and Out of Social Preferences

Mr Stan Cheung¹

¹Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

Biography:

I am a 4th year PhD candidate in economics at Queen Mary University of London. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours Class I and the University Medal) at the University of Sydney in 2020 with majors in Political Economy and Mathematics. My main research interests are in choice theory, as well as social choice and welfare theory. I am also interested in behavioural and experimental economics.

Persuading voters with partisan TV news: a natural experiment using spatial reception data

Assoc. Prof Russell Thomson¹, Prof. Nicolas Herault^{2,3}, Dr Trevor Kollmann¹

¹Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn, Australia, ²University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, ³University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia

Biography:

Associate Professor Russell Thomson specialises in the economics of science, technology and innovation. He has published in leading international journals including the Review of Economics and Statistics, Strategic Management Journal and American Journal of Agricultural Economics. In addition to academic research, Russell regularly undertakes applied policy research for both State and Federal Governments. He has a PhD in Economics from Australian National University and a BSc (Mathematics) from the University of Melbourne.

INNOVATION

The Impact of Labour Mobility on Innovation in Australia

Mr Brodie Dobson-Keeffe¹, Michael Falk

¹IP Australia, Australia

Biography:

Brodie Dobson-Keeffe is an economist at IP Australia. His current research has a focus on the interaction between labour market and innovation, as well as firm dynamics, startups, and trade.

Product Bundling and Quality Innovation in Network Industries

Prof. Yi-Ling Cheng¹

¹National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Biography:

I am Yi-Ling Cheng, a Professor at the Institute of Economics, National Sun Yat-sen University. My research focuses on Industrial Economics and International Trade, with an emphasis on theoretical analysis. I study firms' strategic decisions on quality innovation—particularly under network externalities and in multi-product settings—and develop general equilibrium trade models to analyze how heterogeneous firms shape global trade patterns and pollution emissions. My work provides insights into industrial, trade, and environmental policy, and has been published in the Review of International Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Economic Record, and other leading outlets. I have also presented at international conferences, such as the Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Annual Conference and the European Regional Science Association Congress. More details are available at: <https://rpb117.nsysu.edu.tw/p/412-1133-15973.php?Lang=en>

Exploring Innovation Pathways: An Insight Into the Drivers of Patenting Among Australia's R&D Firms

Dr Kevin Nguyen¹

¹IP Australia, Australia

Biography:

Dr Kevin Nguyen is an economist in the Office of the Chief Economist at IP Australia. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Queensland. Before joining IP Australia, Kevin spent 13 years working as an economic analyst and international trade negotiator. He has taught a range of economics-related courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and his research focuses on topics related to intellectual property and innovation.

PLENARY: PRODUCTIVITY

Prof Amanda Pallais, Harvard University

Working from Home

Amanda Pallais is the Robert C. Waggoner Professor of Economics at Harvard University. Her research studies the labor market performance and educational investment decisions of disadvantaged and socially excluded groups. It has shown how manager bias can depress the job performance of minorities, how the cost of developing a reputation can make it difficult for young workers to enter the labor market, how marriage market concerns can lead women to invest less in labor market success, and how financial aid can increase the educational attainment of low-income students. Currently, she is very interested in remote work and understanding its impacts on workers' career trajectories.

Danielle Wood, Productivity Commission

Productivity in Australia

Danielle Wood commenced a 5-year term as Chair of the Productivity Commission on 13 November 2023. Prior to joining the Commission, she was CEO of the Grattan Institute and Head of its Budgets and Government Program. During her time at Grattan, Danielle also held roles as member of the Australian Government's Women's Economic Equality Taskforce, the Parliamentary Budget Office Expert Advisory Committee, the Jobs and Skills Australia Consultative Forum and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government Research Committee.

Danielle previously worked in senior roles at the ACCC and at NERA Economic Consulting. She started her career as a graduate at the Productivity Commission.

Danielle holds an Honours degree in Economics from the University of Adelaide and two Masters degrees, one in Economics and one in Competition Law, from the University of Melbourne.

Danielle is an Honorary Fellow and former President of the Economic Society of Australia and a Research Fellow of the Women's Leadership Institute. She was the co-founder and first Chair of the Women in Economics Network.

She is currently an ex-officio member of the Australian Government's Competition Review Expert Advisory Panel.

Prof Beth Webster, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research

Lifting Business Productivity

Professor Beth Webster is Director of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne. Her expertise centres on the economics of the way knowledge is created and diffused through the economy. She has a PhD in economics from the University of Cambridge and an MEc and BEc (hons) from Monash University. She is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia.

Professor Webster is responsible for providing advice and leadership on policies relating to the economic and social impact of research, public industry and innovation policies. She is also responsible for measuring university research engagement and impact.

Professor Webster has authored over 150 articles on the economics of innovation and firm performance and has been published in RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of Law & Economics, the Journal of International Economics and Research Policy. She has been appointed to a number of committees including the Bracks' review of the automotive industry, Lomax-Smith Base funding Review, CEDA Advisory Council, and the Advisory Council for Intellectual Property. She is a past President of the European Policy for Intellectual Property Association and the Asia Pacific Innovation Conference network. She was named the 2022 Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia.

CHAIR: Prof Robert Breunig, Crawford School of Public Policy ANU

Session sponsored by Department of Industry, Science and Resources

SPECIAL SESSION: POLICIES TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S SUPERPOWER OPPORTUNITY

Presentations and discussion in this session will include:

- Australia's comparative advantage in a decarbonising world, and its 'superpower' green export opportunities;
- the Australian and international implications of superpower exports — economic and environmental;
- the macroeconomic implications of policies for decarbonising the Australian economy and supporting superpower exports; and
- a closer look at green iron as a potential superpower industry.

Australia's comparative advantage in renewable energy

Decarbonisation will bring large shifts in the global energy trade. Current trade patterns, such as Japan and Korea importing around 90 percent of their energy, reflect the low costs of transporting fossil fuels. Zero-carbon energy is, unfortunately, extremely expensive to move over long distances. This will drive major structural change.

The new energy trade will be in embedded energy—a trade in energy-intensive products such as steel and aluminium. Energy-intensive industries will relocate to countries with abundant cheap renewables, while poorly endowed countries will be importers. Like the fossil fuel trade, this trade will moderate cross-country differences in energy prices.

This analysis explores the implications for Australia through five prospective partners in the green trade: China, India, Japan, Korea, and Germany. It addresses the following questions:

1. How large will electricity demand be in these countries by mid-century?
2. Can these countries meet demand with cheap domestic clean energy, or will there be shortfalls?
3. How much can importing embedded energy from Australia alleviate these countries' shortfalls?
4. What are the economic and decarbonisation impacts of the trade for Australia and the world?

Demand is assessed with detailed models of country electrification. Potential supply is assessed via detailed analysis of competing technologies and countries' renewable resource quality.

