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Newsletter #42

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
November 2017
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Dear friend,

Welcome to ESA NSW's November newsletter.

Events

Emerging Economist Series

In September, Dr Leila Fourie interviewed Tom Parry, renowned authority on energy. Tom shared genuinely insightful perspectives on wide ranging topics including the role of policy in energy, the Finkel Review's new Clean Energy Target, how to gracefully retire existing fossil fuel stations as well as perspectives on microeconomic reform progress since Hilmer. We are thrilled with the calibre of the speakers we are able to attract to address contemporary topics of interest.

We look forward to our next speaker, Ross Gittins AM on Thursday 2 November. Contact us for further information on how you can join the Series.

EES Lunch with Ross Gittins AM

Ross Gittins AM has been Economics Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald since 1978 and is 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 is a winner of the Citibank Pan Asia award for excellence in finance journalism. In 2008 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for service to journalism as a commentator on economics. He is a bachelor of commerce from the University of Newcastle and a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. 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 and the University of Sydney. He is author of 'Gittins' Guide to Economics', 'Gittinomics', 'The Happy Economist', 'Gittins' Gospel' and now 'Gittins: A Life Among Budgets, Bulldust and Bastardy' (all Allen & Unwin) and co-author with Professor Rodney Tiffen of 'How Australia Compares' (Cambridge University Press).

[Subscribe to the Emerging Economist Series](#)

Australian Conference of Economists



Videos taken at ACE2017 are now available online via our website. [Click here to view.](#)

Latest News

Public borrowing for infrastructure investment

NEP Poll 22 (September) - Public borrowing for infrastructure investment

"As interest rates are at low levels by historical standards, federal and state governments, despite their public debt levels, should be borrowing more than they currently are to invest in infrastructure".

* Collaborator credits: we would like to thank Professor Tony Makin for his assistance in framing this poll question and for his expert overview of the results.

[Read the Results of this Poll](#)

[Read Tony Makin's Overview of the results](#)



Call for Papers - Special Sections in the Economic Papers

Call for Papers: Special sections in the *Economic Papers*

The *Economic Papers* is calling for papers for two special sections to be published in the journal in 2018.

Special Section on 'International Trade'

International trade makes an important contribution to the Australian economy and has steadily grown as a proportion of the nation's Gross Domestic Product over the long-run. Empirical and theoretical papers around international trade are being sought for this special section. Both contemporary and historical issues are welcome. Though papers on Australasia will be of particular interest, the journal will also consider papers relating to international trade in other parts of the world.

This special section will be co-edited by Professor Martin Richardson (Australian National University) and Professor Rachel Ong (Curtin University).

Special Section on 'Understanding Indonesia's Economic and Financial Systems'

Indonesia is a large economy in the Asia-Pacific region and has enjoyed reasonable macroeconomic success over the last decade. Australia and Indonesia enjoy an important bilateral relationship, underpinned by extensive cooperation spanning economic, political and other domains. Yet very little is known about the progress of the Indonesian economy. The journal is seeking papers that will promote understanding of Indonesia's economic and financial systems, and its relationship with other countries.

The special issue will be co-edited by Professor Paresh Narayan (Deakin University) and Professor Rachel Ong (Curtin University).

Submitting a paper

The submission deadlines for the special sections are as follows:

- International Trade – 8 December 2017
- Understanding Indonesia's Economic and Financial Systems – 10 February 2018

Author submission guidelines can be found at [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1759-3441/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1759-3441/homepage/ForAuthors.html).

For further information, please email Rachel Ong, editor of the *Economic Papers*, at r.ong@curtin.edu.au.

About the journal

The *Economic Papers* is one of two journals published by the Economics Society of Australia. It features a balance of high quality research in applied economics and economic policy analysis related to Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

Getting the most from your ESA Membership

Membership of the ESA not only entitles you to attend member-only events and take advantage of member pricing, it also gives you access to the members area of the website.

Within the members area of the website you can:

- Update your profile and sign up to the Register of Economists
- Check on payments made and retrieve invoices
- See a summary of the events you have attended
- Access member only documents which include handouts from lunchtime seminars (when provided by the speaker), Central Council papers and newsletters.
- Renew your membership

You need to be **logged in** to access the members area - Don't worry if you've forgotten your password as this can be emailed to you by clicking the "Forgotten Password" link. Once logged in you will see the My Menu bar below from which you can make your selection for any of the features listed above.



So make the most of your membership and use these resources.

Partner Events

ABE Annual Dinner and Briefing by Dr Philip Lowe

Australian Business Economists (ABE) are pleased to present its annual dinner including a briefing and discussion with Dr Philip Lowe, Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia - **Recent Developments in the Australian and Global Economy.**

- Time: 6:45 pm for 7:15, 10:00 close
- Venue: Ballroom, Four Seasons Sydney, 199 George Street, The Rocks
- Dinner includes pre-dinner drinks, three courses and beverages
- Cost: \$195 members, \$235 non-members, \$2250 tables (of 10 guests each)

Dr Lowe has agreed to take questions from the floor. There will be no live broadcast of this function.

Booking and Enquiries

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

To book on-line, please click [here](#)

Dr Philip Lowe

Philip Lowe is Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia. Dr Lowe holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a B.Comm (Honours) in Economics/Econometrics from the University of New South Wales. He has authored numerous papers, including on the linkages between monetary policy and financial stability. He commenced as Governor in September 2016. He is Chair of the Reserve Bank Board and Payments System Board, and Chair of the Council of Financial Regulators. He also serves on the FSB Steering Committee. Prior to his current role, he held the positions of Deputy Governor, Assistant Governor (Economic) and Assistant Governor (Financial System). He also spent two years with the Bank for International Settlements working on financial stability issues. Dr Lowe is Chair of the Financial Markets Foundation for Children and a director of The Anika Foundation. Dr Lowe is a signatory to The Banking and Finance Oath.

