

Nobel Night - Invitation to ESA Members

Wednesday 8th October

Come along tonight to eat, drink and hear from our distinguished panel - see below for more information.

Venue: The Assembly Bar, 488 Kent Street, Sydney

When: Wednesday 8th October

Time: From 6pm till 10pm

Cost: Free to members – light refreshments provided

This is a Member Only Event - please [register via our website](#).

Our Panel will consist of

- Ross Gittens, Sydney Morning Herald
- Professor Geoff Harcourt, UNSW
- Dr Danielle Merrett, University of Sydney
- Professor Paul Oslington, Aphacrucis College and ACU

Paul's thoughts on who might win can be found further down this newsletter. [REGISTER NOW](#)



Lunchtime Seminar

Thursday, 30th October

Date: Thursday 30 October

Time: 12:15 for 12:30pm start

Venue: Reserve Bank of Australia, Ground Floor, 65 Martin Place

*This event is free to members with light refreshments provided.
Presentations usually conclude between 1.15pm and 1.30pm.*

Closing the gap – evidence and challenges from two studies, and future possibilities

The emphasis of Indigenous policy making is on 'closing the gap' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. It is well documented that gaps exist across multiple spheres of life, including health, education, employment, victimisation and incarceration. This seminar discusses how existing data collections can be utilised to understand Indigenous disadvantage and to identify policy targets to close the gap. Two studies will be discussed which use ABS survey data to analyse Indigenous disadvantage.

Both studies indicate that current policies are broadly aligned with the evidence; however, many of the gaps are not closing. Further research is required to determine which strategies are the most effective at achieving policy targets, such as access to health services and education. Longitudinal surveys and data linkage present a way forward for future research to investigate the efficacy of specific policies: for example do price incentives improve access to health services, or what types of programs work to improve education outcomes for Indigenous children.

New South Wales

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In this Newsletter
Nobel Night - Invitation to ESA Members
Lunchtime Seminar
Emerging Economist Series
The Yale Global Justice Program
Windows on Economics Seminar Series 2014
Peter Hartcher...
"Democracy is the worst form of government..."
The 4th Warren Hogan Memorial Lecture
University of Sydney ANZSANA 2015 Annual Conference
Annual Water Forum
ARTICLES OF THE MONTH
Who Will Win the 2014 Economics Nobel Prize?
Lady Economists in an Economan's World

[link here](#)



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Dr Rebecca Reeve is employed as a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) and is the program manager of CHERE's policy evaluation program of research. Rebecca is passionate about using her skills as an economist and econometrician to improve outcomes for society's most disadvantaged people. This is reflected in the majority of her research projects, which focus on vulnerable populations including Indigenous Australians, people at the end of life, people with dementia, people with drug and alcohol problems, children exposed to lead, children with speech and language impairment, refugee children and victims of childhood abuse.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Emerging Economist Series

Ken Henry, 17th November

Dr Ken Henry will be our next guest speaker in the Emerging Economist Series. Registration for this series is now closed but please contact admin@esansw.org.au if you'd like information on next year's series.

Professor Sue Richardson OA shared her extensive experiences of "playing with the boys" on Boards, Panels, Inquiries, Committees and Forums - opportunities which she attributed to the lucky combination of being female, an academic, from South Australia, and at the front of the baby boomer wave. In discussing gender issues in the workplace, the plight of the "50% who are below average", and people's economic role as workers rather than just consumers, Sue shared the breadth, rigour, pragmatism and passion she brings to labour market issues. The interview with Professor Paul Oslington and questions from participants again raised the issue of what the Society can do to ensure a level playing field for women economists.

The Yale Global Justice Program

The Yale Global Justice Program, Global Financial Integrity, and Academics Stand Against Poverty invite submissions of original essays of ca. 7,000 to 9,000 words on how illicit financial flows relate to global poverty and inequality. All prizes are named in honor of Amartya Sen, whose work has shown how the rigor of economic thinking can be brought to bear on normative and practical questions of great human significance. The best entries will be presented at an international conference, November 7-9, 2014, at Yale University and subsequently published in a special issue of a prominent journal. In addition, at least two of the winning essays will receive a monetary award: a first prize of \$5,000 and a second prize of \$3,000. Professor Sen hopes to join us for the conference presentations. Entries can be e-mailed to Rachel Payne at rachel@academicsstand.org and must reach her by October 5, 2014. We ask that entries be anonymized to facilitate blind refereeing. Winners will be selected by an expert jury, whose decisions are final.

More information here: <http://academicsstand.org/2014/06/2014-amartya-sen-prize-contest-call-for-submissions/>

Windows on Economics Seminar Series 2014

The NCOSS Windows on Economics Seminar Series 2014 will investigate the relationship between economics and social policy.