The analysis finds that existing research underestimates Australia's comparative advantage in clean energy, supporting Prof. Ross Garnaut's view that Australia can play an outsized role in global decarbonisation and development.

Speakers:

Dr Reuben Finighan

Reuben holds a PhD in Political Economy from the London School of Economics and a Masters of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, as a Fulbright, Frank Knox, John Monash, and Leverhulme scholar. He has co-authored papers with Harvard Professor Robert Putnam, Ross Garnaut AC, and Lord Nicholas Stern, and previously worked at the University of Melbourne in applied economics and as Chief Economist for the Universal Commons.

Policies to correct market failures and to harness Australia's comparative advantage in green iron exports

This research addresses the question, 'what investments and policies does Australia need to export green iron?'

It is motivated by the work of Dr. Finighan, which makes a compelling case for Australia's long-term comparative advantage as a supplier of zero-carbon energy-intensive exports. This research elaborates by demonstrating how Australia can produce green iron at an industrial scale.

Ingrid will present the findings of a sophisticated dynamic optimisation model, with hourly data on variable renewable energy in five locations, and demonstrate how an 'inflexible' and 'flexible' green iron-making technology can produce green iron. The dynamic model shows how emerging, flexible green iron technologies are likely to deliver lower-cost green iron: they can capitalise on variation on electricity prices in the market by reducing production and selling electricity at high prices, and make the most of low prices to produce and store green hydrogen.

Ingrid will share a number of analytical insights from the model, including the way that market failures push up the cost of green iron.

- There is no system of international carbon prices, which contributes to the significant cost gap between green iron and carbon-intensive iron. In the absence of an international carbon price, there is a role for second-best hydrogen and green energy subsidies.
- Early producers of green iron incur higher costs, but create valuable knowledge that benefits later producers. Because private producers cannot capture these benefits, there is a role for government innovation support in sectors where Australia has a comparative advantage.

- Common-user infrastructure with monopoly characteristics will not be provided at an efficient scale by private investors. There is a case for government investment in energy transmission, hydrogen storage, and hydrogen transport.

The model demonstrates how policies can help address these market failures, and Ingrid will discuss the importance of shared economic research with trading partners as a basis for creating international demand for Australian green iron.

This research fills a gap in other research into green iron production, which has not modelled flexible iron-making technology and its advantages, and our policy recommendations are firmly grounded in the economics of market failure.

Dr Ingrid Burfurd

Ingrid has a PhD in Economics from the University of Melbourne, and has worked in the public service, academia, and the not-for-profit sector. She was a Senior Associate at the Grattan Institute, a Lecturer at RMIT University, and a Senior Economist in the Victorian Public Service. She served as a Senior Expert Advisor on the UNFCCC's review of the Clean Development Mechanism. Ingrid's research has been published in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, the Journal of the Economic Science Association, Experimental Economics, the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Environmental Research Letters, and the Australian Economic Review.

Carbon pricing when an emissions trading scheme is off the table

Australia has a commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, but current policies will not get us there. A tax on carbon, or an equivalent price based on an emissions trading scheme, is the most efficient way to achieve net zero. But these policies are off the table.

This research addresses the question, 'what policies raise revenue and reduce emissions when an efficient carbon carbon tax is not an option?' and it is motivated by the twin goals of reducing emissions and macroeconomic stability.

Philip will present the results of three policy proposals, derived from CoPS' CGE model of the Australian economy: a domestic tax on fossil fuels at the source, a regional tax on fossil fuels, and a cash-flow tax applied to fossil fuel producers.

Results include the effect on government revenues, consumption, investment, exports, and GDP. This research is the first comprehensive effort to model the effect of these tax proposals, which can smooth the path to the broad-based emissions trading scheme Australia needs.

Professor Philip Adams

Philip is Professor and past-Director at the Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), now at Victoria University and previously Monash University (2004-2013). Philip was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 2016 and was awarded the GTAP Research Fellow distinction for the term of 2016 to 2019. He holds a Masters Degree and a Ph.D., both in economics, from the University of Melbourne.

SPECIAL SESSION: HISTORY AND ROLE OF ECONOMIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

This special session explores the two centenaries which ACE 2025 marks: the Economic Society of Australia and the Economic Record were both established in 1925.

Dr. Alex Millmow will explore the trials and tribulations of the Economic Society of Australia. The Society's original aims of promoting economic education remains the same, so too does its loose, federated structure and non-exclusivity. The Society's greatest years in terms of influence were the 1970s and 1980s with membership approaching 3000. The 1990s posed an existential challenge with the rise of business education and the creation of competitive think-tanks. However, the Society responded to the decline in membership by launching initiatives to bring young professionals and women into the fold.

Professor Jose Merigo will apply bibliometric analysis and tools to provide retrospective insight into the content and impact of the Economic Record, exploring questions such as:

- What is the current standing of the Economic Record?
- What has been most cited? How are those citations connected?
- Who (author, institution, country) has been most impactful? How do those leading contributors connect?
- What do key words and topics tell us about the Record?

The session will conclude with a substantial Q+A period.

Speakers:

An Evolving Record: A Centennial History of the Economic Society of Australia

Dr Alex Millmow, Federation University

Dr. Alex Millmow was an associate professor in economics at the School of Business at Federation University Australia over the period 2010 until 2019. He is now an honorary research adjunct fellow at Federation University, Australia. Alex's research interests include the making of the Australian economic profession and the role of economic ideas in steering public policy. In 2004 he completed his doctorate at the Australian National University on 'The Power of Economic Ideas: The Rise of Macroeconomic Management in Australia' which was subsequently published. Alex has also published over 50 journal articles including the Economic Record, Economic Papers, Economic Analysis and Policy and the History of Economics Review. He is the current President of the History of Economic Thought Society of Australia (HETSA) and the President of the Victorian branch of the Economic Society of Australia. In 2017 he published *A History of Australasian Economic Thought* (Routledge: London) and in 2020 an intellectual biography of the Anglo Australian economist Colin Clark entitled *The Gypsy Economist*.

Centennial anniversary of the Economic Record: A bibliometric retrospective

Professor Jose Merigo, University of Technology Sydney

José M. Merigó is a Professor at the School of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Before joining UTS, he was a Full Professor at the Department of Management Control and Information Systems at the University of Chile. Previously, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Manchester Business School, University of Manchester (UK) and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Business Administration at the University of Barcelona (Spain). He has published more than 500 articles on journals, books and conference proceedings. Since 2015 he is recognized as a Highly Cited Researcher by Clarivate Analytics (Thomson & Reuters) in Computer Science (2015-2020) and Cross-Field (2021-present). He has also appeared in many other international rankings including the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists List, Research.com, ScholarGPS, and AD Scientific Index.

