



Australian
National
University

Educating a Better World: Economic and behavioural insights for policymakers

Friday 6 October, 8.30am–4.30pm (AEDT)

Ian Wark Theatre, Shine Dome, 15 Gordon Street, Acton



A one-day workshop presented by the John Mitchell Economics of Poverty Lab,
The Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Economics (RSE)
and the University of Chicago.

Please see the below schedule for a visual glance at the day's sessions. Below are descriptions of the sessions, lunchtime panel, and target audience.

Educating a Better World: Economic and behavioural insights for policymakers Friday 6 October 2023			
Session	Time	Speakers	Titles
Welcome to Country	8.40am	Aunty Marie Atkinson	Welcome to Country
Open	8.50am	Professor Sally Wheeler (ANU)	Opening address
Using economics to change the world: Skill formation over the life cycle	9am	Dr Dana Suskind (U Chicago)	The potential of smart technology to inform, measure, and enhance early childhood development
	9.45am	Professor John List (U Chicago and ANU)	Can early childhood education shield us from negative shocks? The case of COVID
Morning tea	10.30am		
Research and policy panel	10.50am	Professor Bob Slonim (UTS) Professor Emily Lancsar (ANU) Professor Bob Breunig (ANU) Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP Michael Brennan (e61 Institute) Chair: Professor John List (U Chicago and ANU)	What do policymakers need and what do researchers provide?
Lunch	12pm		
Using behavioural insights and experimental methods for policy-making	1pm	Professor Marco Castillo (Uni Melb) Professor Ragan Petrie (Texas A&M) Dr Silvia Griselda (e61 Institute) Chair: Dr Dana Suskind (U Chicago)	Using administrative and experimental data to evaluate and inform education policy
	2.30pm	Afternoon tea	
	3.00pm	Dr Angela Doku (U Chicago)	Harnessing survey data within natural experiments
	3.30pm	Dr Andrew Simon (U Chicago)	Public Good Perceptions and Polarization: Evidence from Higher Education Appropriations
Close	4.00pm	Professor Rabee Tourky (ANU)	Closing address

Morning session – Using economics to change the world: Skill formation over the life cycle

This session will include two presentations to showcase how John Mitchell Economics of Poverty Lab Affiliated Scholars have combined economic theory and experiments to examine what drives skill formation over the life cycle and test new strategies/policies to enhance skill formation at various phases of the life cycle.

Presenters and topics:

[Dr Dana Suskind](#) (U Chicago) will focus on skill formation amongst children aged 0–3.

[Professor John List](#) (U Chicago and ANU) will focus on skill formation in Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Lunchtime panel – What do policymakers need and what do researchers provide?

A mix of panellists from government (ACT or Federal level) will discuss the types of research they use when formulating policies, how they use research and any suggestions for how academics can/should structure their work to enhance its impact on policy. The panel will also include academics who would discuss how they select what types of policy questions to examine, how they structure the work, and challenges/trade-offs faced that may limit the impact of (or willingness to engage in) policy driven work.

Panellists:

[Professor Bob Slonim](#) (UTS)

[Professor Emily Lancsar](#) (ANU)

[Professor Bob Breunig](#) (ANU)

Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP

Michael Brennan (e61 Institute)

Panel Chair: [Professor John List](#) (U Chicago and ANU)

Afternoon session – Using behavioural insights and experimental methods for policy-making

This session will focus on methodological issues surrounding the design and interpretation of experimental (quasi-experimental) research in the policy domain. Specifically, the session will focus on questions such as the design and use of survey experiments to understand what determines support (or lack thereof) for government policies, eliciting beliefs about the effectiveness or potential impact of government policies, scalability of research findings and generalizability of findings from one domain or setting to another.

Speakers:

[Professor Marco Castillo](#) (Uni Melb)

[Professor Ragan Petrie](#) (Texas A&M)

Dr Silvia Griselda (e61 Institute)

Panel Chair: [Dr Dana Suskind](#) (U Chicago)

Dr Angela Doku (Post-Doctoral scholar at Chicago and ANU)

Dr Andrew Simon (Post-Doctoral scholar at ANU and Chicago)