Ethics and Incentives

This Roundtable will focus on Ethics and Incentives and will serve as a no-frills debate about how we choose, promote, design, and advise in social science and business.

People behaving badly not only make headlines but by virtue of their position in society, they can have damaging spillovers on many other individuals and groups. Matters of ethics are central to professions across the social sciences, from management consultants to economic advisors to accountants. Each of these groups, like our society at large, is defined by a set of ideals that includes being "ethical" – and those who don't adhere to those ideals, supposedly, are thrown out of the group. But are they?

In this first-of-its-kind network-and-grapple event, UNSW's Behavioural Insights for Business and Policy (BIBaP) Research Network and the NSW branch of the Economic Society of Australia bring experts together to face today's most pressing questions about the incentives of ethics – and the ethics of incentives – in behavioural science and business practice, such as (but not limited to): What uses of "nudges," defaults, and "big data" are "ethical", and which are not? Is achieving higher market share a less noble goal than helping people overcome their innate cognitive biases?

Is there a dark side to nudges?

What can the government, academia, businesses, professions, or other groups do to encourage ethical practices? What institutional arrangements hold potential, and which are merely for show? How much of a role can direct monitoring play? How important might reputational enforcement mechanisms be?

Which types of powers catalyse unethical behaviour? Which powers push people to remain ethical? What accountability mechanisms work to purge groups of unethical conduct?

A key goal of the event is to generate and start to answer questions that would benefit from further collaborative work between industry and the academy, through Commonwealth grants or other research funding schemes.

Expressions of Interest

Spaces are strictly limited. Please send Expressions of Interest to BiBaP@unsw.edu.au, cc: Nicola.Cole@unsw.edu.au, no later than 4 November 2017.

Format:

12.30-1.15 pm Light lunch

1.15-3.00 pm - *Block 1: Ethics in Individuals: (Dis)Honesty at the Micro Level – Does the Buck Stop with You?*

Moderator: Gigi Foster, Associate Professor, UNSW School of Economics

- Andreas Ortmann, Professor, UNSW Business School (15-20 minute talk)
- Pamela Hanrahan, Professor, UNSW Business School (15-20 minute talk)
- Group discussion

3.00 - 3.30 pm Coffee/tea break

3.30 - 5.15 pm *Block 2: Ethics in Groups: Institutional Problems and Solutions*

Moderator: Andreas Ortmann, Professor, UNSW Business School

- Dennis Gentilin, Founding Director, Human Systems Advisory (15-20 minute talk)
- Pascal Bourgeat, Director of Behavioural Science, Ipsos Australia (15-20 minute talk)
- Group discussion

5.15 - 6.00 pm Drinks/canapés

ESA | The Economic Society
of Australia

New South Wales

Careers

Keep an eye on our jobs page as opportunities sometimes come up after the newsletter has been distributed.

Utilities Commission of the Northern Territory

Associate Utilities Commissioner

POSITION VACANT: PART-TIME, FIXED TERM TO 2021

The Utilities Commissioner seeks a highly experienced senior executive/director to support the Commissioner in the delivery of regulatory, licensing and advisory functions relating to electricity, water and sewerage and ports in the Northern Territory including price and access regulation, compliance and performance monitoring, complaint handling and public reporting. It is envisaged that the appointee may ultimately progress to the role of Commissioner.

The Associate Commissioner is a part-time position requiring a commitment, on average, of one day per week. The role can be based anywhere, but travel to the Territory will be required from time to time.

The ideal candidate will be a recognised and respected leader accustomed to working in complex and challenging environments who has:

- knowledge of, or experience in, the fields of industry, economics, commerce, law, public administration or other areas relevant to the work of the Commission
- a strong record of achievement and experience in leadership roles
- demonstrated sound judgement, personal integrity and accountability
- excellent stakeholder relationship skills including the ability to work collaboratively with a diverse network of participants
- broad expertise in developing and managing regulatory frameworks in politically and socially sensitive environments.

Further information can be obtained from the Utilities Commission website (<http://www.utilicom.nt.gov.au>) or by contacting the Utilities Commissioner, Dr Patrick Walsh via email at Patrick.Walsh@nt.gov.au.

Applications to be submitted via email to HumanResources.DTF@nt.gov.au by 5.00 pm (ACST) on Thursday 30 November 2017.



Academic Vacancies - Deakin University

The Department of Economics at Deakin University (<http://www.deakin.edu.au/business/economics>) is looking to further enhance its capabilities in economics research. We are looking to fill a number of positions at lecturer/senior lecturer and associate professor /full professor in economic theory, applied economics and econometrics. We are interested in applicants with an established record of publications in leading academic journals. Female economists are encouraged to apply.

The Economics Department consisting of 31 staff is academically strong, with publications in top general and field journals. Located in Melbourne, one of the most multicultural and liveable cities in the world, Deakin offers an internationally competitive compensation package, employer contributions of 17 per cent to superannuation (i.e. to Australian retirement savings) and an attractive teaching load, which is normally two classes a year.

Pre-campus visit meetings will be held during the ASSA meetings in Philadelphia in January 2018. The start date is flexible but July 2018 would be the target date.

Any questions can be directed to the Head of Department, Professor Pasquale M Sgro (sgro@deakin.edu.au). Applications should be made online at www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/careers-at-deakin/your-opportunity and quote job reference number 170440 for the lecturer/senior lecturer and reference number 170418 for the associate/full professor positions. Please include a complete resume. Offers of appointment will be made subject to budgetary approval.

The application deadline is **30 November 2017**.

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.

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