Chair: Prof Hugh Harley, University of Sydney

LABOUR AND HEALTH

The Cost of Chronic Pain: Labour Market Outcomes and the Role of Painkillers

Dr. Nary Hong¹

¹UNSW, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Dr. Nary Hong is a Visiting Fellow at the School of Economics, UNSW Business School, University of New South Wales (UNSW), where she also earned her PhD in Economics. Her research sits at the intersection of health and labour economics, with a strong emphasis on underserved populations, including people with disabilities. She aims to improve access to essential benefits and healthcare, and to reduce avoidable suffering through evidence-based policy research. Her recent work includes analyses of Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Disability Support Pension. She is also currently investigating access to oral healthcare for pregnant women in the United States, an area that remains underexplored in health economics. Ultimately, her goal is to help enhance labour market outcomes for disadvantaged groups through impactful, policy-relevant research.

Mental health and differential belief updating: Evidence from unemployment shocks

Dr Ashani Abayasekara¹, Professor David Johnston², Dr Rachel Knott²

¹Health Economics Group, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia,

²Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School, Monash University, Caulfield, Australia

Biography:

Ashani is an economist with 10 years of experience in the economic policy space. She is currently working as a Research Fellow at the Health Economics Group of Monash University's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. She recently completed her doctoral studies in Economics at the Monash Business School, focusing on the health and wellbeing implications of economic shocks. She has published in both local and international outlets on topics relating to Labour Economics, Health Economics, the Economics of Education, and International Economics during her time at the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka.

Wings of Growth: A Mindset Intervention in Rural China

Mr Mike Zhiren Wu¹, Dr. Juliana Silva Goncalves³, Dr. Elif Incekara-Hafalir², Prof. Erte Xiao¹, Assoc. Prof Hui Xu⁴

¹Monash University, Clayton, Australia, ²University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia, ³University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, ⁴Beijing Normal University, Beijing, Australia

Biography:

Juliana is a Lecturer at the University of Sydney.

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Global Supply Chain Resilience and the Trump Election

Ms. Xinyi Zhao¹, Doctor Chanelle Duley¹, Professor Prasanna Gai¹

¹Department of Economics, Business School, The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Biography:

Xinyi (Cecilia) Zhao is a PhD candidate at the Department of Economics, University of Auckland. She works under the supervision of Dr. Chanelle Duley and Prof. Prasanna Gai. Cecilia's research field is in global supply chains with a special focus on network applications.

US trade policy impacts on Australia and the world – analysis

Mr Owen Gabbitas¹, Mr Sebastian Broadhurst¹, Mr Diego Machillanda¹

¹Productivity Commission, Canberra, Australia

Biography:

Owen Gabbitas is a Research Manager at the Productivity Commission with over 35 years of experience in applied economics and quantitative analysis, including computable general equilibrium modelling. He holds a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from the Australian National University.

The Trade-Inflation Nexus: The Role of Production Networks

Dr Larry Liu¹

¹Reserve Bank of Australia, Australia

Biography:

Larry Liu is a senior economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia. Before joining the RBA, he was an academic at the Australian National University. He works on various topics in macroeconomics, international economics, and public economics.

PUBLIC SERVICE ECONOMICS

An evaluation of the economic outcomes achieved from the NSW 2021 COVID-19 business support programs

Mr Angus Wheeler, Mr Anthony Manns

¹NSW Treasury, Sydney, Australia, ²NSW The Cabinet Office, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Angus Wheeler and Anthony Manns worked as part of the NSW Treasury team who supported the Independent Evaluation of 2021 COVID-19 business supports.

Angus Wheeler has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Sydney. He joined the Commonwealth Treasury Graduate Program in 2018, where he worked on productivity, structural reform, business taxation and microdata research. Angus joined NSW Treasury in 2020 where he worked on COVID business support, health reform and productivity. Angus is currently a Senior Associate at The Cabinet Office. Previous publications include 'Reaching for the stars: Australian firms and the global productivity frontier' and 'Trends in productivity: What should we expect?'

Understanding the NSW First Nations business sector

Mr Sam Mathieson¹

¹Nsw Treasury, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Sam Mathieson is an Analyst in NSW Treasury's First Nations Economic Wellbeing Branch. He conducts research on First Nations businesses and provides advice on the appraisal and evaluation of initiatives that impact on First Nations people and communities. Sam has 2 years of experience in economics and public policy.

NSW Performance and Wellbeing Framework

Ms Xuan Deng¹, Ms Jessica Xu¹

¹NSW Treasury, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Jessica Xu is an economist at NSW Treasury, where she leads and manages the data team on economic wellbeing and performance frameworks. She has previously worked in a range of areas at the Australian Treasury including Macroeconomic Conditions Division, Financial System Division and Beijing Post. Jessica holds a PhD in Economics from the University of New South Wales.

Identifying Risk Characteristics of New Mortgage Lending

Mr Patrick Elkington¹, Ms Anna-Sophia Cetin¹

¹Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Patrick Elkington is a Senior Analyst at the Reserve Bank of Australia. He currently works in the Financial Stability Department, where he is responsible for monitoring household finances. Patrick's research focuses on using microdata to answer policy-relevant questions. Patrick holds a Bachelor of Economics (First Class Honours and the University Medal) from the University of Queensland.

Anna-Sophia Cetin is an Analyst at the Reserve Bank of Australia. She currently works in the Domestic Markets Department in monetary policy implementation and previously worked in the Financial Stability Department. Anna-Sophia holds a Bachelor of Economics (First Class Honours and the University Medal) from the University of Sydney.

Development of NSW specific carbon values which are mandatory for use in cost-benefit analysis across the NSW public sector

Mr Angus Woods¹

¹Nsw Treasury, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Angus Woods is a Senior Economist at NSW Treasury, where he is the subject matter expert on the marginal abatement cost model used to set carbon values for cost-benefit analysis across the NSW public sector. He has also played a key role in the development, implementation, and maintenance of several Treasury policies including the recently updated NSW Government Business Case Guidelines and the NSW Government Guide to Cost-Benefit Analysis. Angus has also advised the government on a wide range of policy issues including fiscal repair and the economic merit of various new policy proposals.

WEALTH AND INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS

Award-reliant employees' position in the household income distribution of employees

Mr Josh Lipp¹, Mr Jamie van Netten¹

¹Fair Work Commission, Melbourne, Australia

Biography:

Jamie van Netten has an interest in labour economics and macroeconomics and has been working as an economist at the Fair Work Commission since March 2023.

Josh Lipp is a Senior Economist at the Fair Work Commission, where he has worked since the start of 2024. Prior to that he spent six years at the Productivity Commission.

