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Newsletter #90

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
April 2022
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Dear friend,

Welcome to the ESA NSW Branch newsletter for April 2022.

President's Message

Your ESA Council is focussing on bringing back the return of many of our most popular events this year including Policy in the Pub, the Emerging Economists Series, and our lunchtime seminars. The first of these, an in-person lunchtime seminar, will be on new productivity research from Jonathan Hambur at the RBA - always a fascinating and very important topic. Please see the details in the Events section below.

We are also looking to expand our network into the regions, so stay tuned for a couple of events we are planning to hold in Newcastle and Wollongong. Also keep your eyes and ears open for news of a Workshop on Economics and Reconciliation that is in the pipeline. It's exciting to have the Australian Conference of Economists happening in person again this year, in beautiful Hobart in July (pack your woolies!). The deadline for abstracts is Wednesday, 6 April, so get yours in asap and start planning your travel. As always, your feedback on any events or issues is welcome via president@esansw.org.au.

This month's Committee profiles are Gigi Foster and Belinda Cheung.

Best wishes,
Nicki Hutley
President, NSW ESA

Councillor Profiles

Gigi Foster, Vice President, Academic

How long have you been on the NSW ESA Council and what is your role (if relevant, i.e. secretary, treasurer, events co-ordinator etc)?

I've been on the Council since 2017 and have been VP Academic since 2018. In that latter role particularly, I've tried to increase the awareness and involvement of academics and students of economics around ESA activities, and to articulate in various ways the value added to society by economics. A lot of academic economists these days spend pretty much all their working hours detached from the real problems and opportunities faced by the society that essentially pays their salaries, and I feel that's a pity, since the tools of economics hold such power to help make the world a better place. At the same time a lot of non-economists see economics as a discipline entirely unrelated to its actual core objective, which is to get the most benefit for people (not for big companies or other groups!) as can be gotten from our scarce resources. In my professional life I try to choose actions that in my judgment will help correct errors in people's image of economics, improve people's understanding of economic ideas, and bridge the gap between the ivory tower and economic issues in Australia today. I also try every day to practice socially useful economics in my job as a professor of economics at UNSW, such as via my own research and engagement with the media, through my work with the Consortium for Inclusive Economics Education, and in my occasional job at the ABC as co-host of an economics talk-radio program.

Why is the ESA important to you?

As the core peak body for economists in Australia, the ESA is a natural coordinating vehicle for all sorts of activities and efforts to do with the discipline. Engaging with the ESA is part of how we reaffirm what we are as a profession (and what we are not!) and as such the ESA is the main custodian of "the identity of economists" within Australia. International societies and other national societies like the American Economic Association serve a similar purpose, but for my money the ESA is the Australian professional society that most accurately represents what economics is Down Under.

How has studying economics influenced your career?

Hugely, obviously, given I'm now an economics professor! I didn't start out thinking I'd be an economist, or a professor, though. I went off to university intending to major in comparative language and literature, thinking I'd probably become a translator for the UN or something like that. In my second year I dropped in on an introductory microeconomics class on the referral of a friend, and the rest is history. In my personal life too, studying economics has been immensely beneficial. More than one loved one has called me "Ms Efficiency" (not as bad as "Robot" or "Machine", though I've heard those too!) and I take natural pride in getting the most I can out of the scarce resources available to me. I have found that a deep economic perspective on life is well-aligned with living in the moment, squeezing every drop of goodness from every day, staying motivated, building and enjoying profoundly rewarding relationships, and sustaining faith in the amazing power of people when we work together freely, openly, and peacefully to create a better life for ourselves.

What's your favourite hobby (outside being involved in the ESA)?

Haha, well I like to run and I'm a bit of a health nut generally. Also I love music, including listening and creating (via singing and piano), though my son has developed our family's musical genes far further than I ever did. With my daughter I enjoy writing and talking about relationships (she's at university majoring in psychology, creative writing and history). In general in the family we love

having inquisitive, supportive, humorous, deep, and emotive conversations. I also love live theatre, opera, concerts (basically any performance art) and dancing – going out was one of the things I missed most during the covid lockdowns!

Belinda Cheung, Councillor

How long have you been on the NSW ESA Council and what is your role?

I've been part of the ESA since 2017, as a Councillor and past Secretary.

Why is the ESA important to you?

The ESA promotes continuous learning and helps to connect practitioners of economics across a variety of fields.

How has studying economics influenced your career?

A solid understanding of economics and development of a strong technical economic toolkit has been incredibly helpful in allowing me to visualise the big picture in all my roles across my career.

What's your favourite hobby (outside being involved in the ESA)?

Enjoying a good book (on economics) by the beach!

News

ACE 2022 - Call for Abstracts



It is our pleasure to invite you to the Australian Conference of Economists (ACE) 2022 to be held from 10 to 13 July 2022 in Hobart, Tasmania as an in-person event.

Our theme, **Economics in the New Normal**, will seek to address the challenges that a post-pandemic world faces, and we look forward to receiving your submissions for presentation at the conference. Keynote speakers will be announced soon, and the Call for Abstracts is now OPEN.

Please diarise July 2022 for a visit to Tasmania, to join with your peers for a memorable event after these last few years of face-to-face conference hiatus. We look forward to welcoming you to Hobart in July 2022.

