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## Newsletter #66

Economic Society of Australia,  
New South Wales Branch,  
**February 2020**  
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Dear friend,

We hope that you have had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break and have returned to work excited for the year ahead. We also hope that you and your loved ones are safe following the recent bush fires.

This is the first newsletter for 2020. Please do support the Society by attending our planned events and activities throughout the year. As always, we welcome your feedback which can be sent to us via [admin@esansw.org.au](mailto:admin@esansw.org.au)

## Upcoming Events

Hopefully you managed to attend yesterday's Lunchtime Seminar with Katia D'Hulster. The next will take place on Wednesday, 12 February with **Justin Wolfers**. See below for information on this session, as well as other events planned for early 2020.

Lunchtime Seminar: Gender and the Dynamics of Economics Seminars  
Justin Wolfers, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of Michigan

### Biography

Justin Wolfers is a Professor of Economics and a Professor of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. He is also an editor of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, a member of the Congressional Budget Office Panel of Economic Advisers, a Visiting Professor of Economics at the University of Sydney, a Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research; a Non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution, a Research Fellow with the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn; a Research Affiliate with the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London; an International Research Fellow with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, and a Fellow of the CESifo, in Munich. He was previously a Visiting Professor at Princeton, an Associate Professor at Wharton, an Assistant Professor at Stanford Graduate School of Business, and an economist with the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Dr. Wolfers earned his Ph.D. in economics in 2001 from Harvard University, and was a

Fulbright, Knox and Menzies Scholar. He earned his undergraduate degree in Economics in his native Australia at the University of Sydney in 1994, winning the University Medal. He was recently named by the IMF as one of the "25 economists under 45 shaping the way we think about the global economy." Wolfers' research focuses on labor economics, macroeconomics, political economy, law and economics, social policy and behavioral economics. Beyond research, he is a contributing columnist for the New York Times, appears frequently on TV, radio and in print. He is also a popular teacher, with many teaching awards to his name.

#### **Presentation Abstract**

Gender and the Dynamics of Economics Seminars by Pascaline Dupas, Alicia Sasser Modestino, Muriel Niederle, Justin Wolfers and the Seminar Dynamics Collective

This paper reports the results of the first systematic attempt at quantitatively measuring the unique seminar culture within economics. To this end, we collected data on every interaction between presenters and their audience in hundreds of research seminars and job market talks across most leading economics departments. We find that women presenters are treated differently than their male counterparts. Women are asked more questions during a seminar and the questions asked of women presenters are more likely to be patronizing or hostile. These effects are not due to women presenting in different fields or different seminar series, as our analysis controls for the institution and seminar series in which they are presenting. Our findings add to an emerging literature documenting ways in which women economists are treated differently than men, and suggest yet another potential explanation for their under-representation at senior levels within the economics profession.

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Login required prior to booking - [click here for assistance](#)

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#### Women in Economics IWD2020

WEN is pleased to present **Women's economic progress in Australia: how far have we come and how much further do we want to go?**

WEN is excited to celebrate IWD2020 with a powerful line-up of speakers:

- Bianca Hartge-Hazelman, founder of the [Financy Women's Index](#) (and former AFR journalist)
- Heidi Sundin, founder of the Agenda Agency
- Taleen Shamlian, member of the [NSW Council for Women's Economic Opportunity](#).

MC will be Jo Masters, Chief Economist, EY.

Attendance is free for ESA/WEN members, \$10 for non-members.

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#### CBA Forum

Full details including program and pricing are being considered and will be circulated in due course. The program will follow the previous successful format of technical and non-technical streams - In the meantime we welcome suggestions of topics you would like included. The recent lunchtime session demonstrated there is strong interest in topics such as:

- Record infrastructure spending
- Increased interest in CBA for recurrent expenditure
- Place-making focus
- Program evaluation, benefits realisation and outcomes budgeting

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## Latest News

#### Women in Economics Network (WEN) Elections Update

The **Women in Economics Network** is supported by the national **Women in Economics Committee** (the WEC) and committees in most states and territories.

The WEC Executive have been appointed and confirmed as:

- Leonora Risse (Chair) - Lecturer in Economics, RMIT University; Women and Public Policy Program Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School
- Angela Jackson (Deputy Chair) - Senior Economic Consultant, Equity Economics
- Carmela Chivers (Treasurer) - Legislative Adviser, Senator Jacqui Lambie
- Kate Wagner (Secretary) - Director, Fiscal Policy Analysis Division, Parliamentary Budget Office

Further information can be found on the [WEN](#) website.

#### Prof. Maureen Brunt AO Essay Prize

The Professor Maureen Brunt AO Essay Prize is an annual initiative of Consumer Policy Research Centre, which asks Honours, Masters and PhD students to explore a key current challenge for consumer policy development.

The prize honours Professor Brunt, whose work had a profound and lasting impact on consumer and competition law in Australia. She was the first female Chair of Economics in Australia and produced pioneering studies on the industrial organisation of the Australian economy, with her early research uncovering a high degree of concentrated market power and urgent need for the establishment of consumer law.