Gender, Age, and Test Premia: How Firms Shape the Distribution of Earnings Over the Lifecycle

Dr. Silvia Griselda¹

¹E61 Institute, Australia

Biography:

Silvia Griselda is an accomplished economist specializing in skills and the labor market. She earned her PhD in Economics from the University of Melbourne and has held academic positions at leading institutions, including Bocconi University and the London School of Economics. Currently, she is the Research Manager at the Education and Human Capital Unit of the e61 Institute, where she leads impactful projects on the gender pay gap, childcare, labor force participation, migration, and education policy.

Her research has been published in top academic journals and featured in major media outlets such as The Conversation, VoxEU, the Australian Financial Review (AFR), and The Australian. Silvia has received several accolades, including the UniCredit Foundation's Best Project Award in Gender Economics and the Mardi Dungey Prize for Best Project at ANU.

Are preferences for redistribution and fairness norms sensitive to income inequality?

Dr Dipanwita Sarkar¹, Dr Jayanta Sarkar, Dr Trevor Collier, Dr Martin Kocher

¹Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

Biography:

My research focuses on understanding the impact of social programs and policies through rigorous causal analysis and experimental methods. I have conducted large field studies in Australia and India, collaborated with industry partners, and published in prestigious journals such as Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Health Economics, Labour Economics. My research includes interdisciplinary collaborations, and my projects have been funded by The International Growth Centre at LSE, Victorian Department of Education, and iMOVE Australia Cooperative Research Centre. I am a Co-editor for Economic Analysis and Policy (Scimago Q1) journal. I am invited regularly as a commentator on media and have made appearances in Australian national news and radio interviews. Before academia, I served as Economic Consultant at Colemont Insurance Brokerage, Inc. and Organ Transport Systems, Inc. in Dallas.

PLENARY: HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC POLICY

Andrew Hauser, Deputy Governor RBA

What has Australian macroeconomic thought achieved in the past century – and where can it contribute in the next?

Andrew Hauser is Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia. He became Deputy Governor on 12 February 2024. He is Deputy Chair of the Reserve Bank Board. Prior to his current role, Mr Hauser held a variety of senior positions at the Bank of England, most recently as Executive Director for Markets. He was also Executive Director for Banking, Payments and Financial Resilience; oversaw the Bank of England's quarterly Inflation Report, its regional agency network and its international economic analysis; served on the secretariats of the Monetary and Financial Policy committees; was chief of staff to the Governor in the aftermath of the global financial crisis; and alternate Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC.

Ross Gittins, SMH

History of Economic Policy in Australia

Ross Gittins became an economic journalist at The Sydney Morning Herald in 1974 and has been its Economics Editor since 1978. He is also an economic columnist for The Age, Melbourne. His journalistic experience includes editorial writing and stints in the parliamentary press galleries in Sydney and Canberra. Before joining the Herald, he worked as an auditor with the national chartered accounting firm Touche Ross & Co.

He has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Newcastle and is a fellow of Chartered Accountants ANZ. He has been a Nuffield press fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and a journalist-in-residence at the department of economics of the University of Melbourne. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University and the University of Newcastle. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of NSW and a fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

In 2008 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for service to journalism as a commentator on economics. In 2020 he received a Walkley award for outstanding contribution to journalism.

His latest book is 'Gittins: A Life Among Budgets, Bulldust and Bastardy' (Allen & Unwin).

SPECIAL SESSION: FISCAL POLICY AND TAX REFORM

A better tax and transfer system for Australia

Speakers:

Prof Ben Philips, ANU

Does independent scrutiny of government spending proposals improve fiscal outcomes?

Does independent scrutiny and verification make a difference to fiscal outcomes? The last NSW election, when the independent Parliamentary Budget Office costed more than 900 policy proposals for the government and opposition, suggests it does. The correlation appears weaker in the Commonwealth and especially in the state of Victoria, both of which have a PBO. Institutional design differs between these jurisdiction and may account for the different outcomes. A compounding factor however is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which changed the attitudes of governments to fiscal sustainability and lessened their preparedness to consider intergenerational implications of public sector debt. An institutional economics perspective considers how changes to the “rules of the game” affect fiscal policy in Australia, with a particular focus on jurisdictions with an independent fiscal institution.

Stephen Bartos, University of Canberra

Stephen is a Professor at the University of Canberra, specialising in economics, public finance and public administration. He was previously Parliamentary Budget Officer for NSW, and earlier was the Deputy Secretary and head of Budget group in the Commonwealth Department of Finance. He also has experience in consulting and as a senior adviser to the Royal Commission on Aged Care. Stephen is widely published in news media and both academic and popular journals. He is author of two books – Against the Grain: the AWB Scandal and why it Happened (UNSW Press) and Public Sector Governance – Australia (CCH).

Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform: Where are we headed?

In this presentation, Breunig will explore the current state and future direction of tax reform in Australia. He begins by emphasizing why tax reform matters—highlighting national challenges such as climate change, declining productivity, fiscal sustainability concerns, rising inequality (particularly intergenerational), and the complications of Australia’s federal system. Breunig advocates for a comprehensive tax system overhaul, ideally led by a bipartisan coalition and an international expert. He will also discuss practical, doable reforms that government might consider and pitfalls that government should definitely avoid.

Robert Breunig, ANU

Robert Breunig is the director of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute at the Crawford School of Public Policy. From 2015 to 2016 he was the Director of the Crawford School of Public Policy.

Professor Breunig is one of Australia’s leading Public Policy Economists. He has published in over 75 international academic journals in economics and public policy. Professor Breunig has made significant policy impact through a number of his research projects: the relationship between child care and women’s labour supply; the effect of immigration to Australia on the labour market prospects of Australians; the effect of switching to cash from food stamps in the U.S. food stamp program and the inter-generational transmission of disadvantage.

Professor Breunig’s research is motivated by important social policy issues and debates. His work is characterized by careful empirical study and appropriate use of statistical technique.

Professor Breunig’s research agenda has led to many partnerships with government organizations in Australia and overseas. He works regularly with the Australian Treasury, the Department of Employment, the Department of Education, the Department of Industry, the Department of Communication and the Arts, the Productivity Commission, the Australian Bureau of Statistics as well as many other agencies. He has been a consultant to the private sector on marketing, mergers, bank competition and customer loyalty programs.

