### Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics

#### Economics and Business Statistics Discipline

- Research Topics in Economics and Business Statistics
- Staff Expertise and Research Interests
Research Topics in Economics and Business Statistics

Ongoing research topics within the Economics and Business Statistics discipline include

- Trade liberalisation and poverty in South Asia (J Bandara)
- Food Prices and poverty in South East Asia (J Bandara)
- Modelling Performance in Traditional and Flexible Learning Environments (P Cybinski)
- Firms in an Economically Volatile Period (P Cybinski)
- Evolution of Bankruptcy Studies (P Cybinski)
- Rationing access to protected natural areas: an application of choice modelling (C Fleming)
- The impact of housing density, population growth and other socio-demographic indicators on life satisfaction (C Fleming)
- Impact on fertility of government payments to families (J Forster)
- Impact of population ageing on carbon emissions and the optimal carbon price (J Forster)
- Implications of social preferences for economic sustainability, carbon emissions and the carbon price (J Forster)
- Impact on fertility of government payments to families (R Guest)
- Impact of population ageing on carbon emissions and the optimal carbon price (R Guest)
- Implications of social preferences for economic sustainability, carbon emissions and the carbon price (R Guest)
- Modelling price and volatility relationships in the Australian spot electricity markets (H Higgs)
- Modelling residential demand for water in Queensland (H Higgs)
- Modelling financial risk and returns in the Australian art market (H Higgs)
- Comparing cost-efficiencies of Australian universities (H Higgs)
- Modelling retail pricing cycles in Australian retail petrol markets (H Higgs)
- The effectiveness of fiscal policy as a stabilisation instrument (T Makin)
- The implications of China’s exchange rate management for US monetary policy (T Makin)
- Australia’s budget deficit and foreign borrowing (T Makin)
- Inter-regional comparisons of economic growth in Australia, the US, and other countries (T Nguyen)
- Exchange rate policy and the foreign exchange market in Vietnam and other Asian countries (T Nguyen)
- Stakeholder preferences regarding economic-environmental trade-offs in developing countries (T Nguyen)
- Demand for various categories of food (S Selvanathan)
- Food Prices in South East Asia (S Selvanathan)
- Advertising and alcohol consumption (S Selvanathan)
- Modelling Tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka, India and China (S Selvanathan)
- FDI and Tourism in India and China (S Selvanathan)
Nonlinearities in Economic Growth in the OECD countries (T Singh)
International Mobility of Capital in the OECD countries (T Singh)
Regime-Switching Dynamics of Exchange Rate in the OECD countries (T Singh)

Economic Evaluation of Early Intervention and Diversionary Programs in Criminal Justice (C Smith)
Urban Growth and Sustainability (C Smith)
Intergovernmental Financial Relations (C Smith)
Regional Growth Differentials (C Smith)

Relative impact of health, education and physical capital on economic growth across countries over time (R Swift)
Modelling the effects of specific disease groups on economic growth (R Swift)

Work related injury among the nursing profession An investigation of modifiable variables (N Vecchio)
The impact of psychological distress on absenteeism and work related injury within the nursing profession (N Vecchio)
Mental illness, medication and productivity (N Vecchio)
Labour substitution in the Home and Community Care program (N Vecchio)
The gender wage gap an investigation of unpaid overtime (N Vecchio)
Staff Expertise and Research Interests

Jay Bandaralage (Associate Professor)

Research Interests
Trade and development, CGE modelling, Social capital, Food security, Economic issues in South Asia, Poverty and Inequality

Current projects
→ Trade liberalisation and poverty in South Asia
→ Food Prices and poverty in South East Asia

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Patti Cybinski (Dr)

Research Interests
Applied multivariate statistics, Financial distress models, Flexible learning in quantitative methods and statistics, Statistics Education

Current projects
→ Modelling Performance in Traditional and Flexible Learning Environments
→ Firms in an Economically Volatile Period
→ Evolution of Bankruptcy Studies

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Christopher Fleming

Research Interests
The sustainable management of natural resources; non-market valuation; project/policy evaluation; the economics of sustainable tourism; and the economic determinants of subjective wellbeing.

