

News & Views

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AARES
AUSTRALASIAN AGRICULTURAL &
RESOURCE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

AARES

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A word from the President

Dear AARES members

We are slowly emerging from COVID lock downs and the future is looking brighter now for us to begin to participate more fully in the life of the Society. I know so many of you have missed the direct fellowship for which we are so renowned. It has been heartening however to see how technologies have provided work arounds so that you have been able to remain connected and engaged.



Federal Council has continued to progress a number of important initiatives.

Firstly, hats off to Claire Doll in Western Australia who has been the driving force behind early career initiatives. There has been strong demand for participation in the online training module prepared. We are looking forward to feedback on how it went and for further training modules to be offered under the initiatives.

Behind the scenes there has been sustained improvements in our back of house IT systems to improve efficiency and lower operating costs going forward. Significant work on the ominously named 'NetRanger' has been coordinated by the indefatigable Rod McInnes. This work significantly improves our membership database and modernises our capacity to manage our membership renewals and conference subscriptions in a more timely and accurate way. This will assist us as we move forward with our implementation and review of the Strategic Plan.

John Rolfe and Sarah Wheeler have continued to progress the Strategic Plan Review and have been working on the approach to surveying members and past members for their insights and views on a range of society matters.

The renewal of the Journal Editorial Board is nearing completion. I was able to welcome a number of new faces to the Board for the term of 3 years and thank a number of past members for their significant contribution to the Journal. Further announcements on the make up of the Editorial Board will be made and further positions are finalised. The Journal is a significant and serious endeavour of the Society and the Editorial Board have made a huge contribution toward improving the international standing of the Journal.

Planning continues at a brisk pace on the AARES 2022 Conference. The conference will be held online and will be conducted via a strong interactive online platform. Significant technical planning has been taking place to ensure a high quality participant experience. I encourage you to bring forward proposals for mini symposia, contributed papers and pre-conference workshops – submissions close very soon.

I am looking forward to meeting with you all online at the AARES 2022 Conference, and to brighter days of the post lockdown world.

Gavan Dwyer

New AJARE Editorial Board



The Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics has appointed a new AJARE Editorial Board. Members are appointed for a three-year term. New board members include:

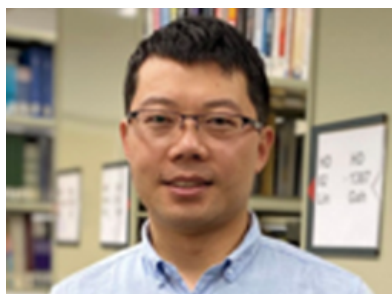
- David Panell, University of Western Australia
- Lata Gangadharan, Monash University
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- Jette Bredahl Jacobsen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Joachim von Braun, University of Bonn, Germany
- Jikun Huang, Peking University, China
- Anita Wreford, Lincoln University, New Zealand
- Quentin Grafton, Australian National University

Agricultural Economists Lead ACIAR Project on Rural Transformation in Asian Developing Countries

This year, ANU Crawford School of Public Policy launched another ACIAR-funded project – 'Understanding the drivers of successful and inclusive rural regional transformation: sharing experiences and policy advice in Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and Pakistan'. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) will fund this project for three years with a \$1.2 million grant. The project will describe and define the rural transformation, describe and understand successful rural transformation outcomes, analyse and explain the tenets of success and what success has been achieved in those countries. It will share significant lessons of a successful rural transformation and deliver policy recommendations to different governments' levels.

ANU Crawford School will coordinate the project, and Professor Chunlai Chen will take the lead. In addition, Professor Christopher Findlay and Associate Professor Fay Rola-Rubzen will lead some sub-streams of the project. AARES East Asian Branch members participating in the project include Professor Jikun Huang and Professor Yu Sheng from the China Centre for Agricultural Policy, Peking University. The project brings over 40 academics from the four Asian countries as well as the advisory board, including the policymakers and industry experts. Participating institutes include the University of Western Australia, Peking University of China, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Socio-Economic and Policy Studies, and the Bogor Agricultural University of Indonesia.