Robert Breunig particularly enjoys interaction outside of typical academic circles and takes pleasure in helping those who don’t usually use economics or statistical analysis to better understand and make use of these tools in their work. He has an extensive track record of helping the Australian public service to build research capacity which he views as a particularly important activity.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID

Decline to boom and back again: The Australian labour market in the COVID-19 era (2000-2024)

Professor Jeff Borland¹

¹University of Melbourne, Australia

Biography:

Jeff Borland is Truby Williams Professor of Economics at the University of Melbourne. His main research interests are analysis of labour markets in Australia and program, policy evaluation and design and Australian economic history. Jeff is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and in 2020 he received the annual Distinguished Fellow award from the Economic Society of Australia. He is currently a member of the Commonwealth Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Productivity before and after COVID-19

Mr Billy Morton¹, Ms Archana Subramaniam¹, Mr Benjamin Mitra-Kahn¹, Mr Jeremy Kamil¹, Mr Lawson Ashburner¹

¹Productivity Commission, Australia

Biography:

Billy Morton is a Research Economist/Public Policy Analyst at the Productivity Commission. After completing his Honours in Economics at the University of Melbourne, Billy joined the Commission as a graduate in 2024 and has since worked within productivity and health research. Billy was published in a special issue of Australian Economic Papers for his thesis on 'The impact of unions on the Australian enterprise bargaining framework', for which he was also awarded the Australian Industrial Relations Commission Centennial Prize.

Archana Subramaniam is a Research Economist/Public Policy Analyst at the Productivity Commission who has worked across a range of research areas including productivity during and after COVID-19; wealth inequality and mobility; and the care economy. She has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Western Australia and completed her Honours in Economics at Monash University in 2022.

The Australian Beveridge curve in the wake of COVID-19

Dr Blair Chapman¹

¹SEEK, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Dr Blair Chapman is SEEK's Senior Economist. Blair undertakes economic analysis and forecasting of the Australian and New Zealand economies and labour markets. He leverages SEEK's data to develop unique insights about the economies SEEK operates in.

Blair's economic analysis and forecasting skills have been honed across both private and public organisations including ANZ, Deloitte Access Economics, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Blair was a member of the ABS's Labour Statistics Advisory Group for several years.

Blair holds a PhD in Economics from Johns Hopkins University where his studies concentrated on macroeconomics and labour. He completed his undergraduate studies at Monash University, where he majored in Economics, Econometrics and Accounting

HEALTH POLICY

Financial mechanisms for better value hospital care

Ms Persis Eskander¹, Mr Tim Griffin¹, Mr Nick Sladden¹, Ms Rachel Burgess¹, Mr Marcelo Munoz¹

¹Productivity Commission, Australia

Biography:

Persis Eskander is a Research Economist at the Productivity Commission. Prior to joining the Commission, Persis worked as a researcher in the non-for-profit and public sectors. Persis holds a Master of Applied Economics from Australian National University and a combined Bachelor of Arts/ Law from the University of New South Wales.

Nicholas Sladden is a Research Economist at the Productivity Commission. Nick has experience researching health policy, childcare, maritime logistics systems and competition in petrol markets. Nick holds an Honours degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne.

Powering Down Pollution: Health and Economic Benefits of PM10 Reductions from Coal Station Closures

Mr Sebastian Broadhurst²

¹Productivity Commission, Melbourne, Australia, ²The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Biography:

Sebastian Broadhurst is a Research Economist at the Productivity Commission, where he has worked on projects relating to climate change and energy, environment and water, and competition policy. His previous work is in behavioural science and evaluation, focusing on experimental design. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Economics and is completing a Master of Economics, each from the University of Melbourne.

How Digital Abilities Shape Wellbeing and Social Inclusion: An Empirical Study of Victorians

Dr Nataliya Ilyushina¹

¹RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Biography:

Dr Nataliya Ilyushina is an empirical economist whose research explores how digital and organisational change affects wellbeing and the labour market. Her work focuses on the impact of decentralised autonomous organisations (DAOs), flexible work arrangements, and unpaid household labour. She is particularly interested in how emerging technologies—such as blockchain and AI—are reshaping the boundaries between paid and unpaid work, and influencing social inclusion, mental health, and economic participation. Nataliya applies rigorous empirical methods to real-world data and is passionate about producing policy-relevant research that bridges the gap between technology and social outcomes. She holds a PhD in Economics from RMIT University, a Master of Economics from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Professional Accounting and Commerce from RMIT, as well as a Bachelor of Economics from Moscow State University. Nataliya also lectures in fintech and digital economy and actively supports student research in these areas.

CLIMATE

Effects of extreme weather events on economic resilience: Empirical evidence from Australian households

Mr Mohammad Razib Hossain¹

¹The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia

Biography:

Mohammad Razib Hossain is a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Before joining as a full-time researcher, he accomplished his MSc (Economics) degree from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. He is a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Leeds. He received many awards and recognitions including the Prime Minister Gold Medal and the University Award due to his academic excellence. His research interests lie within Ecological Economics, Energy Economics, Renewable Energy, Time-series Econometrics, Panel data Modeling, Circular Economy, and Carbon Mitigation. He has published his works in journals like Energy Economics, Energy Policy, Technological Forecasting & Social Change, and so on. He has published more than 50 articles in renowned journals.

Channelling aid towards equality: Climate finance funds and carbon inequality

Dr Rabindra Nepal¹, Dr Kangyin Dong²

¹University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia, ²University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China

Biography:

Professor Rabindra Nepal is a co-editor of Economic Analysis and Policy (journal of the Economic Society of Australia (Queensland)). He is an economics professor at the University of Wollongong with an internationally recognised research expertise in the economic and policy analysis involving energy, environment and resource. His research has been published in journals like Energy Economics, Environmental and Resource Economics, Ecological Economics, The Energy Journal, etc. His research is widely cited across reputed research journals across economics and finance including notable mentions across national and international media outlets and industry and government reports.

Climate change risks and its differential impacts on income inequality: An empirical investigation using threshold analysis

Dr Sadhana Srivastava¹, Prof Gulasekaran Rajaguru², Dr Rahul Sen⁴, Prof Pundarik Mukhopadhaya³

¹AUT Business School, New Zealand, ²Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia, ³Macquarie University Business School, Sydney, Australia, ⁴Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

Biography:

Dr Srivastava hold a doctorate degree from National University of Singapore. She has worked for Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) in Delhi, India and Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in New Zealand. Her current research has focused on analysing the importance of foreign direct investment and trade in services in global value chains in developing Asia as well as globalization and income inequality. Her work in the context of comparing India and China's FDI valuation system attracted significant international press and media attention and was cited by The Economist magazine. She has contributed to the ARTNeT research network of the UNESCAP, and published her research in internationally recognized peer-reviewed academic journals, which has been frequently cited in academia and policy circles.

ECONOMIC THEORY

Reconciling Fairness and Efficiency: A Game-Theoretic Approach to Compulsory Acquisition under Legal Uncertainty

Dr. Duygu Yengin¹, Professor Ching-Jen Sun

¹Uni Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia

Biography:

Assoc. Prof. Yengin is a leading expert in microeconomic theory, specializing in mathematical economics, bargaining models, game theory, axiomatic fair allocation, social choice and welfare, and market mechanisms design.