Current projects
→ Rationing access to protected natural areas an application of choice modelling
→ The impact of housing density, population growth and other socio-demographic indicators on life satisfaction

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John Forster (Associate Professor)

Research Interests
Sports Economics and Management, Corporate Governance and Managerial economics, Second hand markets, The Residential Construction Industry, especially in Taiwan

Current projects
→ The Residential Construction Industry, especially in Taiwan since 1949
→ Second Hand Markets
→ Sports Governance
→ Universal Literacy and Management

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Ross Guest (Professor)

Research Interests
Economic analysis of demographic change; economics of education; teaching and learning; economic sustainability and carbon emissions; life cycle approach to housing markets; public policy with respect to superannuation, family payments and other aspects of the tax-transfer system.

Current projects
→ Impact on fertility of government payments to families
→ Impact of population ageing on carbon emissions and the optimal carbon price
→ Implications of social preferences for economic sustainability, carbon emissions and the carbon price

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Helen Higgs (Dr)

Research Interests
Price, volatility and market relationships in the Australian wholesale electricity market; water demand management; financial returns in the Australian art market; economies of scale and scope in Australian higher education; price cycles in Australian retail petrol markets.

Current projects
Modelling price and volatility relationships in the Australian spot electricity markets
Modelling residential demand for water in Queensland
Modelling financial risk and returns in the Australian art market
Comparing cost-efficiencies of Australian universities
Modelling retail pricing cycles in Australian retail petrol markets

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Tony Makin (Professor)

Research Interests
International macroeconomics and finance, Asia-Pacific economies, fiscal and monetary policies in open economies, international capital movements, foreign investment, interest rates and exchange rates, current account imbalances and external debt, economic growth.

Current projects
→ The effectiveness of fiscal policy as a stabilisation instrument
→ The implications of China’s exchange rate management for US monetary policy
→ Australia’s budget deficit and foreign borrowing

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Tom Nguyen (Professor)

Research Interests
Macroeconomic issues in open economies, especially exchange rates and current account imbalances; Comparative economic growth; Socio-economic development in Asia-Pacific economies; International finance, especially the foreign exchange market

Current projects
→ Inter-regional comparisons of economic growth in Australia, the US, and other countries
→ Exchange rate policy and the foreign exchange market in Vietnam and other Asian countries
→ Stakeholder preferences regarding economic-environmental trade-offs in developing countries

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Chris Panousis

Research Interests

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Saroja Selvanathan (Professor)

Research Interests
Consumer demand analysis, Stochastic Index Numbers, Alcohol consumption, Advertising, Time Series Modelling, Tourism analysis

Current projects
- Demand for various categories of food
- Food Prices in South East Asia
- Advertising and alcohol consumption
- Modelling Tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka, India and China
- FDI and Tourism in India and China

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Tarlok Singh (Dr)

Research Interests
Applied Time-Series Econometrics, Open Economy Macroeconomics.

Current Projects
- Nonlinearities in Economic Growth in the OECD countries.
- International Mobility of Capital in the OECD countries.
- Regime-Switching Dynamics of Exchange Rate in the OECD countries.

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Christine Smith (Professor)

Research Interests
Applied Microeconomics, Regional and Urban Economics, Conflict and Cost Benefit Analysis

Current projects
- Economic Evaluation of Early Intervention and Diversionary Programs in Criminal Justice
- Urban Growth and Sustainability
- Intergovernmental Financial Relations
- Regional Growth Differentials

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Robyn Swift (Dr)

Research Interests
Economic growth and development, particularly the role of health, social and human capital effects, international macroeconomics and exchange rates economics, applied econometrics and time series modelling.

Current projects
- Relative impact of health, education and physical capital on economic growth across countries over time.
- Modelling the effects of specific disease groups on economic growth.

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Nerina Vecchio (Dr)

Research Interests
Health Economics  Labour substitution within the health sector; Mental health and labour productivity; Home and community care; Informal carers – Labour market decisions and support services; Dental services.

Current projects
- Work related injury among the nursing profession  An investigation of modifiable variables
- The impact of psychological distress on absenteeism and work related injury within the nursing profession
- Mental illness, medication and productivity
- Labour substitution in the Home and Community Care program
- The gender wage gap  an investigation of unpaid overtime

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