Paul Blacklow,
Convener of ACE 2022, on behalf of the ACE 2022 Organising Committee

[VISIT THE ACE 2022 WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION](#)

Unreserved - RBA's latest release of digitised archival records

Over the past year, the Reserve Bank has been releasing a large volume of digitised archival records to the public through our digital archive (called **Unreserved**). These records span nearly 200 years of Australia's economic, financial and social history. In this latest release, users will find primary source material about government finances, the evolving international architecture of the 20th century and economic analysis for the period from 1918 to 1966. The published subseries are:

- **Government Finance:** Statements of revenue and expenditure and the State's loan fund accounts (also known as the 'Niemeyer Statements' and one of the outcomes of Sir Otto Niemeyer's visit to Australia in 1930). This sub-series also contains reports, papers and correspondence relating to the Grants Commission, National Works Council, Government Finance Committee, Loan Council as well as general government expenditure.
- **International Section:** Records about the activities of and discussions with international organisations, agreements and conferences including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference, International Trade Organisation (ITO) and Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE).
- **General Economic Conditions:** Papers and documents prepared by economists, both internal and external to the Bank, discussing current economic conditions (including at the state level), economic trends, the economic outlook and policies. They also include economic assessments for the National Security Resources Board.

A **Series Guide** can direct users to all economic records (associated with the Bank's original Research Department) that have been publicly released to date; it also describes those economic records that will be in the next release of Unreserved.

In addition to records about the economy, a large volume of documents and photos have been published about Bank buildings (those of the original Commonwealth Bank of Australia from which we descend) between 1912 and 1959. As well as providing information about the Bank and the financial sector, these records contain insights into the development of the built environment in Australian towns and cities as banking branches became more prominent and widespread. (See Research Guides on [Developing a Physical Presence in Major Population Centres](#) and [The Role of the Bank's Branches in Australian Life](#).)

Feel free to share with your members and colleagues. For more information about Unreserved and insights to the research possibilities, see these [Series Guides and Research Guides](#).

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me or the archivists directly at archives@rba.gov.au.

What should the budget deficit be?

Cut emissions, not petrol tax; fund childcare, not beer. What economists want from next week's budget



Wes Mountain/The Conversation, [CC BY-ND](#)

Peter Martin, *Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University*

Overwhelmingly, Australia's top economists would rather the budget funds measures to cut carbon emissions than cuts income tax or company tax.

They are also dead against rumoured cuts to [petrol tax](#) and the [tax on beer](#).

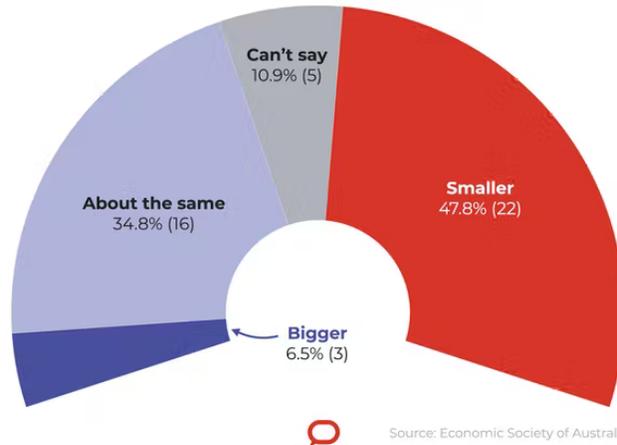
The Conversation's pre-budget survey of a panel of 46 leading economists selected by the Economic Society of Australia finds almost half want a budget deficit smaller than the A\$99.2 billion expected for 2021-22 and the **\$98.9 billion** forecast for 2022-23 in the December budget update.

Higher commodity prices and lower than expected unemployment – which is lifting tax revenue while also cutting spending on benefits – is set to produce a deficit tens of billions of dollars lower, perhaps as low as **\$65 billion**, absent new spending.

But a substantial chunk of those surveyed (41%) want an unchanged or bigger deficit to boost spending in other areas, including an accelerated transition to net-zero carbon emissions and Australia's defence.

Responses of 46 economists to the comment:

"Given the economic environment, compared to the December projection the 2022-23 the budget deficit should be..."



The Conversation/Economic Society of Australia, [CC BY-ND](#)

Arguing for a deficit about as big as last year's, former OECD official Adrian Blundell-Wignall said while spending on defence was important, so too was spending on supply lines to make Australia less dependent on other countries. Events in the Ukraine showed supply chains were as important as weapons.

Curtin University's Margaret Nowak said the huge reconstruction needs following the floods in NSW and Queensland suggested there was no potential to reduce the deficit and good reasons why it might climb.

Arguing with the majority in favour of a lower deficit, independent economist Nicki Hutley said the government should bank rather than spend any improved position to reduce debt ahead of higher interest rates. It would need "reserves at the ready" to deal with economic and geopolitical uncertainty.

James Morley of the University of Sydney said with the economy on the road to recovery, more government handouts would be likely to be inflationary, making it harder for the Reserve Bank to keep inflation within its target band.

Responses of 46 economists to the question:

"If the government was going to pursue measures that added to the deficit, which would be the best from this list? (choose up to two)"

 Made with Flourish

Asked to pick up to two spending or tax bonus measures from a list of twelve that would most deserve a place in the budget, more than 60% of those surveyed nominated spending on the transition to net zero carbon emissions.