Her work specializes in game-theoretic bargaining models focusing on fair and efficient negotiation processes, particularly in contexts with incomplete property rights and imbalanced power dynamics. By integrating economic theory, law, and political philosophy, Assoc. Prof. Yengin addresses complex societal challenges in land use, natural resource management, and market design. Her work on bargaining processes has led to substantial policy impact, including citations by the World Bank and recommendations on compulsory land acquisition that were tabled in the South Australian Parliament in 2022, resulting in policy reforms.

Implications of recent advances in evolutionary biology for economic policy and theory

Prof Hugh Harley¹

¹University of Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Hugh Harley has been Professor of Practice (Global Economy) at the University of Sydney since 2020, focussing on global economic history and the implications for today's turbulent world. Prior to that, Hugh spent over three decades as a finance executive and bank director in Australia and Asia. His research interests include the long-run history of competition and the potential for improved soil practices in agriculture to offset carbon emissions on a global scale. Hugh has honours degrees in Economics and Law from the University of Sydney and an M.Phil in Economics from Cambridge University. Hugh has just concluded a six-year term as Chair of Cancer Council Australia.

Alfred Marshall on the Microeconomics of Speculation

Dr Riko Stevens^{1,2}

¹University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle, Australia, ²University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia

Biography:

Dr Riko Stevens is a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA; Fremantle Campus) and an Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia (UWA). He is also currently serving as Treasurer of the Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) and as Co-Editor of the History of Economics Review. Riko holds a PhD in Economics from UWA as well as First Class B.Com (Hons) and M.Com degrees in Economics from the University of Auckland. His main research interest is the history of economic thought with a particular focus on financial markets. Riko's PhD thesis on the treatment of speculation in the Marshallian tradition of economic thought was awarded the 2022 History of Economic Thought Society of Australia (HETSA) Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis.

TRADE/ ENERGY

A Quantitative Evaluation of Static and Dynamic effects of expanding CPTPP membership and free trade in the backdrop of Trade War 2.0

Dr Rahul Sen¹, Prof Somesh Mathur², Dr Sadhana Srivastava³

¹Auckland University of Technology, AUCKLAND, New Zealand, ²Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, India,

³Infisum modelling Inc., Auckland, New Zealand

Biography:

Rahul Sen is Senior Lecturer Economics and Finance at AUT University, Auckland. His research focusses on quantitative evaluation of trade policies in the Asia-Pacific. Over his academic career, Rahul has been involved in consulting and advisory roles for Research Projects with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Bank Group in its ongoing B-Ready project. His research has been published and cited widely in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Policy Modeling and the World Economy.

The “She-Power” in the Household: The Managerial Advantage of Women in China’s Energy Poverty and Its Boundary

Miss Fangyuan Liu¹

¹The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Biography:

Fangyuan Liu is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Auckland. Her research interests span energy economics, environmental policy, and gender inequality. While her thesis focuses on the transition to 100% clean electricity in New Zealand, she is also researching gendered dimensions of energy poverty in China. She employs spatial econometrics and micro-panel data to explore how energy access and affordability intersect with social structures, aiming to inform equitable and sustainable policy design.

SPECIAL SESSION: INEQUALITY

Income and wealth inequality

Income inequality and wealth inequality have been rising slightly over time, from levels that are fairly average among OECD countries. However, these outcomes in inequality need to be viewed in light of Australia's social mobility, which is one of the highest in the world.

Speakers:

Catherine De Fontenay, Productivity Commission

Catherine de Fontenay is a Commissioner at the Productivity Commission. At the Commission she has led work on inequality and mobility, youth job prospects and youth incomes, and a number of research projects into the care economy, among others. Previously she was an Associate Professor of Economics at the Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne. Her research has been published in a number of international journals, including the American Economic Review, the RAND Journal of Economics, and the Journal of Industrial Economics.

Income inequality and wealth inequality have been rising slightly over time, from levels that are fairly average among OECD countries. However, these outcomes in inequality need to be viewed in light of Australia's social mobility, which is one of the highest in the world.

Roger Wilkins, University of Melbourne

Roger Wilkins is a Professorial Fellow in the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic & Social Research at the University of Melbourne as well as being Co-Director of the HILDA Survey. His research interests include the distribution and dynamics of individuals' economic wellbeing; the incidence and determinants of poverty and welfare dependence; and the nature, causes and consequences of labour market outcomes.

Long-term inequality trends in Australia: Evidence, explanations and international context

In this presentation I will summarise trends in income levels and income inequality in Australia over the last 100 years, drawing on a mixture of household survey and tax records data. The evidence on the drivers of inequality trends, particular over the last 40 years, will be discussed and Australia's experience will be placed in international context via comparisons with other developed countries.

Victoria Baranov, University of Melbourne

Dr Victoria Baranov is an economist at the University of Melbourne whose research looks at how mental health, gender norms and social pressures shape lives—especially in the context of poverty and inequality. Her recent work has focused on the long-term effects of maternal depression, and how disadvantage can be passed from one generation to the next. She has published widely in international journals and is a key researcher in the University's Gender Lab, which investigates how gender influences outcomes across society. Victoria earned her PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago and brings global experience and insight to her work on the social forces that shape economic development.

Facilitator: Prof Alison Preston, The University of Western Australia

ENERGY

Projecting electricity and energy costs over the transition

Mr Anthony Rush¹, Dr Howard Zhang¹

¹Australian Energy Market Commission, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Anthony Rush is an Economics Director at the AEMC, where he leads the AEMC's modelling of electricity and energy prices, and provides advice to the Commission on market design, competition and regulation issues in energy markets.

Anthony's previous roles include Senior Leadership roles at IPART and NSW Treasury. At IPART, he led the water regulation review, which introduced a new incentive-regulation framework to the NSW water sector. At NSW Treasury, he provided advice on competition and regulation issues to the NSW Treasurer and led review teams working as part of the NSW Productivity Commission.

Understanding structural change from transitioning to a low-carbon economy: an integrated multi-model approach for Australia

Dr Marc Jim Mariano¹, Dr George Verikios^{1,2}, Dr Yingying Lu¹

¹CSIRO, Australia, ²Griffith University, Nathan, Queensland

Biography:

Dr Marc Jim Mariano is a Senior Research Scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Queensland, Australia. His work involves the development of state-of-the-art computable general equilibrium (CGE) models, and their application in economic impact assessment of industry projects and government policies at the regional, state and national levels. His research interests include economywide modelling, climate change analysis, circular economy, energy transitions, consumer demand models and household distributional analysis. Before joining CSIRO, Marc was an Associate Director at KPMG where he provided advisory services to private and public clients based on advanced economic modelling. He also taught at the University of the Philippines and was a research economist at the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

Economic Impact Assessment and Energy Asset Transition

Dr Nadira Barkatullah¹

¹Aurecon Australasia/ UN Representative The OECD Working Party on Energy Economics, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Dr Nadira Barkatullah is a specialist economist in infrastructure financing and regulated utility industries. She currently leads the Economic and Regulatory specialisation at a Global Infrastructure Advisory. She has more than 25 years of experience in applying economic concepts and conducting quantitative analysis while working on projects around the globe. Nadira previously worked for the AECOM Commercial Advisory team as Director of Economics. She represented AECOM at energy conferences on financing and economics.

