

# Keeping pace with technological change: The role of capabilities and dynamism

CONFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL  
FORUM ON PRODUCTIVITY



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**Who's who**

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**GLOBAL  
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Australian Government  
The Treasury



Australian Government  
Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science



## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



**Alonso Alfaro Ureña** is a senior economist at the Department of Research of the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR) and a professor at the Department of Economics at the Universidad de Costa Rica. He holds a B.Sc. degree in Economics at the Universidad de Costa Rica, and a Masters and PhD in Economics from the Pennsylvania State University. His work focuses on productivity, trade, growth and inflation expectations. Currently, he teaches International Trade undergraduate class and has been the representative of the BCCR at the Costa Rican Productivity Commission as well as a Co-Chair at the Global Forum on Productivity.

**Twitter:** [@alonsoalfaro](https://twitter.com/alonsoalfaro)



**Dan Andrews** is Chief Advisor in the Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy Division of the Australian Treasury and is co-chair of the OECD Global Forum on Productivity. He is responsible for deepening the understanding of Australia's productivity challenge and providing advice to the Australian government on productivity-enhancing structural reforms. Before joining the Treasury, Dan held the position of Deputy Head of the Structural Policy Analysis Division and was the leader of the Productivity Workstream in the OECD Economics Department. His research has focused on exploiting micro-data to assess the causes of the global productivity slowdown and the impact of structural reforms on growth. With an academic background in Economics, he undertook graduate studies at Harvard University.



**John Asker** is a Professor of Economics at Columbia University. His research investigates topics related to antitrust policy, cartel behavior, firm-level productivity, and the aggregate impact of market power. In his research he employs a mix of theoretical and empirical methods. His papers have been published in journals in economics and finance, including the American Economic Review and the Journal of Political Economy. He is a co-editor of American Economic Journal: Microeconomics and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and a B.Ec(Hons) from the Australian National University.



**Gary Banks** was inaugural Chairman of Australia's Productivity Commission, an institution at the centre of Australia's structural reform efforts, from 1998 to 2012. He was then appointed CEO of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, stepping down in early 2017. He also recently completed seven years as Chair of the OECD's Regulatory Policy Committee. Gary is currently a Professorial Fellow at the Melbourne Institute and a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies. He chairs the Australian Government's Statistics Advisory Council and is an Independent Director with the Macquarie Group. While at the Productivity Commission, Gary led inquiries on a range of national policy issues and in 2006 headed the Prime Minister's Regulation Taskforce. Much of his earlier career was spent at the GATT/WTO in Geneva and at the Trade Policy Research Centre, London, and he continues to consult internationally on economic reform. Gary is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia and a National Fellow of the Institute for Public Administration, for whom he delivered the 2013 Garran Oration. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 2007 and received the Economic Society's Distinguished Public Policy Fellow Award in 2014.



**Eric Bartelsman** is Professor of Economics at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) in Amsterdam and General Director of the Tinbergen Institute. He holds a BS from MIT and a PhD from Columbia University. Prior to his appointment at VU in 2000, he served as economist at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC, as advisor to CPB Netherlands, and as Head of Economic Research at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands. In 2007 and 2008 he was a member of the Netherlands Council of Economic Advisors (REA), in 2012-13 he was non-resident Fellow of DG ECFin and from 2013-17 he was a Research Visitor at the ECB. His teaching ranges from first-year lectures to PhD seminars. His research interests are in the area of productivity growth, both from a micro and macro vantage point, and have led to publications in top journals.



**Marie Bourke** is Principal Officer, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland. Since 2015, she has been responsible for Competitiveness and Productivity Policy and is Head of the Secretariat, research and analysis to Ireland's National Competitiveness Council (NCC). The Council, an independent body, reports to the Prime Minister and the Government on key competitiveness and productivity issues facing the Irish economy. It provides recommendations on policy actions required to enhance Ireland's competitive position. From 2008 to 2015, Marie was a member of the **Expert Group on Future Skills Needs** and was responsible for the publication of sectoral, regional and national skills reports. The EGFSN advises the Government on current and future skills needs of the economy and has a central role in ensuring that labour market needs for skilled workers are anticipated and met. Marie was previously a member of the **Executive Committee in Forfás** responsible for the overall running of the organisation and its policy research. Forfás was the national policy advisory board for enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation in Ireland. She held a number of roles responsible for tax and finance policy, surveys and the environmental agenda for enterprise and led the team of science policy researchers that produced the *Government's Research Prioritisation Report* which identified 14 areas of publically-funded research, aligned with the needs of enterprise.