University of Adelaide economist Sue Richardson said if she had the option, she would have picked "remove all subsidies to fossil fuels". More than 90% of Australia's energy now comes from fossil fuels. Reducing that – as the government has said it expects to do to get to net zero emissions by 2050 – will require a massive effort, "made much harder by starting so late".

More than 32% of those surveyed backed increases subsidies for childcare, in part because it would allow more parents to do more paid work. More than 26% supported a temporary boost to JobSeeker and other payments; 13% supported increased defence spending; and 10.9% supported infrastructure spending and investment in domestic manufacturing.

Asked which of the measures should *not* be adopted, almost half (45%) picked a reduction in beer tax, and almost 35% nominated a reduction in fuel excise.

Responses of 46 economists to the question

"If the government was going to pursue measures that added to the deficit, which would be the worst? (choose up to two)"

Source: The Conversation/Economic Society of Australia

Made with Flourish

Saul Eslake said "gimmicks" such as cuts in beer or petrol excise failed to address the reality that Russia's invasion of Ukraine had serious economic consequences for Australia, including reducing national income. Governments can't "pretend this hasn't happened".

Instead, what governments could do was ensure Australia's lowest earners don't bear the brunt of that economic pain.

The best ways to do this were temporary increases in social security payments, or a one-off special payment, and tax rebates for genuine low earners.

Eslake would fund them from the extra tax that will flow from the companies and shareholders who will benefit from the higher commodity prices following Russia's invasion.

UNSW Sydney's Nigel Stapledon was sceptical about higher social security payments. Given Australia's experiencing a near five-decade low in unemployment, and unprecedentedly high number of job vacancies, he said it was hard to justify a higher rate of JobSeeker.

Also high on the list of measures panellists felt should *not* be adopted were further company tax cuts (21.7%) and bringing forward the Stage 3 tax cuts income tax cuts directed at high earners and due to start in July 2024 (21.9%).

The budget will be delivered on [Tuesday night](#).

Individual responses:

	Janine Dixon	Bigger	View comments +
	Paul Frijters	Bigger	View comments +
	Emily Lancsar	Bigger	View comments +
	Harry Bloch	About the same	View comments +
	Adrian Blundell-Wignall	About the same	View comments +
	Markus Brueckner	About the same	View comments +
	Fabrizio Carmignani	About the same	View comments +
	Bruce Chapman	About the same	View comments +

Peter Martin, Visiting Fellow, [Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University](#)

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Intake of permanent migrants

When we open up, open up big: economists say we need more migrants



Wes Mountain/The Conversation, CC BY-ND

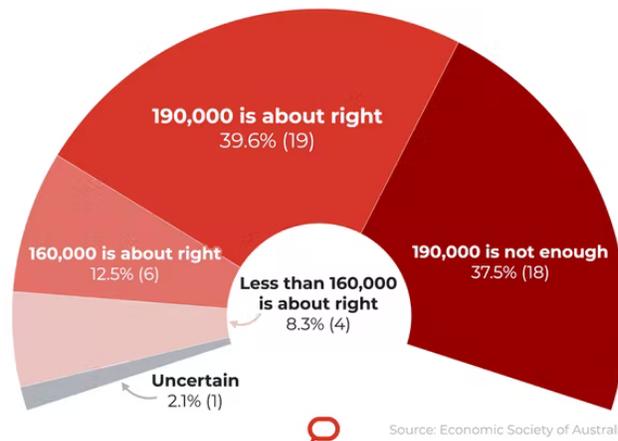
Peter Martin, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

Australia's leading economists have overwhelmingly endorsed a return to the highest immigration intake on record, saying Australia should aim for at least 190,000 migrants per year as it opens its borders, up from the target of 160,000 per year set ahead of COVID.

More than a third of those surveyed believe 190,000 isn't enough, arguing that a "catch up" will show Australia is open to the world.

Responses from 49 economists to the question:

"What do you think the intake of permanent migrants should be in coming years?"



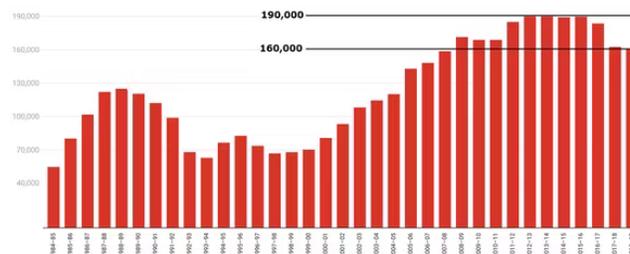
Economic Society of Australia/The Conversation, CC BY-ND

Prime Minister Scott Morrison cut Australia's migration ceiling from 190,000 to 160,000 places per year in March 2019, in order to "tackle the impact of increasing population in congested cities".

The 49 economists who took part in the [Economics Society of Australia poll](#) were selected by their peers for their expertise in macroeconomics, microeconomics and economic modelling. One is a member of the Reserve Bank board.

Ahead of COVID, Australia's permanent intake has only been as high as 190,000 on five occasions, during the five years 190,000 was the official target.

Annual migrant intake in the years leading up to COVID



The government's intergenerational report released mid last year assumed a [return](#) to an intake of 190,000 per year in 2023-24.