The prize is open to any full-time student enrolled in the fields of consumer and competition law, human rights, public policy, consumer behaviour, privacy, ethics, economics, engineering and data science.

The winner will receive a \$7,500 cash prize, with \$2,500 for the runner up. The top 10 essays will also be published on the CPRC website and distributed to the CPRC network of regulatory, industry, policy, community sector and academic experts.

### **The topic for 2019/2020 is:**

*Paying for privacy: An exploration of the trade of personal information and privacy in the digital age.  
Human right? Property right? Input to production?*

### **Guidelines**

We invite the best and brightest students around Australia to explore this emerging and converging field of research and policy development.

Essays can either compare and contrast or be persuasive in nature - exploring the different approaches and schools of thought.

### **Details**

Length: 2500 to 3000 words

Submissions close: 29 February 2020

Announcement of the winner: April 2020

### **Conditions**

The competition is open to any full-time Honours, Masters or PhD student currently enrolled in an Australian tertiary institution in the fields of consumer and competition law, human rights, public policy, consumer behaviour, privacy, ethics, economics, engineering and data science. Evidence of enrolment must be submitted along with the essay. For the purposes of this competition, an 'Australian tertiary institution' is a Tertiary Education Institution whose Vice-Chancellor is a member of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee. The entrant must still be enrolled in the course when the winner is drawn in April 2020.

Essays must be typed and submitted in Word or PDF format to [office@cprc.org.au](mailto:office@cprc.org.au) by 5pm AEST on 31 February 2020. Late entries will not be considered.

Entries must include a cover page indicating: (1) full name; (2) institution and course the entrant is currently enrolled in, with proof of enrolment; (3) contact details; (4) essay title; (5) essay word count; (6) 150 to 250-word abstract; (7) stipulation of either 'compare and contrast' OR 'persuasive' essay approach. Entries missing any of this information will not be considered.

The document must not contain any information that identifies the student or their institution, with the exception of the cover page.

Essays must be written in English.

Only one entry per person is allowed.

Essays must be original and unpublished. Plagiarised entries will not be considered.

Essays must be written by one person. Co-authored essays will not be considered.

The essay must appropriately acknowledge all primary and secondary sources used. A bibliography should be included. Any referencing system may be used, so long as it is consistent throughout the essay. Entries with incorrect or inconsistent referencing will not be considered.

All essays will be reviewed by a panel without disclosing the identity and institution of the student authors.

If an entrant's identity is inadvertently revealed and a panel member has an association with the entrant, the panel member will not participate in reviewing that entry.

The decision of the panel will be final.

All entrants agree to follow these guidelines as a condition of participation.

Please direct any questions to [office@cprc.org.au](mailto:office@cprc.org.au).

### **Judging criteria**

Understanding and explanation of why the topic is a significant issue impacting both policymakers and consumers alike.

Consideration of a broad range of arguments on the subject matter.

Drawing on international literature and schools of thought, consideration of the cultural dimensions that may influence differing approaches.

Credible evidence to support arguments made, referenced using Chicago documentary-note style.

Either: A persuasive and clearly articulated point of view on a preferred approach (for a persuasive essay), OR sufficient exploration of commonalities and divergence of different schools of thought (for compare and contrast essays).

Insightful, engaging and coherent writing style.



**OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Professor Hal Christopher HILL**, Aranda ACT 2614

For distinguished service to education in the field of economic policy development, and to Australia-Indonesia relations. Click [here](#) to read full citation.

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**OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Professor John Reginald PIGGOTT**, Bellevue Hill NSW 2023

For distinguished service to education, to population ageing research, and to public finance policy development. Click [here](#) to read full citation.

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**OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Mr Michael John RICE**, Oatley NSW 2223

For distinguished service to business and economics, particularly to the actuarial profession, and through advisory roles. Click [here](#) to read full citation.

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**MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Professor Marjory Lucy MOODIE**, Eaglemont VIC 3084

For significant service to education, particularly to health economics. Click [here](#) to read full citation.

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## Other Events

Forecasting conference - Outlook for policy, politics and markets  
Get your new year going with the outlook for financial markets and public policy.  
The number of seats available is strictly limited.

### Registration

Members \$25, Non-members \$75. Renew or join to save.

Registration is essential. Please register online [here](#).

### Featuring:

- Alexandra Heath, Reserve Bank of Australia;
- Gorana Grgic, University of Sydney;
- Emma Herd, Investor Group on Climate Change;
- Nicki Hutley, Deloitte Access Economics;
- Alex Joiner, IFM Investors;
- Brian Redican, NSW Treasury Corporation;
- Leanne Taylor, CBUS Super

Please note: AFMA accredited individuals can claim up to a maximum of three hours of continuing education based on their attendance at the conference. Exact hours depend upon relevance to each individual's job role and can be determined by checking with your AFMA accreditation representative.