Marie managed the secretariat within Forfás to a number of Government Groups including the **Enterprise Strategy Group** which published its report *Ahead of the Curve* in 2004, the **Small Business Forum** which launched the report *Small Business is Big Business* in 2006, and the Report of the **Management Development Council** in 2010. Prior to this Marie worked with **IDA Ireland** as a marketing executive for the promotion of foreign direct investment.

Marie holds a Masters degree in Business Studies from University College Dublin.



**Michael Brennan** is Chair of the Productivity Commission.

Previously Michael was Deputy Secretary, Fiscal Group, in the Federal Treasury with responsibility for budget policy, retirement incomes, Commonwealth-State relations, social policy and infrastructure financing.

Before that he was Deputy Secretary, Economic in the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance. Michael has worked as an Associate Director in the economics and policy practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and as a senior adviser to Treasurers and Ministers for Finance at the State and Federal level. Michael holds a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from the ANU.



**Erik Brynjolfsson** is Director of the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy, Professor at MIT Sloan School of Management, and Research Associate at NBER. His research examines the effects of information technologies on business strategy, productivity and performance, digital commerce, pricing models, and intangible assets. Author of several books including, with co-author Andrew McAfee, NYTimes best-seller *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies* (2014) and *Machine, Platform, Crowd: Harnessing Our Digital Future* (June 2017), Brynjolfsson holds A.B. and S.M. degrees from Harvard University and a PhD from MIT. His papers can be found at <http://digital.mit.edu/erik>

Twitter: @erikbryn



**Andrew Charlton** has senior experience in business, government and international institutions. After commencing his career with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), he received a Doctorate and Masters in Economics from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. From 2008-2010, through the period of the global financial crisis, he served as senior economic advisor to the Prime Minister of Australia and Australia's senior government official to the G20 economic summits. He was the prime minister's representative to conferences of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF). From 2010-2014 he worked for Australian conglomerate Wesfarmers, including two years in corporate strategy (M&A and major group projects) and two years in operational roles (divisional Chief Financial Officer and General Manager). His academic research covering international economics, trade and development has been published in leading international journals including the *American Economic Review*, *World Trade Review* and *World Economy*. He is the author of two books, *Ozonomics* (2007) and *Fair Trade for All* (2005), co-written with Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz. In 2011 he was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.



**Diego Comin** is a Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College. He is also Research Fellow at the Center for Economic Policy Research and Faculty Research Fellow in the National Bureau of Economic Research's Economic Fluctuations and Growth Program. Comin is a fellow for the Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET).

Professor Comin has published multiple articles in top economic journals on the topics of business cycles, technology diffusion, economic growth and firm volatility. He has also authored case studies published in the book *Drivers of Competitiveness*. Comin's research has been supported by the Gates foundation, the National Science Foundation, the C.V. Starr Foundation, the INET foundation and the Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (ZEW).

Comin advised during two years the Prime Minister of Malaysia on development strategies and led the creation of the Malaysian Public-Private Research Network (PPRN), a public institution that provided solutions to

companies' technological problems by matching them with researchers that were experts in the relevant field.

Comin has developed macroeconomic models of technology and business cycles for the design of policies at the European Central Bank (ECB), the European Commission (EU). Additionally, he has consulted for the World Bank, IMF, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Citibank, Danish Science Ministry, and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) of the government of Japan. Recently, Microsoft has used the models of technology diffusion developed in Comin and Hobijn (2010) to forecast the diffusion of their cloud services.

Professor Comin received his PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 2000. Since then, he has been Assistant Professor of Economics at New York University and Associate Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School (HBS) where he taught both in the MBA and in executive programs. He has also designed and led immersion programs in Peru and Malaysia for which he received the Apgar Prize for Innovation in Teaching from the HBS Dean.



**Chiara Criscuolo** is head of the Productivity and Business Dynamics Division at the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation. She is also research associate at the CEP (LSE), she co-manages the Global Forum on Productivity, and is member of the French and Portuguese National Productivity Boards. Her work focuses on productivity, competition and policy evaluation and uses firm level data for cross-country policy analysis. Her work has been published in leading academic journals.