Only four of the 49 economists surveyed by The Economic Society and The Conversation wanted less migration than Australia had going into COVID.

Their concerns were that growing population numbers put pressure on "fragile resources and infrastructure". Slower population growth would "ease pressures on the environment, housing prices, infrastructure and emissions".

Adelaide University labour market specialist Sue Richardson said there was no evidence high levels of migration raised GDP per person, as opposed to GDP.

Congestion and the environment matter

"In terms of living standards, it is the per capita measure that matters," she said. "And it should be adjusted for increased traffic congestion, urban density and pressures on the health and other important social systems."

The six economists who thought an annual intake of 160,000 was about right made the point that what mattered more was the composition of the intake. There should be less unskilled migration, more skilled migration and a "decent humanitarian program".

The 19 economists who went for 190,000 argued less would show a "lack of ambition" for lifting economic growth.

Helen Silver, chief general manager at Allianz Australia and a former head of Victoria's Department of Premier and Cabinet said a higher target would be both a "catch up" and would act to symbolise Australia was more open to the world.

Australia benefits from being open

Any target would need to be flexible and responsive to the capacity of Australia's health and other systems given the ongoing pandemic.

Melbourne University economist John Freebairn said a larger population would enable Australia to capture economies of scale and fill gaps in high skill and low skill jobs caused by labour market rigidities and failures in training systems.

It would increase the government's tax take net of spending and help build a more dynamic and interesting society, as it had in the past.

The 18 economists (37.5% of the total) who said 190,000 was not enough argued that Australia's status as a nation of immigrants gave it a formidable advantage.

190,000 could be considered a floor

UNSW economist Gigi Foster said in the wake of Australia's responses to COVID its challenge was not so much what target to set, but rather how to convince immigrants to come here.

Melbourne University's Chris Edmond said if Australia had the same per capita target as Canada it would have a permanent intake of 250,000 per year.

The University of Sydney's James Morely said 190,000 was less than 1% of the population and was in any event not a target for *net* migration as that would be determined by the number of Australians who left and returned, and the number who came in temporarily under other schemes.

Given low birth rates and a need for a balanced age profile Australia should probably target permanent visas of 320,000 - 1.25% of the current population.

RMIT's Leonora Risse said what mattered was that the migration intake was accompanied by policies designed to ensure migrants reached their potential.

When considering an upper limit on migration, we should keep in mind that 30% of all Australians were born overseas. For 20% of Australians, one or both parents were born overseas. Australia would not be what it was were it not for migration.

Notably absent from most of the 49 responses was discussion of the impact of migration on wages and the employment of locals.

The experts surveyed seemed to regard these impacts as not particularly big in either direction compared to the impacts of migration on dynamism, Australia's place in the world, and its environment, infrastructure and social cohesion.

Detailed responses:

	Janine Dixon	Uncertain	View comments +
	Alison Booth	Less than 160,000	View comments +
	Matthew Butlin	Less than 160,000	View comments +
	Brian Dollery	Less than 160,000	View comments +
	Sue Richardson	Less than 160,000	View comments +
	Peter Abelson	160,000 is about right	View comments +
	Craig Emerson	160,000 is about right	View comments +
	Saul Eslake	160,000 is about right	View comments +

Peter Martin, Visiting Fellow, [Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University](#)

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Upcoming Events

WEN webinar: Women's under-representation in economics: Exploring the "confidence gap"

RBA research has found that female students, as well as students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, are falling in number in Australian schools' economics classrooms. These student cohorts are also more likely to report a poor understanding of economics and have less confidence in their own proficiency in the subject.

New research from the RBA investigates whether these outcomes might be explained by students' actual proficiency in the subject or whether there are other factors behind this "confidence gap". The analysis finds that female economics students, even after accounting for their proficiency in the subject, still report having poorer understanding and lower confidence in the subject compared to their male counterparts. Differences in students' self-perceptions according to their socio-economic background, however, look to be in line with their actual proficiency in the subject. These findings have implications for the design of interventions to encourage greater participation in economic among these cohorts and support broader diversity among the economics student population.

The Women in Economics Network is delighted to be welcoming author of this new study, RBA economist Joyce Tan, to share this new analysis with us. This webinar presentation will provide us with an opportunity to consider the causes of this confidence gap among economics students and discuss examples of interventions that are proving to work in addressing these gender-patterned barriers. Joyce's paper was published in the RBA Bulletin March 2022. A copy of the paper is available via the RBA website:

<https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2022/mar/exploring-the-confidence-gap.html>

About the Speaker



Joyce Tan is an economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia and completed this work while in the Public Access and Education team. Joyce has worked in various roles at RBA Bank including in the Economic Analysis, Financial Stability and Information departments. She completed a Bachelor of Commerce and a Finance Honours degree at the University of Melbourne and is currently studying a Master of Economics degree at the Australian National University. This national WEN webinar will be hosted by **Isabelle Layton**, Chair of the Victorian Branch of WEN and Senior Policy Advisor at the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. All are welcome to attend this online webinar. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions and share examples of interventions that have proven to lift students' engagement in economics.

Registration and Joining this Webinar

To register please book online below. The link to join this webinar will be included in your auto-generated invoice email - please look out for this and keep it safe until the webinar is due to be broadcast. Note, these emails sometimes get caught in spam folders.

