

2024 ABS and RBA Joint Conference – Biographies of Presenters

Dan Andrews

Dan is currently Head of the Growth, Competitiveness and Regulation Division in the OECD Economics Department. Prior to that, he was the inaugural Research Director and Head of Policy Engagement at the e61 Institute. Between 2018 and 2020, Dan was the Chief Adviser on Structural Reform and Head of Macroeconomic Policy Division at the Australian Treasury, where he also served as Co-Chair of the OECD Global Forum on Productivity and Australian delegate to the Working Party No 1 on Macroeconomic and Structural Policy and OECD Economic Policy Committee. Dan first joined the OECD Economics Department in 2009 – where he led empirical research at the intersection of productivity and structural policy – and began his career at the Reserve Bank of Australia in 1999 and undertook graduate studies at Harvard University.

Dr Adam Bialowas

Adam is the Director of the Economic Modelling section at Jobs and Skills Australia. In this role his focus is on finding ways of converting otherwise impenetrable datasets into information that a policy audience can readily understand and, more importantly, use. He has broad experience working as a public sector economist having previously worked across the agricultural, resources and intellectual property areas. Adam holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne.

Professor Nicholas Biddle

Nicholas is Head of the School of Politics and International Relations. Prior to this, he was Deputy Director of the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, and head of the methods, survey, and evaluation programs in the centre. He has a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from the University of Sydney and a Master of Education from Monash University. He also has a PhD in Public Policy from the ANU where he wrote his thesis on the benefits of and participation in education of Indigenous Australians. He previously held a Senior Research Officer and Assistant Director position in the Methodology Division of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He is currently a Fellow of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute.

Lisa Bolton

Lisa has been working in the QILT program at the Social Research Centre since January 2015. Prior to this she spent 29 years in the VET and university sectors, where she has extensive experience in a range of roles from teaching, curriculum review, academic management, quality management, strategic planning, organisational research, surveys, and evaluation. She has a strong interest in institutional research, as well as strategic planning, quality, and evaluation in the tertiary education sector. Lisa has a Bachelor of Education from Deakin University (Rusden), CIV in Vocational Training and Assessment from Swinburne University, and a Master of Education (Leadership and Management) from RMIT.

Professor Jeff Borland

Jeff is Truby Williams Professor of Economics at the University of Melbourne. His main research interests are analysis of the operation of labour markets in Australia, program and policy evaluation and design, Australian economic history and sports economics. Jeff is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. In 2020 he received the annual Distinguished Fellow Award from the Economic Society of Australia. His main current fields of teaching are microeconomics, economic analysis of public policy and economic history. He has authored the textbook *Microeconomics: Case Studies and Applications*, now in its 4th edition. At University of Melbourne Jeff has been a

recipient of the Ed Brown University Teaching Prize and the Ross Williams Award for Career Achievement in Teaching in the Faculty of Business and Economics.

Angelina Bruno

Angelina is an Economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia, responsible for advising on productivity, innovation, business dynamism and related topics. Angelina has previously held positions at the Department of Industry and Science, the Queensland Productivity Commission and Intellectual Property Australia. Using Australian microdata, she has published a number of policy papers covering productivity, innovation, entrepreneurship, regulation and government program evaluation. She also spent a year managing business, government, and university relationships as part of the RBA's Business Liaison Program. Angelina has a Master of Applied Econometrics from the University of Queensland.

Brendan Coates

Brendan is the Economic Policy Program Director at Grattan Institute, where he leads Grattan's work on tax and transfer system reform, retirement incomes and superannuation, housing, macroeconomics, and migration. Over the past three years Brendan has published extensively on skilled migration reform priorities, as well as how to reduce the exploitation of migrant workers in Australia. Brendan was recently appointed to the Migration Advisory Council on Skilled Migration expert subcommittee. Prior to Grattan, Brendan worked with the World Bank in Indonesia and Latin America, and is also a former Australian Treasury official. Brendan holds a Masters of International Development Economics from the Australian National University and Bachelors of Commerce and Arts from the University of Melbourne. He sits on the Victorian State Council for the Economic Society of Australia.