**Mark Cully** was appointed Chief Economist for the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in 2012. In that role he oversees economic advice, analysis and forecasting published by the Office of the Chief Economist, as well as the department's evaluation activity, data governance and Bizlab, the department's policy innovation and design lab.

Mark has a first-class Honours degree in Economics from the University of Adelaide. From 1992-95 he was a British Council Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Warwick obtaining a Master of Arts, while working at the Warwick Business School.

In 1995 he was appointed head of research on employment relations for the UK Government, where he ran what was the world's largest survey of working life. He returned to Australia in 1999 as Deputy Director of the National Institute of Labour Studies, and was then General Manager at the National Centre for Vocational Education Research for six years, running its statistical then research operations. In 2009 he was appointed inaugural Chief Economist at the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and in that role chaired the OECD's Working Party on Migration. In 2017 he was a Special Guest of the Brookings Institution. He is a member of the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia's Council on Economic Policy.



**Steven J. Davis** is a Distinguished Service Professor of International Business and Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is a Senior Academic Fellow with the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economics Research, Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research, advisor to the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, Elected Fellow of the Society of Labor Economists, consultant to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, senior adviser to the *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* and past editor of the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*. He co-organizes the Asian Monetary Policy Forum, held annually in Singapore.

Davis studies business dynamics, labor markets, economic fluctuations, economic uncertainty, and public policy. He is known for his influential work using longitudinal data on firms and establishments to explore job creation and destruction dynamics and their relationship to economic performance. He is a co-creator of the Economic Policy Uncertainty Indices.

In addition to his scholarly work, Davis has written for the *Atlantic*, *Bloomberg View*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Financial Times*, *Forbes*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal* and appeared on BBC, Bloomberg TV, Channel News Asia, CNBC, CNN, Fox News, NBC Network News and the U.S. Public Broadcasting System.



**Alain de Serres** is currently Deputy Director in the Policy Studies Branch of the OECD Economics Department. His responsibilities include testing and applying innovative analytical frameworks to look for effective and integrated solutions to major economic challenges. The main focus of his work is to examine how different institutional and policy settings – in particular in the areas of regulation and taxation – affect employment and productivity growth through their impact on trade, innovation and financial development. He also contributes to OECD work for the G20 and G7 under the co-ordination of the Sherpa. Before that he was Head of the Structural Policies Surveillance Division in the OECD Economics Department, supervising the preparation and publication of the annual *Going for Growth* report. He has recently worked on the policy determinants of investment in knowledge-based capital. Prior to that he has contributed to the development a framework for the analysis of green growth policies as well as to the completion of an OECD Report on the economics of climate change mitigation. Part of this work has been published in journals such as *Economic Policy*, *European Economic Review*, *Environmental and Resource Economics* and the *Journal of Economic Geography*. Alain is Canadian and before joining the OECD, he has worked many years at the Bank of Canada and the Ministry of Finance in Ottawa.



**Emmanuel Dhyne** is a senior economist at the National Bank of Belgium. He is the head of the “Competitiveness and Structural Issues” unit of the NBB Research and Economic Analysis Department. His research is mainly based on the analysis of firm-level data. He has worked on various topics such as price setting, export behavior, productivity dynamics, employment dynamics and has contributed to three ESCB research networks (IPN, WDN and CompNet). Currently, his work is focused on the impact of individual firms participation to Global Value Chains on their performance. He also teaches econometrics at UMONS.



**Chris Edmond** is Professor of Economics at the University of Melbourne. His main research interests include the implications of product market frictions for resource allocation, aggregate productivity, and the gains from international trade and the implications of asset market frictions for the conduct of monetary policy. His work has been published in journals such as the American Economic Review, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, the Review of Economic Studies, the Journal of Monetary Economics, and the Journal of Economic Theory. In 2013 he won the Economic Society of Australia’s “Young Economist Award”.