Panel discussion on the NSW Government's Women's Economic Opportunities Review

The NSW WEN invites you to attend a virtual panel event discussing the NSW Government's *Women's Economic Opportunities Review*.

In February 2022, the NSW Government announced a landmark review on women's economic opportunities. The Review focuses on supporting women to enter, re-enter and stay in the workforce, drawing on the results of the 2021-222 NSW Intergenerational Report which found that the economy would be eight per cent larger if women's participation reached parity with men.

The Review is being conducted by the NSW Government and supported by an Expert Reference Panel. This Panel is chaired by Sam Mostyn AO, President of Chief Executive Women, and includes experts such as Jillian Kilby, CEO and Founder of The Infrastructure Collaborative and The Exchange.

In response, NSW WEN is holding a panel event to contribute to the debate on policy issues relevant for the Review. We will joined by Sam Mostyn, who will provide overall context for the Review and outline the key areas of interest in the Review, and Jillian Kilby, who will outline the process so far and discuss women's economic opportunities in regional and rural NSW.

In addition, we will hear from three experts on the key areas of interest for the Review:

- Childcare and care work: Professor Hayley Fisher
- Parental leave: Professor Marian Baird
- Gender pay gap and casual work: Dr Janin Bredehoeft

The event will be held on 12 April, 12-1pm, via Zoom.

Registration is free for all WEN members. Please register below.

The Expert Reference Panel are interested to hear from WEN members on how to support women's economic opportunities in NSW. If you have any questions, issues or policy ideas that you would like to be asked during the panel, please submit them when registering, or prepare to ask on the day!

Our Speakers



Sam Mostyn AO is a businesswoman and sustainability adviser, with a long history of executive & governance roles across business, sport, climate change, the arts, policy, and NFP sectors.

Sam is the President of Chief Executive Women and chair of Women's Economic Opportunities Review. She serves on the board of Mirvac and is the Chair of Citi Australia's consumer bank. She also Chairs the boards of the Foundation for Young Australians, Australians Investing in Women, Ausfilm, ANROWS (the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety) and Alberts.

She also serves on the boards of the GO Foundation (founded by Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin to provide education scholarships to indigenous students), the Centre for Policy Development, The Climate Council, Tonic Media, and until recently as an inaugural board member of Climateworks Australia.

Sam was a founding supporter and Chair of the women's climate action group 1 Million Women and serves on the Australian faculty of the Cambridge University Business & Sustainability Leadership Program.



Jillian Kilby - Winner of the 2018 NSW/ACT AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award, Jillian is on both the WEOR Expert Panel and the NSW Council for Women's Economic Opportunity (CWEO), which reports to the Minister for Women.

As a civil engineer and farmer's daughter from Coonamble, Jillian Kilby takes a committed and practical approach to making positive changes to lives across regional NSW. As Chief Executive Officer and founder of The Infrastructure Collaborative, Jillian has served the infrastructure needs of NSW local governments west of the Blue Mountains since 2009.

In 2018, Jillian purchased the grand, historic post office in Dubbo's main street to create The Exchange - a regional innovation hub and co-working space. Jillian holds a Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Policy (2013-2016) from Stanford University, and uses a "design thinking" approach from this study to solve problems and shift infrastructure projects from the government planning stage to be shovel ready. In 2010, she won the Australian Young Professional Engineer Award and Sydney University Young Alumni of the Year Award.



Dr Hayley Fisher received her PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge in 2011. Her research interests are in labour and demographic economics with a focus on issues related to household formation and intrahousehold resource allocation. She has a particular interest in the behavioural effects of family law.



Professor Marian Baird AO became Professor of Gender and Employment Relations in 2009, distinguishing her as the first female professor in industrial relations at the University of Sydney. She is a Presiding Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Head of the Discipline of Work and Organisational Studies and Co-Director of the Women, Work and Leadership Research Group in the University of Sydney Business School.

Marian was awarded an AO (Officer of the Order of Australia) for outstanding services to improving the quality of women's working lives and for contributions to tertiary education in 2016. In 2018 and in 2019, Marian was named in *Apolitical's* Top 100 Most Influential People in Gender Equality list. In 2014 she received the Edna Ryan Award for making positive change for women in the workforce, in 2013 she received the AFR/Westpac Women of Influence Award in Public Policy, and in 2015 and 2003 she won the University of Sydney's Business Schools most engaged researcher awards.



Dr Janin Bredehoeft is the Research and Analytics Executive Manager at the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, leading a team responsible for data management, analysis and benchmarking as well as the research and education functions of the Agency. A key aspect of her role is unlocking the potential of the Agency's world leading dataset through internal and external collaboration to enhance gender equality in Australian workplaces.

Janin has been with the Agency since 2015 and taken on a number of roles in research, data analysis and education. Janin has a strong background in research, having completed her PhD at the University of Sydney in 2019, analysing the developments of academic labour markets in Germany and Australia.

Registration and Joining this Webinar

To register please book online below. The link to join this webinar will be included in your auto-generated invoice email - please look out for this and keep it safe until the webinar is due to be broadcast. Note, these emails sometimes get caught in spam folders. This is a member-only event. You will need to login prior to registering.