In six well-paced and thought-provoking seminars, participants will be guided towards a clearer understanding of key economic concepts and their influence on social policy and government decision-making processes.

Designed specifically for non-economists, our expert guest speakers— including leading social policy and economic academics and practitioners – will demystify the ideas and language of economics, arming participants with the knowledge required to better engage in current and ongoing economic debates.

This seminar series will be of particular use to policy officers working in a non-government organisations

and managers working towards more critical and effective advocacy within the contemporary economic climate.

Registration for the Series closes 17th October. Read more and register: [NCOSS Windows on Economics Seminar Series 2014](#)

Peter Hartcher... "Democracy is the worst form of government..."

Tuesday 14th October, Radisson Blue Plaza Hotel

ABE are pleased to present a lunchtime briefing and discussion with

Mr Peter Hartcher, Political Editor and International Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald

Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others: surviving Clive Palmer's Australia

Details

Date: Tuesday 14 October 2014

Time: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Venue: Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, 27 O'Connell Street, Sydney

Cost: \$145 members, \$175 non-members, \$1240 tables (of 8 guests each)

Lunch includes two courses and beverages.

Enquiries: info@abe.org.au or call 0419 256 339

To book on-line, please [click here](#) or go to abe.org.au > Events Peter Hartcher

Peter Hartcher has worked as a foreign correspondent in Tokyo and Washington. He has won Australia's highest journalistic accolade, the Gold Walkley award, and the Citibank award for business reporting.

The 4th Warren Hogan Memorial Lecture

University of Sydney | Thursday 30 October 2014

Growth in the 21st Century: Innovation or Energy? Guest Speaker Mr Hugh Harley, Financial Services Leader, PwC

Hugh Harley (BEC Hons '84, LLB Hons '86) is a graduate of the University of Sydney, where he was a student of Warren Hogan, and Cambridge University (MPhil '87). He has been Financial Services Leader of PwC Australia since 2009 and was appointed Financial Services Leader for PwC for the Asia/Pacific region in July 2014.

When Thursday 30 October 2014

Time 6.00pm (Pre-lecture refreshments) for a 6.30pm start

Please RSVP by 20 October 2014

[Register Now](#) or copy this link in your browser <http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/fourth-warren-hogan-memorial-lecture-growth-in-the-21st-century-innovation-or-energy>

It is essential that attendees RSVP and register their details in order to enable admission to the lecture. For inquiries, contact: laura.wilson@sydney.edu.au.

University of Sydney

9 October, 11:00am, Merewether Room 498

Speaker: Stanislav Anatolyev, New Economic School, Moscow

16 October, 11:00am, Merewether Room 498

Speaker: Filippo Massari, University of New South Wales

23 October, 11:00am, Merewether Room 498

Speaker: Shankha Chakraborty, University of Oregon

30 October, 4:00pm, Merewether Room 498

Speaker: Xin Meng, Australian National University

For more information, click here or go to <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/economics/research/seminars.shtml>

ANZSANA 2015 Annual Conference

Call for papers and workshop panels

Australian & New Zealand Studies Association of North America | 2015 Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, 29-31 January

In partnership with the John Goodwin Center for Political Studies at Southern Methodist University (SMU), ANZSANA will hold its annual conference in Dallas, Texas. ANZSANA is a multidisciplinary organization and welcomes papers on any aspect of Australian or New Zealand studies as well as comparative studies involving Australia, New Zealand, and North America. It welcomes proposals for individual papers as well as proposals for panels by groups of scholars.

The DEADLINE for submission of paper and panel proposals is 10 NOVEMBER 2014. Notices of acceptance will be sent no later than 1 December 2014. Paper proposals must include the author's name and institutional affiliation, a curriculum vitae (CV), the title, and an abstract of no more than 500 words. Panel proposals must include similar information for each of the proposed papers and authors. ANZSANA welcomes submissions from graduate students and offers a limited number of travel grants to facilitate their participation. Graduate students must indicate their status as such in their paper proposals in order to be considered for a grant. Please send all proposals to ANZSANA President Dave Snow at anzsana2015@gmail.com. Documents must be attached as either a Word or PDF document.

Conference panels will be held Friday and Saturday at the Hotel Lumen near the SMU Campus. The Edward A. Clark Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies located at the University of Texas at Austin will host a welcome reception for the conference at the Hotel Lumen from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Thursday, January 29. A formal banquet dinner will be held on Friday, January 30. The keynote speaker will be Geoffrey Garrett, the Dean of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. The conference registration fee does not include the cost of dinner. Details about the dinner's cost and location will soon be provided at www.anzsana.net.