**Twitter:** @chrisedmond



**Kevin Fox** is a Professor and Director of Centre for Applied Economic Research at the UNSW Business School. He works primarily in the field of economic measurement, with a focus on productivity and prices. He was appointed as an Advisor to the Australian Treasury in 2016, chaired the 16th Series CPI Review Advisory Group in 2009-2010, and was a member of the Expert Working Group of the Australian Council of Learned Academies on productivity 2012-2014 that reported to the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council. He is a member of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Methodology Advisory Committee and the Productivity Measurement Reference Group. He is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Productivity Analysis, and Editorial Board Member of the Review of Income & Wealth. After studying Japanese in Tokyo for two years, he studied economics at the University of Canterbury and the University of British Columbia. He served as Head of the UNSW School of Economics for five years, 2008-2012. He is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Fellow of the Society for Economic Measurement, and a Member of the NBER-affiliated U.S. Conference in Research on Income and Wealth. He is Treasurer and President-Elect of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth.

**Twitter:** @KevinElZorro



**Peter Gal** is Senior Economist and Project Manager for the Global Forum on Productivity at the OECD. He has more than 10 years of experience working on productivity, labour market and structural policy issues, in particular by using cross-country firm-level data. He contributed to the work of several directorates at the OECD, as well as at the IMF and previously at the central bank of Hungary. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam.

Twitter: [@P\\_N\\_Gal](#)



**Michela Giorcelli** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California - Los Angeles, and a Faculty Research Fellow at the NBER. Her interests lie at the intersection between Economic History, Labor Economics and Economics of Innovation. Her research primarily focuses on the determinants of productivity and innovation in the 20th century.



**Jenny Gordon** has spent much of her post-academic career applying economics to public policy questions. Jenny joined Nous Group as their Chief Economist in August 2018 from the Productivity Commission, where she was Principal Advisor, Research for ten years. At Nous, Jenny's work has covered business innovation, tertiary education and training, various economic impact assessments, including assessing the value of earth observing in APEC economies. At the Commission Jenny was involved in many inquiries – including the reform of the childcare and aged care systems – as well as overseeing the research program. Prior, she spent 14 years at the Centre for International Economics (CIE), with six as a partner in the firm. Here, her work ranged from strategic planning to program design and evaluation; and focused largely on agricultural and other research, financial market development, and industry policy. Much of Jenny's work has expanded the traditional cost-benefit analysis to include environmental, health and social impacts. Jenny has participated in many committees and working groups, including as member of the Reference Group for Measuring Australia's Progress with the ABS, is on the Steering Committee for the new Asian Bureau of Economic Research at the ANU, and is an honorary Professor at the Centre for Social Research and Methods at the Australian National University.



**Roy Green** is Innovation Adviser and Chair of the Innovation Roundtable at the University of Technology Sydney. His doctorate is from the University of Cambridge and he has published widely in the areas of innovation policy and management, including projects with the OECD and European Commission. Roy has worked in universities, business and government in Australia and overseas, most recently as Dean of the UTS Business School. He has chaired the Australian Government's Innovative Regions Centre, CSIRO Manufacturing Sector Advisory Council, NSW Manufacturing Industries Advisory Council and Queensland Competition Authority, and served on the Prime Minister's Manufacturing Taskforce and a range of industry and innovation bodies. Currently, Roy chairs the Port of Newcastle and Advanced Robotics Manufacturing Hub and is a board member of the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre.

Twitter: [@DeanRoyGreen](#)



**David Gruen** is the Deputy Secretary, Economic at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Australia's G20 Sherpa. Before joining the Department in September 2014, he was Executive Director of Macroeconomic Group at the Australian Treasury.

He joined the Treasury in January 2003. Before joining the Treasury in 2003, he was Head of Economic Research Department at the Reserve Bank of Australia from May 1998 to December 2002.

Before joining the Reserve Bank, he worked as a research scientist in the Research School of Physical Sciences at the Australian National University.

With financial support from a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship, he was visiting lecturer in the Economics Department and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University from August 1991 to June 1993. He holds PhD degrees in Physiology from Cambridge University, England and in Economics from the Australian National University.



**Greg Kaplan** is Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. His research spans macroeconomics, labor economics and applied microeconomics, with a focus on the distributional consequences of economic policies and economic forces. He has published extensively on the topics of inequality, risk sharing, unemployment, household formation, migration, fiscal policy and monetary policy.

Greg was previously Professor and Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Princeton University, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Pennsylvania and an Economist in the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He has held visiting positions at the Sydney University, University of New South Wales and the Reserve Bank of Australia. He is an Editor at the *Journal of Political Economy*, a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Research Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Greg received a PhD from New York University in 2009, an MSc from the London School of Economics in 2002 and a BCom (Hons) from Macquarie University in 2000.