Reaching for the Stars: Australian firms and the global productivity frontier

Raising productivity growth is essential to sustain further improvements in living standards, given headwinds from population ageing and the decline in Australia's terms of trade. Take a deep dive into recent research on productivity with Jonathan Hambur, Senior Research Manager at the Reserve Bank of Australia who will take us through research utilising a novel dataset to explore the factors driving productivity differentials.

About our Speaker

Jonathan is a Senior Research Manager in the Economic Research Department, leading the Micro Analysis and Data stream. He has previously held positions in Domestic Markets and International Departments of the Bank, as well as a role at Australian Treasury leading their microdata analysis team. Jonathan holds a Masters in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics from LSE. His research focuses on using microdata sources to understand macroeconomic phenomena, with a particular focus on productivity, competition and labour markets.

Cost to Attend

This event is free of charge for ESA members. \$5.00 fee for non-members.

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Australian Conference of Economists (ACE) 2022 to be held from 10 to 13 July 2022 in Hobart, Tasmania as an in-person event.
Our theme, *Economics in the New Normal*, will seek to address the challenges that a post-pandemic world faces, and we look forward to receiving your submissions for presentation at the conference. Keynote speakers will be announced soon, and the Call for Abstracts is now open.
Please diarise July 2022 for a visit to Tasmania, to join with your peers for a memorable event after these last few years of face-to-face conference hiatus.
More program details and registrations information will be coming soon.
We look forward to welcoming you to Hobart in July 2022.
Paul Blacklow
Convener of ACE 2022, on behalf of the ACE 2022 Organising Committee
[VISIT THE ACE 2022 WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION](#)

The 2022 CBA Forum date has been moved from April 27th to July 19th to accommodate more in-person attendees
While on-line attendance numbers will not be constrained, the event is designed to maximise in-person attendance, networking and interaction with peers and industry experts.

Cost Benefit Analysis Forum 2022

We are delighted to be holding the 2022 CBA Forum as a one-day in-person event in the Sydney CBD on Tuesday 19th July. This is an opportunity to meet, re-engage with and learn from colleges, peers, and industry experts. Experts in the theory, policy and application of CBA are featured as speakers and panellists in an exciting program covering topical issues on the role, application and future of CBA, including: new national and NSW CBA guidance; discount rate changes; the March 2022 US Society of Benefit Cost conference, and practical CBA examples.
The event will be of interest to experienced practitioners, those new to developing CBAs and people who rely on CBAs for supporting decision-making.
We are also proposing (subject to participant interest) a separate complementary pre-conference "Introduction to CBA" session, based on NSW Treasury Guidelines, for anyone who may be new to CBA concepts and practice. Be sure to register your interest when booking if you would like to join this session.
After an extended period without the opportunity to connect, the forum is designed to be an in-person event with other economist and people with an interest in CBA. On-line attendance will be available for Economic Society members who are unable to attend in-person or if in-person capacity is filled. Please note your preference when registering.
In line with the venue guidelines participants will need be up-to-date with COVID vaccination

Details

Date: Tuesday 19 July
Time: All day event, starting at 8.45am
Venue Partner: Deloitte, Level 9, 225 George Street, Sydney
Cost: \$165 members / \$220 non-members ([join or renew](#))



Program to follow

Speakers

This event is supported by experts in the field of CBA. You will be able to read more about our speakers on our dedicated web page - bios will be added as they are received.

Breakout Sessions

Please ensure you select your preferred breakout session when registering. Important note - only one breakout stream will be live-streamed via Zoom (whichever receives the most registrations).

Registration and Joining this Webinar

To register please book online below.
Current ESA financial members that belong to branches other than NSW will need to [contact us](#) to receive the Promo Code in order to register at the member rate.

Please also keep an eye out for webinar events from other ESA Branches. The [Central Council Upcoming Events](#) page has further information.

Partner Events

Do wages still work the way they used to?

Do wages still work the way they used to? ABE presents a briefing and discussion with Ross Gittins, by webinar.

Date: Thursday 07 April 2022

Do wages still work the way they used to? For many years in Australia, rises in prices were soon followed by rises in wages. But in each of the nine years before the pandemic, the rise in the wage price index was much less than expected by the RBA. Real wage growth has been weak and, at present, is negative. Various explanations have been offered for employees' seeming loss of bargaining power. What if the present supply-driven surge in prices isn't matched by wages? Will we still have an inflation problem?

Details

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 noon AEST
Venue: By Zoom webinar only. Details provided on registration
Cost: Free of charge for members, \$25 for non-members
Educators and students are welcome at no charge
Registration in advance is essential
Register and pay online [here](#)
Mr Gittins has agreed to take questions from the audience.
Enquiries: info@abe.org.au or call +61 419 256 339

Register online [here](#)



Mr Ross Gittins

Ross has been Economics Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald since 1978. He is also an economic columnist for The Age, Melbourne. Before joining the Herald he worked as a chartered accountant. He is a bachelor of commerce from the University of Newcastle and a fellow of Chartered Accountants, Australia and New Zealand, a fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and a fellow of the Royal Society of NSW. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University and the University of Newcastle. 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 the Walkley Award for most outstanding contribution to journalism.