### Program

07:15 Registration opens - Light breakfast

07:45 Welcome and introduction

Mr Stephen Walters, Chair, Australian Business Economists & Chief Economist, New South Wales

07:50 Statement on monetary policy - Observations

Dr Alexandra Heath, Head of Economic Analysis, Reserve Bank of Australia

08:20 Elections in America: Implications for Australia  
Dr Gorana Grgic, Lecturer, University of Sydney  
08:50 Climate change: Risk, opportunity  
Ms Emma Herd, Chief Executive Officer, Investor Group on Climate Change  
09:20 Outlook for the economy and financial markets - Panel discussion  
Moderated by Dr Alexandra Heath, Head of Economic Analysis, Reserve Bank of Australia

- Ms Nicki Hutley, Partner, Deloitte Access Economics
- Dr Alex Joiner, Chief Economist, IFM Investors
- Mr Brian Redican, Chief Economist, NSW Treasury Corporation
- Ms Leanne Taylor, Head of Macroeconomics and Markets Research, CBUS Super

09:50 Summary  
Mr Stephen Walters, Chair, Australian Business Economists  
10:00 Close

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## Careers and Graduate Opportunities

Advertising an economics position on the ESA website is a good way to get wide exposure for a role. If you would like to advertise a role on the website, please contact our [administrator](#) for more information. There is a small fee of \$110 inc GST.

Current opportunities include:

Research and Teaching Positions - University of Melbourne

In this [video](#), some of our top researchers share some sage advice to their younger selves.

See our current economics opportunities [here](#)

PBO Director – Various Divisions

- Parliamentary Executive Level 2
- Full-time on-going Parliament House, Canberra
- \$133,385–\$158,900 per annum + attractive employer superannuation

### About the Parliamentary Budget Office

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) supports the Parliament by providing independent, authoritative and non-partisan analysis of budgetary issues and the fiscal cost of policy proposals. The PBO's role comprises three main elements, which are to:

- enable fiscal impacts to be considered during policy development by providing policy costing and budget analysis services to all parliamentarians
- improve public understanding of budget and fiscal policy issues by conducting and publishing research in these areas
- enhance transparency around election commitments by preparing a post-election report on the budget impacts of the election commitments of parliamentary parties.

### About the roles

The PBO is seeking people with an aptitude for analysis to lead a unit in either of the two analytical areas of the PBO (Budget Analysis Division and Fiscal Policy Analysis Division).

As a Director, you will be responsible for managing a unit to deliver high quality outputs in an environment of competing priorities, leading and coaching staff to build capability and deliver outcomes, identifying areas for improvement in the operation of the Unit/Branch/Division and contributing to the strategic direction of the PBO. You will build and maintain networks with stakeholders, including Government agencies and staff in parliamentarians' offices.

While successful applicants will be offered roles in an area focused primarily on either undertaking costings of policy proposals (Budget Analysis Division) or conducting budget research (Fiscal Policy Analysis Division), the PBO supports mobility within the organisation as part of career development and expects Directors to undertake work across both of these functions at times in response to peak pressures. There are annual opportunities for rotations and opportunities to be seconded across areas for particular projects.

### Duties

The duties of the position vary across the two analytical Divisions.

The primary focus of Budget Analysis Division is preparing estimates of the costs of policy proposals for parliamentarians. The duties in the Division include:

- leading a unit in the preparation of costings and evaluations of revenue proposals (Revenue Analysis Branch) and expenditure proposals (Program Analysis Branch)
- analysing large datasets using tools such as SAS and Excel
- building and/or adapting models and frameworks to analyse the budget
- applying strong written communication skills to the drafting of costings, costing

evaluations and published reports that are accessible to a wide audience

- working across the PBO and with other organisations to obtain data and information to assist with costings, costing evaluations and PBO research reports and to test and communicate our findings
- supervising, guiding and mentoring staff and providing leadership to small project teams
- contributing to the preparation of PBO research reports, including analysing budget and economic data to provide insights into budget and fiscal policy settings
- contributing to external engagement activities, including presenting on PBO models and reports.

The primary focus of Fiscal Policy Analysis Division is conducting quantitative analysis and publishing research papers on budget and fiscal policy matters. The duties in this Division include:

- leading a unit in the preparation of several PBO research reports each year, including building and/or adapting models and frameworks to analyse the budget
- applying strong written communication skills to the drafting of published reports that are accessible to a wide audience
- contributing your technical expertise and understanding of the budget and fiscal policy matters to help shape and deliver the research program
- supervising, guiding and mentoring staff and providing leadership to project teams
- working across the PBO and with other organisations to obtain data, test and communicate the findings of our research, and enhance our understanding of the budget
- contributing to external engagement activities, including presenting on research papers
- supervising costings of revenue and expenditure proposals as required with appropriate training to respond to periods of elevated demand for costings from parliamentarians.

Contact officer: John Clark (02) 6277 9500 or [John.clark@pbo.gov.au](mailto:John.clark@pbo.gov.au) For further information and how to apply, go to the PBO's recruitment page at

[https://www.apf.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Employment/Parliamentary\\_Budget\\_Office](https://www.apf.gov.au/About_Parliament/Employment/Parliamentary_Budget_Office)

Applications close Sunday 9 February 11:30pm AEDT

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