**Patrick Lenain** is Assistant Director and Head of Division in the Economics Department of the OECD. He leads a team of economists who provide advice to the governments of Australia, Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, South-East Asian countries and United States. He was also an Adjunct Professor of Economics at Université de Paris-Est, where he taught macroeconomic policy and research methodology. Before joining the OECD, he had a career of 15 years at the IMF. He has also served as senior advisor to the French Treasury and the European Commission.

Twitter: @P\_Lenain



**Dan Mawson** leads the economy team in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in the United Kingdom; where he has been responsible for the department's analysis on growth and productivity since 2012. Prior to that he worked for over a decade in a range of posts across the UK government, covering areas such as the country risk analysis, the economics of globalisation, industrial policy and government procurement. His Ph.D. explored the channels through which improved labour market efficiency can drive economic growth through its interaction with human capital investments.



**Christoph Menzel** is head of Division for Economic Policy Analysis in the Economic Policy Department of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin. His division deals with empirical research in the field of inclusive growth, productivity, investment and competition, as well as assessing growth and distributional effects of structural reforms.

Prior to this, Christoph worked in the Department of Foreign Economic Policy in the Division for General Policy and North America. He worked for several years as an economic consultant at the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OECD in Paris and in the Division for Economic Analysis and Forecasting at the Federal Ministry of Finance.

Previous to his engagement within the federal government, Christoph worked for a financial consulting company in Frankfurt/M.

Christoph studied economics at the Universities in Bonn and Kiel with a focus on econometrics and statistics.



**Giuseppe Nicoletti** has been heading since 2004 the Structural Policy Analysis Division at the OECD Economics Department, where he is in charge of cross-country structural studies, including the Productivity Workstream, and shares responsibility for running the Global Forum on Productivity. He previously worked as senior economist at the OECD and at the Italian Antitrust Authority. He has published extensively on both refereed journals and volumes on the influence of policies and institutions on the determinants of growth and productivity. He holds a PhD in Economics from New York University.



**Dirk Pilat** is Deputy Director of the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation. He helps oversee OECD's work on science and technology, innovation, productivity and business dynamics, digital economy policy and industry policies.

Dirk joined the OECD in February 1994 and has worked on many policy issues since then, including innovation, the role of digital technologies for economic growth, global value chains, productivity and entrepreneurship. He is currently helping to coordinate the OECD's Going Digital project, an OECD-wide effort to help shape the digital transformation to improve lives.

Dirk was previously responsible for the OECD's Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy and for the Committee on Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Before joining the OECD, he was a researcher at the University of Groningen, working primarily on productivity and economic growth.

Twitter: [@PilatSTI](#)



**Johanna Posch** is an Associate at Analysis Group, London. Previously, she was a PhD researcher at the European University Institute in Florence and a visiting researcher at the University of Zurich. Her research interests are in Applied Econometrics, Labour Economics and Public Economics. She holds a PhD in Economics from the European University Institute.

Twitter: [@JohannaPosch](#)



**Stefan Profit** holds the position of a Deputy Director General in the Economic Policy Department of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy. His directorate deals with macroeconomic developments, economic analyses and projections. Before assuming this position, he was in charge of a unit focusing on the empirical research in the field of inclusive growth, productivity and investment, as well as assessing growth and distributional effects of structural reforms. During previous assignments in the ministry, he worked in the field of labor market reform and energy policy, foreign economic affairs, policy planning, and served as a personal advisor to the Minister. Previous to his engagement within the federal government he worked for the Bertelsmann Foundation. He has an academic background in labor economics holding a doctoral degree in Economics from Humboldt University Berlin.



**Meghan Quinn** is Deputy Secretary, Macroeconomic Group. In this role Meghan has responsibility for providing advice to the Government on a wide range of matters relating to the performance of the Australian economy, is a member of the Executive Committee and is Treasury's Indigenous Champion. Prior to commencing this role in January 2019, Meghan was the Deputy Secretary, Structural Reform Group, Division Head, Financial System Division in Treasury's Markets Group with responsibility for providing policy advice on all aspects of the financial system and corporations policy.