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Call for Papers - Italian Economic Society

Segreteria Generale: Piazzale Martelli, 8 – 60121 Ancona – Tel. 071/2207111 – Fax 071/200494
E-mail: sie@univpm.it – Internet: <https://www.siecon.org>
THE ITALIAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
63rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

University of Torino
Torino, 20-22 October 2022
CALL FOR PAPERS

Italian Economic Society is pleased to announce that the 63rd Annual Conference (Riunione Scientifica Annuale-RSA) of the Italian Economic Association (Società Italiana di Economia-SIE) will be held in Torino on October 20-22, 2022, in partnership with the University of Torino. The conference will include several parallel sessions on different subjects concerning both theoretical and applied economics, as well as two plenary sessions with invited keynote speakers.

Paper submission

Submitting authors are required to upload their paper in PDF between March 1, 2022 and April 30, 2022 using the Conference-Maker system, which is available at the following link:
https://editorialexpress.com/conference/SIE_RSA_63/.

Papers must include an abstract of max 200 words, some keywords and the primary JEL classification. A notice of acceptance or rejection will be sent to the authors by May 15, 2022. Each author can submit only one paper. Accepted papers will be included in the final program upon registration to the conference and payment of the participation fee. The registration must be completed by June 30, 2022. A summary of the main deadlines is illustrated in the table below.

Call for paper 01/03/2022
Paper upload in Conference Maker 30/04/2022
Paper acceptance communicated to Authors 15/05/2022
Payment of the conference fee 30/06/2022
Final program 10/09/2022

The submissions will go through a review process coordinated by the Programme Committee, that is composed of Marco Cucculelli (chair), Luigi Marengo, Carla Massidda, Sandro Montesor, Donato Romano, Marcello Signorelli and Francesco Quatraro (local coordinator).

The papers presented at the Conference can be submitted to the Italian Economic Journal (ItEJ), which is the official journal of the Italian Economic Association. To shorten the turnaround process, manuscripts included in the programme will be sent directly to suitable referees.

Registration fee

The Conference registration fee amounts to 130 Euro for SIE members, 50 Euro for PhD candidates and post-doc members of the SIE, and 260 Euro for non-members. This registration fee is a requisite for the admission of the paper to the final programme; it will cover all the printed material, as well as access to coffee breaks, the welcome cocktail, and lunches. The participation to the social dinner is open to all members, non-members and accompanying persons and costs 40 Euro.

Membership

To become a member of the Italian Economic Association, authors and presenters are required to pay the annual membership fee, which amounts to 80 Euro. PhD students and post-docs are charged with a reduced fee of 20 Euro. Both the Conference registration fee and the SIE membership fee can be paid online using the following online platform:

<https://www.siecon.org/en/productlist/5045>
Further information

Additional information on the 63rd RSA (hotel booking, social dinner) will be available soon at this link:
<https://www.siecon.org/en/convegni/63th-annual-conference/further-information>.

Reaching for the Stars: Australian firms and the global productivity frontier

Raising productivity growth is essential to sustain further improvements in living standards, given headwinds from population ageing and the decline in Australia's terms of trade. Take a deep dive into recent research on productivity with Jonathan Hambur, Senior Research Manager at the Reserve Bank of Australia who will take us through research utilising a novel dataset to explore the factors driving productivity differentials.

About our Speaker

Jonathan is a Senior Research Manager in the Economic Research Department, leading the Micro Analysis and Data stream. He has previously held positions in Domestic Markets and International Departments of the Bank, as well as a role at Australian Treasury leading their microdata analysis team. Jonathan holds a Masters in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics from LSE. His research focuses on using microdata sources to understand macroeconomic phenomena, with a particular focus on productivity, competition and labour markets.

Cost to Attend

This event is free of charge for ESA members. \$5.00 fee for non-members.

WEAI Conference 2022

We just got back from a site visit to Portland and are happy to report that it's the same Portland we know and love, and the Hilton is excited to welcome WEAI and you in June 2022!

Plan to Join Us

97th Annual Conference June 29 to July 3, 2022 | Portland, Oregon

- Present a Paper
- Organize a Session
- Chair a Session

Whether in-person or virtually, WEAI conferences bring together top economists from around the world to discuss their latest research. Join the conversation and plan to present a paper or organize a session as we celebrate our 100th anniversary in the place where it all began. In fact, **the first 100 members to register will get their registration fee waived** -- a few free registrations are left, so join or renew during the registration process and enter **FIRST100** at checkout.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO SUBMIT OR TO REGISTER



Whether your group is long-established or part of an emerging specialty, WEAI can help bring your members together and increase your visibility within the discipline. WEAI conferences regularly include participation by Allied Societies that organize anywhere from just a few sessions to an entire conference including membership and board meetings. Click below for more information. Questions? email sessions@weai.org.
[LEARN MORE](#)

Let us know if you have any economics events you'd like us to share.

Reading and Listening

A reminder - you can catch up on ESA Central Council's National Webinar Program [here](#) and NSW branch webinars [here](#).

Careers and Graduate Opportunities

Opportunities at BIS Oxford Economics

2023 Australia Graduate Recruitment Program

BIS Oxford Economics is offering an exciting opportunity to create a solid foundation for you to develop your career as a reputable economist. The BIS Oxford Economics' 2023 Australia Graduate Recruitment Program is for high-achieving graduates who want to apply their understanding of economics to real world issues.