A conference registration fee of USD \$180.00 includes a one-year ANZSANA membership as well as breakfast and lunch on both Friday and Saturday. The Hotel Lumen, located just across from the SMU campus, will offer conference attendees a special rate of \$169/night (plus taxes) for a single room. For more information on the hotel, visit <http://www.hotellumen.com/> or call 214-219-2400. The full call for papers can be found at <http://anzsana.net/cfp2015final.pdf>. More information on ANZSANA, including conference updates and a conference registration form, will become available at www.anzsana.net.

Annual Water Forum

La Trobe University

Early career professionals may be interested in the following Victoria events:

Wednesday 12th November

6.00pm – 7.00pm Public Lecture (La Trobe University)

Speaker Tim Nelson "Balancing gas demand and supply: implications for coal seam gas in inland Australia"

7.30pm – 9.00pm Early Career Networking Event (North East Water) . Guest speakers – Dave Appels (Frontier Economics Australia) and Dr Peter Morison (Melbourne Water)

Thursday 13th November

8.30am – 3.30pm Annual Water Forum (La Trobe University)

We are really looking to advertise these to the Early Career professionals, as Lin mentioned. This part of the event is at North East Water, which is very close to La Trobe.

More information can be found on the Society's [calendar of events](#)

To register please go to <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/cwpm/water-forum/registration>

ARTICLES OF THE MONTH

Who Will Win the 2014 Economics Nobel Prize?

By Professor Paul Oslington

The Nobel prize is an important symbol for the economics profession of its scientific status, as well as occupying the minds of hopeful economists who hang around their phones in mid-October.

How might we forecast the Prize? One way might be to look at citations, but some of the most cited scholars have never won the prize, and many others have done so with modest citation records. This is especially so for the economics prize where the three most cited Andrei Shleifer, Jerry Hausman and Robert Barro have not won. The Nobel committee is looking for something more.

Another way is to look at the betting markets. Those with the shortest odds on the various internet betting sites are William Nordhaus and Martin Weitzman in environmental economics, Nobu Kiyotaki and John Moore for their work on financial market microstructure, Richard Thaler and Robert Schiller for behavioural finance. However the betting markets have failed to pick prize winners in the past.

How about polls of economists? As the prize involves nominations and a committee including economists perhaps this could be a better indication. However the published polls are all over the place. It also depends very much which group of economists you ask. Gordon Tullock for his contributions to public choice, and Oliver Hart for incomplete contracts are recurring names who have not yet won.

My picks for the 2014 prize are:

Oliver Hart, Nobu Kiyotaki and John Moore – Incomplete markets and credit market imperfections.

Alan Krueger, Joshua Angrist and David Card – Microeconometrics

Jeffrey Sachs - Development. There would be loud cheers in some quarters and it would give the UN's MDGs a boost, but I doubt there is enough analytical substance to justify a Nobel. Awarding it to Sachs and his critic William Easterly would be hilarious.

Partha Dasgupta and William Nordhaus - for contributions to environmental economics. This would be a politically popular award but are there enough substantial contributions?

Richard Easterlin – Happiness. The jury is still out on the economics of happiness, and his contribution was identifying the issue, rather than any outstanding theoretical or empirical breakthrough.

Jagdish Bhagwati, Anne Krueger, Gordon Tullock – for the theory of rent seeking. Bhagwati is overdue for a Nobel and awarding it for rent seeking would allow the committee to sneak Tullock in, and another woman in Krueger.

Jagdish Bhagwati, Avinash Dixit, perhaps also Elhanan Helpman and Gene Grossman – for increasing our understanding of the political economy of trade. Bhagwati's other chance, and an award for trade would be an endorsement of the strong positions he has taken on the evils of preferential trade agreements, and against including trade and labour clauses in trade agreements. The others have made outstanding theoretical contribution but splitting it four ways may not work.

Erwin Diewert – Index Numbers. A pretty unsexy topic but a foundational one for many other areas of economics, and Diewert has been the outstanding contributor.

Hal Varian – Network Economics. This would be a well justified award, though the committee may feel queasy about giving it to some who left academia to be Google's chief economist.

Jean Tirole – for contributions to industrial organization and finance. Perhaps best European prospect.

Esther Duflo – Poverty. A certainty at some stage but hard to see her winning in 2014.

Anthony Atkinson and Thomas Piketty – Inequality. Perhaps too trendy right now but an important topic.

Jerry Hausman – Econometrics. Always safe to give it to an econometrician.

Mark Watson and James Stock – Time Series Econometrics. Another safe award.

All will be revealed by the Nobel Committee on 14 October, but the Economic Society of Australia is hosting a night of speculations, food and drink on Wednesday 8th October from 6pm at the Assembly Bar, 488 Kent Street, Sydney. All are welcome.

Lady Economists in an Economan's World

Female economists are invited to contribute their thoughts on the issue to Council.
<https://chroniclevitae.com/news/93-lady-economists-in-an-economan-s-world>