Before this Meghan was the Head of Secretariat for the Government's Australia in the Asian Century White Paper, based in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. This White Paper explored the economic, political and social implications of the rapid transformation happening in the Asian region. Prior to this role Meghan was the inaugural Division Head of the Macroeconomic Modelling Division and the Principal Adviser for Forecasting in Treasury where both roles drew on the extensive macroeconomic modelling and policy experience developed through her time at the Bank of England (1996-2004).

Meghan began her professional career as a Treasury Cadet in 1991 and worked as the domestic economist for BHP briefly before undertaking post-graduate study in London. She has a Masters of Economics from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Economics (1st honours) from the University of Western Australia. In 2009 Meghan was awarded the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service in the development of climate change policy.

Meghan originally hails from a small farming community, called Perenjori, in the Northern District of the Western Australian wheat belt. She is the mother of three children and enjoys playing netball and tennis.



**Ottavio Ricchi** has worked at the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance since 1998. Currently he is Head of Unit in the Economic and Financial Analysis and Planning Directorate and is responsible for forecasting and analysis of the Italian economy. From 2008 to 2012 he was Head of Unit in the Studies and Research Division of the State General Accounting Department of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, while from 1998 to 2007 he was Member of the Council of Experts at the Treasury Department. Before joining the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance he worked as country economist for the economics organization Global Insight (formerly DRI) and as a research fellow at the University of Strathclyde. He graduated at the University of Naples and holds a MSc in economics at the University of York (UK) and a Ph.D in Economics from the University of Exeter (UK). His main areas of interest include: international economics, public finance and economic modeling.



**Lynda Sanderson** is a Principal Research Analyst at New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Lynda's past research has covered areas including trans-Tasman migration, the dynamics of exporting and firm performance, and the impacts of foreign direct investment. Her current work involves using Statistics New Zealand's Integrated Data Infrastructure to examine the links between firm and employee characteristics, firm performance and behaviour, and employee outcomes.

Lynda completed her PhD at the University of Waikato in 2011. Prior to joining MBIE in 2016, Lynda worked for the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, the New Zealand Treasury, and the Ministry of Economic Development.



**John Simon** is Head of Economic Research Department at the Reserve Bank of Australia. In this role he has positioned the Research Department as thought leaders within the Bank who promote a culture of intelligent enquiry and analytical excellence throughout the Bank. Prior to this he undertook a three-year secondment to the International Monetary Fund, where he led major analytical projects published in the IMF's flagship publication, the World Economic Outlook. This included work on monetary policy ("The Dog That Didn't Bark: Has Inflation Been Muzzled or Was It Just Sleeping?"), fiscal policy ("The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: 100 Years of Dealing with Public Debt Overhangs") and capital flow management ("The Yin and Yang of Capital Flow Management"). He was previously the Chief Manager in the Payments Policy Department of the Bank where he was involved in the design of regulatory frameworks for the credit card, debit card and ATM systems in Australia. He has published numerous articles on macroeconomics, including on the 'Great Moderation', monetary policy and payments policy. Dr Simon holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where his Thesis Supervisor was Olivier Blanchard.



**Heather Smith** was appointed Secretary of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in September 2017.

Heather has had 18 years' experience in the Australian Public Service at senior levels, with responsibility for a number of significant government policies and programs covering economic, foreign affairs and intelligence matters.

Prior to her current appointment Heather was Secretary of the Department of Communications and the Arts (2016-2017). She has served as Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2013-2016) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2010-2013). In October 2013 she was appointed by Prime Minister Abbott as Australia's G20 Sherpa, a role she held during Australia's Presidency.

Heather has also held senior roles with the Office of National Assessments (Deputy Director-General, 2005-2010) and (2000-2003) and the Australian Treasury (2003-2005).

Before joining the public service Heather was an academic working on North Asia at the Australian National University (1994-2000). She also worked at the Reserve Bank of Australia (1988-1990).

Heather was awarded a Public Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday 2015 Honours for her outstanding public service as Australia's G20 Sherpa in 2014.

Heather holds a Bachelor of Economics (First Class Honours) from the University of Queensland and a Masters and PhD in Economics from the Australian National University. She has been a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C. In 2012, Heather completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. She was the recipient of the University of Queensland's Colleges' Alumni Award in 2016.

Heather is a member of the United States Studies Centre Board of Directors and a member of Chief Executive Women.