Prior to that she was working as Director of Economic Regulation in Abu Dhabi, where she advised on various strategic infrastructure projects, including Barakah nuclear project, providing advice on economic analysis and financial matters to promote sustainable economic development. She also worked for the United Nations (UN), on financing and investment analysis of energy and sustainable development issues, including large and small modular reactors. Dr. Barkatullah also represented the UN at various expert advisory committees, like the OECD Working Party on Energy Economics. She also received a Merit Award for her contribution in the field of economics. She has contributed to numerous UN publications and is currently contributing to the Economic Appraisal of Small Modular Reactors.

Nadira has also led local and international infrastructure projects at London Economics, as Divisional Director. She also worked for KPMG, ACIL Consulting, Sydney Water and Energy Australia.

ECONOMIC POLICY MODELLING

Assessing monetary-fiscal interactions in New Zealand using a regime-switching Bayesian Local Projection model

Dr Naveed Javed¹, Professor James Morley²

¹Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand, ²University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

James Morley is a Professor of Macroeconomics at the University of Sydney. He received his PhD from the University of Washington in 1999 and previously held academic positions at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of New South Wales. He is a Fellow of the International Association for Applied Econometrics and a former President of the Society for Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics. He serves on the Australian Research Council's College of Experts and was recently appointed Editor of The Economic Record. His research focuses on the empirical analysis of business cycles, stabilization policy, and sources of persistent changes in macroeconomic and financial conditions.

Planning to Construct: a DSGE model of the Australian Economy

Dr James Lennox¹

¹Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

Biography:

James' research expertise is in the development and application of computable general equilibrium models. At the Centre of Policy Studies, James leads the urban economic modelling programme. He has developed multiple large-scale spatial and dynamic general equilibrium models and worked in Australia and New Zealand on policy-relevant applications ranging from emissions pricing schemes to urban and regional transport infrastructure investments.

Smarter regulation through experiments

Mr John Dundas¹

¹NSW Productivity and Equality Commission, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

John Dundas is an economist at the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission working on regulation and competition economics. His particular interest is in experimental methods, having conducted field experiments during his tenure both at the World Bank and the NSW Behavioural Insights Unit. He is dedicated to promoting evidence-based public policy that makes a positive impact on the lives of the people of New South Wales.

PRODUCTIVITY AND ASSET PRICING

Demand-Shifting Intangibles, Market Concentration and the Pricing of Risk

Ms Hong Gayeon¹

¹Seoul National University, South Korea

Biography:

Gayeon Hong is a PhD candidate in Economics at Seoul National University. My research focuses on Financial Economics and Asset Pricing.

The Pricing of Real and Virtual Collectibles: the Case of Damien Hirst's 'Currency'

Dr John Hawkins¹, Mr Jack Wasson¹

¹University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia

Biography:

Dr John Hawkins is deputy head of the Canberra School of Politics, Economics & Society at the University of Canberra. He hold an MSc from the LSE and PhD from ANU. He previously worked at the BIS, the RBA and the Australian Treasury and was secretary of the Senate Economics Committee. He is a frequent media commentator on economic issues and writer for The Conversation.

Jack Wasson is a student at the University of Canberra. He represented UC in the 2024 Nudgeathon.

Drivers of Productivity in the Australian States and Territories: A Comparative Analysis

Dr. Ayasha Akter¹, Mr Philip Chang¹, Dr. Christopher Findlay¹

¹Office of the South Australian Productivity Commission, Adelaide, Australia

Biography:

Dr. Ayasha Akter is an applied Economist currently working as a Senior Research Analyst in the Office of South Australian Productivity Commission under Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Government of South Australia. Dr. Ayasha has undertaken evidence-based policy analyses, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, research design, and causal methodologies in the field of macroeconomics. Her current work focuses on providing high level economic analyses and policy development that contributes to the achievement of government goals, targets, and priorities.

SUSTAINABILITY, TRUST, AND PERFORMANCE

The Impact of Anti-Money Laundering Regulations on House Prices in OECD Countries

Dr Hassan Gholipour Fereidouni¹

¹Western Sydney University, Parramatta, Australia

Biography:

Hassan Gholipour Fereidouni is an Associate Professor of Property in the School of Business at Western Sydney University (WSU) in Australia. Prior to joining WSU, he held Lecturer (2014-2017) and Senior Lecturer (2018-2020) positions in Economics at Swinburne University of Technology. Hassan is an active researcher in the fields of real estate economics, urban studies, tourism economics and Middle East economics, having published more than 100 journal articles since 2008. He is among Stanford/Elsevier's list of world top 2% scientists for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Measuring fiscal sustainability: A novel multidimensional index, a developed country perspective

Mr Susantha Dissanayake¹

¹University of New England, Armidale, Australia

Biography:

I, Susantha Dissanayake, have over fifteen years of experience in lecturing, beginning my career as a visiting lecturer. After completing my first degree, I earned a postgraduate diploma in economic development, a master's degree in financial economics, and another master's in economics by research from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I have taught university-level courses in subjects such as economics, research methods, mathematics, and statistics. Additionally, I conduct visiting lectures for several programs, including the Master of Financial Economics, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Information Technology.

In 2018, I joined Aquinas College of Higher Studies as a senior lecturer, where I also served as the head of the research centre. Currently, I am pursuing a PhD in economics at the University of New England in Armidale, while also contributing to the academic program as a casual tutor and marker.

LABOUR MARKETS: GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION

Examining the Macroeconomic Costs of Occupational Entry Regulations

Dr Joel Bowman¹

¹NSW Treasury, Australia, ²Domain, Australia

Biography:

Dr Joel Bowman is a Senior Economist for Domain Insight where he provides in-depth analysis of Australia's housing market. With over a decade of experience in economic research and public policy – and a PhD in economics from the Australian National University – he has held pivotal roles at both the NSW Treasury and Reserve Bank of Australia. At the NSW Treasury his focus was on regulatory reform, demographic and climate change analysis, while at the RBA he specialised in macroeconomic modelling, financial markets and housing.

Depression, unobserved management effects and the endogeneity of job demands and control at work

Professor Kieron Meagher¹, Professor Andrew Wait²

¹Research School of Economics, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, ²School of Economics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Andrew Wait is an organisational economics working in the School of Economics at the University of Sydney. His research interests include decision-making structures in firms, the role of trust and cooperation in organisations and the optimal diversity of teams. He also has a research agenda examining the impact of excessive workloads on depression and workplace stress.