Associate Professor Michael Coelli

Mick joined the Economic Department at University of Melbourne in 2005 after completing his PhD at the University of British Columbia. Mick's main research interests are labour economics and the economics of education, but he also has interests in public economics and applied microeconometrics. His most recent work has focused on Australian labour markets. He has investigated the effects of technology, trade, education, retirement and government policy on the occupation structure, youth outcomes, the returns to education and earnings inequality. He has researched issues related to gender earnings gaps and occupation differences by gender. His other main research focus is education outcomes, including the roles of university tuition fees, parental background, school principals and school accountability measures.

Dr Nathan Deutscher

Nathan is Chief Data Officer and Assistant Secretary at the Australian Treasury. He leads the Data and Structural Analysis Branch, which sits at the heart of Treasury's efforts to make better use of data in providing timely and influential advice on policy issues, economic conditions and trends. Nathan is also a research fellow at the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, where his research centres on empirical topics in labour and public economics. His research on intergenerational income mobility has been published in leading international journals including the *Journal of Economic Literature* and *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.

Jonathan Hambur

Jonathan is a Senior Research Manager in the Economic Research Department, leading the microdata analysis research stream at the RBA. He previously held a role at the Australian Treasury leading its microdata analysis team, and is part of the CEDA Member Advisory Council on Dynamism, and a research associate in the 'Micro-Heterogeneity and Macroeconomic Performance' program at the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis at ANU. Jonathan holds an MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics from the London School of Economics.

His research focuses on using microdata to better understand macroeconomic questions, particularly around productivity and labour markets.

Bjorn Jarvis

Bjorn is the head of the labour statistics program at the ABS. Over the past two decades he has been a passionate advocate for the power of high-quality statistics in understanding the Australian economy and society, and in informing important decisions by businesses, households and governments. In recent years he has pursued and overseen the production of a range of new labour market statistics and insights, including jobs and wages measures from Single Touch Payroll data, the monthly release of longitudinal labour force data, the introduction of a labour account, statistics on a range of emerging arrangements (e.g. labour hire workers, digital platforms workers and restraint clauses), and insights into job attachment and job mobility in Australia.

Dr Gianni La Cava

Gianni is the Research Director at the e61 Institute. He previously held several senior positions at the Reserve Bank of Australia, including establishing and leading a research team – Micro Analysis and Data (MAD) – dedicated to examining macroeconomic issues using microeconomic data. He also worked at the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland. Gianni holds a PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts/Commerce from the University of Sydney. Gianni's research focuses on answering big policy questions with micro data and covers topics such as housing, wellbeing, and inequality.

Dr Benjamin Mitra-Kahn

Ben is an Assistant Commissioner with the Productivity Commission where he heads up the Research Group and is responsible for the current analysis on National Competition Policy. He was previously the head of household income and expenditure data at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and head of policy and chief economist at IP Australia. Before coming to Australia in 2012, he was an economic advisor at the UK Intellectual Property Office, worked in academia and as a company director in the United Kingdom, United States and Scandinavia.

Michael Smedes

Michael is the ABS Chief Data Officer and General Manager of the Statistical Infrastructure Division. He has an extensive background in official statistics having worked at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations across a broad range of statistics. Prior to his current role, he was most recently the General Manager of the Social Statistics Division at the ABS, and prior to that the global advisor on national accounts at the United Nations.

Dr Fan Xiang

Fan is the Director of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) System Performance section at Jobs and Skills Australia. In this role, Fan leads the team and provides strategic advice on the adequacy of the VET system based on insights generated from the VET National Data Asset (VNDA). Fan has extensive experience working across government, academic and international organisations in the fields of research, data analytics, economics and policy. She is a technical expert with a strong passion for utilising statistical and economic modelling, big data and integrated data assets to inform policy development and evaluation. Fan holds a PhD from the Australian National University.