We are a fast-growing, independent forecasting and consulting business with a global reach. Our best-in-class global economic models and analytical tools give us an unparalleled ability to forecast external market trends and assess their economic, social and business impact.

Our graduates do work that matters from their first week. They are supported by a mentor on the technical and business skills needed to handle economics projects, forecasts and research in addition to setting clear career objectives. Our continued growth allows our staff to pursue exciting careers, working with leading Australian and global firms.

We offer a competitive salary package, including a performance-related bonus, and regular pay reviews. We are also able to offer secondment or permanent opportunities overseas, via transfers across the Oxford Economics group which currently has offices in 24 locations around the world.

BIS Oxford Economics is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The diverse work and topics that we cover is only strengthened by a having a diverse team and we encourage applications from all backgrounds.

The only thing we ask is that you want to enable positive commercial and social outcomes for the wide variety of clients we work with.

See the full job description and how to apply [here](#)

Intern Programme 2022 Australia

BIS Oxford Economics is excited to offer current university students the opportunity to undertake an internship, either over the holiday periods or on an ongoing basis through the academic year. The BIS Oxford Economics' 2023 Australia Internship Program will provide hands-on experience to our core areas of macroeconomics, economic consulting, property and construction in addition to working alongside senior economist.

We are a fast-growing, independent forecasting and consulting business with a global reach. Our best-in-class global economic models and analytical tools give us an unparalleled ability to forecast external market trends and assess their economic, social and business impact.

BIS Oxford Economics is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The diverse work and topics that we cover is only strengthened by a having a diverse team and we encourage applications from all backgrounds.

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See the full job description and how to apply [here](#)

2023 Graduate Program, NT Government

Northern Territory Government Graduate Program 2023

Multiple graduate positions are available in Darwin, Northern Territory in the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) and Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet is the lead central agency that supports the Chief Minister, Cabinet and other government stakeholders in the delivery of government's priorities.

Department of Treasury and Finance is the key central agency providing financial, economic and commercial advice to government.

As a new graduate, you have the opportunity to begin your career with the Northern Territory Public Sector in a supportive workplace where the focus is on your professional development and training.

Applicants can identify their preferred agency when completing the application form, or select both agencies.

For further information please contact **08 8999 4164** or visit Graduates.nt.gov.au
[APPLY NOW](#)

Research Fellow

Research Fellow

Excellent opportunity for a Research Fellow to conduct and participate in collaborative research related to the societal and economic impacts of genomics and the productivity impacts of chronic health more broadly.

- **Salary Package:** Level A – \$76,173 to \$102,570, plus 17% employer's superannuation and annual leave loading
- **Appointment Type:** Full-time, fixed-term – 3 years
- **Macquarie University (North Ryde) location**

The Role

Our research centre is seeking a talented Research Fellow with prior exposure in health economics or biostatistics to contribute to a series of key research projects. The successful applicant will work collaboratively with an extended team of researchers producing various publications. You will also be expected to work alongside and engage with various government and industry bodies.

About You

You will have completed a post-graduate qualification that is related to the field of health economics, whilst demonstrating experience in health-related industries or tertiary environments. An ability to apply your data management skills, including analysing, interpreting and modelling, is fundamental to the delivery of impactful reporting. Your effective communication and collaborative approach to working with others will ensure you perform effectively within an inter-disciplinary and external context.

About Us

Macquarie University's Centre for Economic Impacts of Genomic Medicine (GenIMPACT) is a strategic initiative to undertake innovative research on the impact of genomic testing and targeted therapy on patients and cascade testing on extended family members. Our vision is to provide research excellence with high policy relevance that reflects the experience of families who experience genetic disorders. Our work on genomics is built on our internationally recognised research program on the impacts of ill health on capacity to work and its cascading impacts on income, superannuation and savings, income in retirement for individuals, and increased welfare payments and reduced taxation revenue for the government.

We have an extensive multidisciplinary collaborative network spanning other academic organisations, government, private industry and non-government organisations. Our research has been influential in the formulation of public policy.

Macquarie is a university engaged with the real and often complex problems and opportunities that define our lives. Since our foundation 54 years ago, we have aspired to be a different type of university. Over the years, we've grown to become the centre of a vibrant local and global community.

To Apply

To be considered for this position, please apply online by submitting your CV and a separate cover letter that demonstrates how you meet the following selection criteria:

Selection Criteria:

- A post-graduate qualification in health economics, epidemiology or biostatistics
- Proven teamwork and relationship building skills, including the ability to contribute to collaborative research.
- Experience in producing publications in academic journals.
- Excellent quantitative skills, with experience in using statistical software such as SAS.
- Skills in statistical analysis, data interpretation, conducting systematic reviews.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrated time management skills and ability to work to deadlines.
- Experience working with government and non-government organisations.
- Previous applicants need not apply
- The applicant needs to have the right to work for the duration of the role (three years)

Desirable:

- Familiarity with the Australian health care system.
- Experience working with senior academics and industry partners.
- Commitment and ability to supervise research students.

Specific Role Enquiries: Please contact our centre on mqbs-gi-admin@mq.edu.au

Applications Close: Wednesday, 13 April 2022, 11:55pm (AEDT)

[Apply online](#)

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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