Gender Differences in Labour Market Outcomes for Recent Skilled Immigrants to Australia: The Confounding Effects of Gender and Application Status

Dr Andrew Clarke¹, Dr Rennie Lee²

¹Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, AUSTRALIA, ²Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland, Indooroopilly, AUSTRALIA

Biography:

Andrew Clarke is an economist with interests in the labour market and health outcomes for international immigrants. Much of his work has focused on the comparative performance of immigrants to Australia, Canada, and the United States, with a particular focus on the returns to language skills for immigrant workers. His research has appeared in the Canadian Journal of Economics, International Migration Review, Journal of Labor Economics, and Journal of Population Economics. He is currently an Associate Editor for Economic Papers: A Journal of Applied Economics and Policy.

Joel's research has been published in RBA publications, various working papers and academic journals, contributing valuable insights to the fields of housing economics, financial markets and public policy.

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY, 3:00PM – 4:00PM PM, GRAND LODGE

**PLENARY: SHAPING AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE: PROSPERITY,
PRODUCTIVITY AND COUNTERING INEQUALITY**

Panel Q&A

Moderator: Prof Peter Abelson, ESA NSW President/ACE2025 Convenor

Panellists:

Dr Angelia Grant, The Treasury

Prof Deborah Cobb-Clark, University of Sydney

Prof Gigi Foster, UNSW

Prof James Morley, University of Sydney

Prof Jeff Borland, University of Melbourne

Prof Warwick McKibbin, ANU

POSTERS

Posters will be on display in the Banquet Hall for the conference duration.

So that you may chat to the poster authors, authors have been asked to stand with their posters in the Monday and Wednesday lunch breaks, allowing 15 minutes or so to collect lunch from the buffet first.

The Relationship between Inward FDI and Services Exports in Australia

Ms Fatima Satter Lekhe¹

¹Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn, Australia

Biography:

Fatima is a PhD researcher at the Centre for Transformative Innovation at Swinburne University of Technology. She has submitted her doctoral dissertation on *Determinants of Services Exports Performance: The Role of Foreign Direct Investment and Existing Industrial Capabilities*. She holds a master's and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and completed her PhD coursework from Hannam University, South Korea.

As an economist, Fatima's research interests span innovation economics, service industry dynamics, international economics, and behavioural economics. She has worked as a sessional academic at RMIT University and Swinburne University of Technology and previously served as a Senior Lecturer at Eastern University, Bangladesh.

She has advanced skills in data analysis and econometrics, with expertise in STATA, MySQL, and Python. Fatima has presented her research at prestigious conferences across Australia and internationally. Her academic excellence has been recognised through multiple scholarships and research awards.

The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement and its impacts on the Australian Economy, 2015-2023

Mr Nathan Chan

¹Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane, Australia

Biography:

Nathan Chan is a Year 12 Economics student from Brisbane. Born and raised in Hong Kong, he was educated at a state high school, King's College, before moving to Brisbane in 2023, where he is a proud Brisbane Grammar School student. He has maintained significant afterschool interest in Economics since joining his first Economics Club in Year 9. He hopes to become an oral and maxillofacial surgeon but given the extremely limited number of training positions available, he is also considering a pathway to dental or surgical academia.

College application behavior under constrained choice

Miss Danyue Liang¹

¹UNSW, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Danyue Liang is a PhD student in Economics at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). Her research focuses on education economics and development economics. She is particularly interested in how educational interventions and policies can reduce inequality and promote future sustainable growth and development. Through her research, Danyue aims to contribute to evidence-based policymaking and the broader discourse on economic development. She spends her leisure time swimming and playing tennis, and is currently exploring snorkeling to get closer to the nature.

Biases in the Historical Record of Creative Process: References Dropped and Added from Working Paper to Publication

Dr. Ivan Aranzales¹, Dr Ho Fai (Ben) Chan¹, Prof. Jonathan Feinstein, Hongyi Shen, Prof. Dr. Benno Torgler, Arlene Ariel Valero

¹Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Biography:

Dr. Ivan Aranzales is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Queensland University of Technology. His research sits at the intersection of behavioural economics and the science of science, with a focus on how biases, heuristics, and institutional incentives shape scientific practices. Ivan has published in leading journals such as *Scientific Reports* and *Scientometrics*, and has worked on collaborative projects with academic partners from Yale University, the University of Bayreuth, and the Queensland Government. Ivan has contributed to successful industry and government projects, including initiatives with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and Stryker, where he explores innovation adoption in healthcare settings.

Investigating the U-shaped Link Between Income and Fertility

Mr. Jingxuan Ren¹, Professor Chanyoung Lee¹

¹Department of Economics, Chonnam National University, South Korea

Biography:

Jingxuan Ren is a Ph.D. student in Economics at Chonnam National University, South Korea. His research interests include fertility decisions, labor market participation, and the socioeconomic impact of public policy.

The Effect of Childhood Birth Order and Family Size on Wages

Dr Paul Blacklow¹, Dr Hugh Sibly²

¹University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia, ²Independent Economist, Hobart, Australia

Biography:

Paul has been teaching and researching economics for just over 30 years at the University of Tasmania. Paul initially began research into inequality, welfare, demographics and prices, through the application of demand systems and still has a strong interest in that field. In the last decade, he has focused his research on labour, health, and experimental economics. In particular, Paul and his co-authors have been examining optimal taxes, gender wage differences, attitudes, self-control, self-image and living with MS.

In 2024 Paul received the Economic Society of Australia's Honorary Fellow Award. Paul is a former central council member and president of the Tasmanian Branch of the Economics Society of Australia and was the Convenor of the Australian Conference of Economists in 2007 and 2022.

Shaping policy and practice with the SGS Cities and Regions Wellbeing Index

Ms Michelle Tjondro¹

¹SGS Economics and Planning, Sydney, Australia

Biography:

Michelle is a Senior Associate at SGS Economics and Planning. She is a public policy professional working with all levels of government and the For Purpose sector to improve social and spatial justice outcomes in Australian communities.

She advocates a data-driven philosophy for informing, monitoring and evaluating policy objectives. Her research interests include the wellbeing economy, educational equity, workforce development, regional economic development and data visualisation.

Michelle has a Master of City Analytics from the University of New South Wales and is a graduate of the Sydney Law School.

The economic impacts of Australian trade liberalisation and relations globally

Mr Chris Zhu

¹Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane, Australia

Biography:

Chris Zhu is a Year 12 student at Brisbane Grammar School where he enjoys the inquiry-based social science nature of Economics amongst a suite of Maths and Science Subjects. Chris looks forward to participating in the Australian Economics Olympiad in May alongside his participation in the 2025 Physics and Chemistry Olympiad. He is also a keen strings player.

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