**Chad Syverson** is the Eli B. and Harriet B. Williams Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. His research spans several topics, with a particular focus on the interactions of firm structure, market structure, technology, and productivity. He has authored or coauthored dozens of scholarly articles and is an editor of the *Journal of Political Economy*. He is also the coauthor (with Austan Goolsbee and Steve Levitt) of intermediate-level textbook, *Microeconomics*. Before receiving his PhD in economics, Syverson obtained bachelor's degrees in both mechanical engineering and economics and worked briefly in industry as an engineer.

Twitter: @ChadSyverson



**Pierre Therrien** is Senior Director, Economic Research and Analysis at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). He oversees and coordinates economic research performed in the ministry in the fields of productivity, competitiveness, innovation, R&D program assessment and competition in the Canadian economy. He also assist policy makers by ensuring programs and policies are based on robust theoretical and empirical evidence.



**David Turvey** is General Manager of Insights and Evaluation Branch within the Economic and Analytical Services Division of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

The division supports the Australian Government, industry and community stakeholders by providing rigorous, strategic and compelling research, analysis, statistics and policy advice on current and emerging issues affecting industry aiming to enable growth and productivity for globally competitive industries. The division has a key role in adding to the evidence base on the factors that drive productive and globally competitive firms and industries and ensuring that this evidence is fed into policy advice and evaluation of programmes in the Industry, Innovation and Science portfolio.

David oversees the Department's research on the Australian innovation system and the drivers of firm performance. He also manages the evaluation strategy for the Department, which aims to determine whether the Department's programs are having their intended effects.

Prior to his current role, David held senior positions in the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Australian Treasury, the Department of Finance and at the Economics Department of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. David holds a Master of Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Economics from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Newcastle.



**Mary Veronica Tovšak Pleterski**, European Commission, Director ECFIN/B. Before joining DG ECFIN as Director ECFIN/B (Investment, growth and structural reforms) on 16 July 2016, Mrs Mary Veronica TOVŠAK PLETESKI held the position of director for European and international carbon markets at DG CLIMA. She joined the European Commission in September 2009 where she held the position of Principal Advisor to Fabio Colasanti, Director-General DG INFSO, now DG CNECT.



**Steffen Viète** is an economist in the Digital Economy research department at the ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research in Mannheim, Germany. In his research, he investigates how digitalisation interacts with the organisation of work and the production process and how it affects firms' productivity and innovation activity. More recently, he started to explore the role of today's technology-driven organisational change regarding gender differences in labour outcomes.

During his work at ZEW, he gained experience in consulting for public and private clients, including, amongst others, the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the KfW development bank, and Ernst & Young. Before joining ZEW in 2013, Steffen Viète studied economics at TU Darmstadt and Goethe University Frankfurt, where he obtained his doctoral degree in 2018.



**Beth Webster** is the Director of the Centre for Transformative Innovation at Swinburne University. Previously she was Director at the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia and Professorial Fellow, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research. She has a PhD from the University of Cambridge. She has undertaken wide-ranging research on the economics of innovation, intellectual property, as well as more general research on the performance of Australian enterprises. This includes over 100 articles in refereed journals.

Recent government clients include the Commonwealth Departments of Industry, Technology and Resources; Employment; Education, Training; IP Australia; the Fair Pay Commission; AusAID and the Victorian Departments of Treasury and Finance and Environment, the European Commission, the OECD and the Garnaut Climate Change Review. Industry clients include IBM, Medicines Australia; the Business Council of Australia.

In recent years she has undertaken many studies on industry performance, both using BLADE and other relevant datasets, for the Victorian Government, The Australia Department of Industry, Austrade, IP Australia, The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade *inter alia*.



**Jenny Wilkinson** is the head of the Australian Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO). The PBO aims to improve public understanding of budget and fiscal issues and enhance transparency. It provides analytical services to all parliamentarians to enable them to understand the fiscal cost of policies under consideration.

Over her career, Jenny has worked across a wide range of economic policy areas. She has been responsible for providing advice on issues including fiscal and monetary policy settings, macroeconomic forecasts, retirement income and superannuation policy, consumer and competition policy, and climate change policy. She has worked in the Commonwealth Treasury, the Department of Climate Change, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Jenny holds a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from ANU and a Masters of Public Policy from Princeton University.