Policy Workshop
The Role of the Private Sector in Economic Development: Evidence, Policy and Practice
Monday, Oct 17, 2016
New Law Seminar room 102 | University of Sydney

Keynote Speakers

**Rebecca Bryant**
Assistant Secretary, the Private Sector, Infrastructure and Agricultural Development Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From 2010-12, Rebecca was AusAID's Head of Office in Beijing, with responsibility for Australia's aid programs in China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. From 2008-10, she was Director Food Security and Rural Development, and from 2007-08 she was AusAID's Counsellor in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Rebecca was previously an adviser to the Victorian Premier, the Federal Opposition Leader and the Shadow Minister for Communications. She has worked as a television journalist and a lawyer. Rebecca has bachelors degrees in law and international relations and a masters degree in anthropology.

**Tim Stewart**
Practice Area Specialist, Economic Growth, Palladium
Tim is a market systems development specialist with a focus on pro-poor agricultural markets, and has been a consultant, trainer and team leader on a variety of programmes. Prior to joining Palladium, Tim was a senior consultant for the Springfield Centre – an independent market development consulting and training firm in the UK, and led the agricultural component of the DFID Samarth-NMDP programme in Nepal. Other engagements have taken him to Ghana, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Liberia, Georgia and Nigeria, applying market systems approaches in a variety of contexts; from applied research markets in Indonesia, market-led relief and recovery in Nepal, conflict and markets in Liberia and Uganda, and making livestock markets work for the poor in Georgia.

Dean Yang
Department of Economics and Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan

Dean Yang is a Professor in the Department of Economics and the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. His current research is primarily on microfinance, international migration, and areas at the intersection of these topics. Other past and current topics of interest include health, disasters, international trade, and political economy. Methodologically, much of his work involves randomized controlled trials in field settings, while other work involves analysis of novel data sources. He is currently running survey work and field experiments on microlending in Malawi and on HIV/AIDS interventions in central Mozambique. His past and current field research locations include El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique, and the Philippines, as well as migrant populations of Filipinos in Italy, Indians in Qatar, and Salvadorans and Kenyans in the U.S. He teaches courses in development economics and microeconomics at the undergraduate, master, and Ph.D. levels. A native of the Philippines, he received his undergraduate and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Harvard University.
**Presenters and Panel Discussants**

**Shyamal Chowdhury**  
Associate Professor, School of Economics, the University of Sydney

Shyamal’s research program has been and continues to be shaped by the broad goal of trying to understand how development interventions influence households, particularly poor households under market imperfections. Empirical evaluation of impacts of interventions particularly that are related to finance and technologies are important to him. His current research project includes different aspects of migration, especially seasonal migration, microfinance, and technology adoption in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kenya and Nepal. Prior to joining the University of Sydney, he worked for the International Food Policy Research Institute (from 2003-2006) and the World Bank (2006-2007) in Washington DC, USA.

**Emma Fan**  
Regional Director, Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office, Asian Development Bank

**Carolin Leeshaa**  
Social Impact Strategist, the Fred Hollows Foundation

In this role, Carolin provides The Foundation with strategic advice around collective impact strategies informing its engagement with social enterprise eye care community hospitals and the incubation of practical, market-based business models and funding instruments to engage private investments into global eye health care and low-cost health care technology. Carolin implemented The Foundation’s Social Impact framework to enhance its development effectiveness and brokers cross-sector partnerships with corporates and (venture)-philanthropists. This was preceded by leading National Australia Bank’s Social Finance Product & Investor Markets initiative, driving financial inclusion and Shared Value as the Group’s Impact Investment subject matter expert. She is the Founding Director of The Social
Investment Collective, a principal-driven consultancy with the vision to grow social prosperity by promoting understanding of, and building capacity for, innovative social investment solutions, programs and initiatives that produce demonstrable social outcomes. She holds a Masters of Banking & Finance (equiv) and Social Impact post-graduate qualifications from the Centre of Social Impact, UNSW and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

**Annie Major**  
Senior Manager, Asia Pacific, Adam Smith International

**Markus Taussig**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Strategy and Policy, National University of Singapore Business School

Dr. Markus Taussig started at NUS in 2011, following a DBA in Strategy from Harvard Business School. His research explores interplay between government institutions and firm strategies and capabilities in emerging economies and has appeared in top journals including Strategic Management Journal, Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization and Journal of International Business Studies. Most recently, Markus received over USD300,000 in grant funding from the Jameel Poverty Action Lab’s Governance Initiative, the World Bank, and NUS Business School for an experiment in Vietnam. Markus lived in Vietnam for 11 years, where he worked with a variety of development organizations and engaged in entrepreneurial ventures, and currently teaches the elective MBA and core undergraduate “Asian Business Environments” courses at NUS.

**Russell Toth**  
Lecturer (Assistant Professor), School of Economics, the University of Sydney
Russell is a development economist, with primary research interests in the economics of entrepreneurship and private sector development. He uses experimental, observational data, and structural methods, and has been involved in field experiments in Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, and Vietnam, with institutions including the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Southeast Asia (J-PAL SEA), Entrepreneurship Development Network Asia-Myanmar (EDNA-Myanmar), Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). His other affiliations include the AidData Consortium, and the Small and Medium Enterprise Initiative at IPA. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Economic Growth Centre at Yale University in 2014-15. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2012.

Sujata Visaria
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Business School