AJARE is on Twitter (@AJAREJournal)



AJARE editors are pleased to announce that Wanglin Ma has been appointed as AJARE Associate Editor (Social Media). His role is to manage the Journal's Twitter account (@AJAREJournal) by posting tweets for newly published articles/issues and re-tweeting posts relevant to the Journal. Wanglin is currently an Associate Professor in Applied Economics at Lincoln University. He received a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kiel, Germany, in 2016, and moved to New Zealand in the same year. His research interests span agricultural economics and development economics, focusing on farmer organisation, rural non-farm employment, agricultural and information technology adoption, economies of food sectors, productivity and efficiency, income growth, farmer subjective well-being, and rural energy transition.

Conferences

NZARES Pre-Conference Field Trip

The New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (NZARES) annual conference was all set to be held in sunny Nelson on 2 and 3 September with the planned pre-conference field trip to vineyards in the Marlborough region. Then, two weeks beforehand, a community case of the COVID-19 delta variant was discovered in Auckland and the government imposed a snap nationwide lockdown. The NZARES committee did an amazing job pivoting the entire conference programme to Zoom in a short time period, though unfortunately the pre-conference field trip will have to wait until next year.

The conference was held over two days, consisting of a keynote session, three panel sessions and four contributed paper sessions. Among the contributed papers were 45 presentations from across New Zealand. There were 95 people registered to attend.

The conference opened with the keynote by Professor Nicola Shadbolt from Massey University, who addressed the conference theme of *What's next for the Primary Industries?*. Then, the first panel session covered *COVID-19 Impacts on Primary Sector Supply Chains*.

The second day of the conference featured two panel sessions. The first was entitled *Climate* (He Waka Eke Noa). It refers to the Māori whakataukī the government has used for the current agriculture climate change policy process, meaning “we’re all in this together”. The second panel session was a discussion about *Sustainable and Innovative Practices*, with a focus on-farm. The final session of the day was led by AARES President Gavan Dwyer, who gave a fascinating talk on the productivity performance of the Australian dairy industry.

Femi Olubode began his term as president of NZARES, with Nazmun Ratna serving as president-elect for another year. Wei Yang joined the committee as Secretary. We extend their thanks to Ramilan Thiagarajah and Rachael Davidson, who remain on the committee but step down from their busy roles as President and Secretary. Amaka Nnaji won the Best Paper Award for *Determinants of the Risk Perception of Farmer-Herder Conflicts: Evidence from Rural Nigeria*. The Best First Time Presenter Award was given to Odmaa Narantungalag for *The Local Impacts of Natural Resource Extraction: Evidence from Mongolia*. Tiffany McIntyre, Dwi Ratna Hidayati and Parmindar Kaur Singh were this year’s NZARES Post-Graduate Award winners.

The online conference received positive feedback from participants, particularly given how quickly it had to be shifted from an in-person event. We hope to be able to pick up next year with an in-person event.

Zac Dorner, NZ Branch Councillor

AARES WA Conference Keynote Presentation: Dr Katrina Davis



Keynote Presentation: The costs and consequences of human-wildlife conflict in our seas

As apex predators, marine mammals like sea lions and seals (e.g., pinnipeds) play important regulatory roles in marine systems. However, for much of human history, marine mammals have been exploited for meat, their pelts, or to stop them 'stealing' from fisheries or damaging fishing gear. This exploitation pushed many marine mammal populations to the edge of extinction during the 18th and 19th centuries. In the 20th century, the widespread introduction of protective

legislation has allowed many marine mammal populations to recover. Unfortunately, this recovery has once again fired up conflict between these animals and fisheries. Conflict imposes large negative impacts on fisheries, but also on the recovery animals and fisheries. Conflict imposes large negative impacts on fisheries, but also on the recovery prospects of these animal populations. In this presentation, I will discuss some of my group's ongoing work to identify the costs and consequences of marine human-wildlife conflict for fisheries and marine mammal populations.

Katrina is an Associate Professor in Conservation Biology at the Department of Zoology at the University of Oxford, and a Tutorial Fellow at Balliol College. Her research identifies optimal use of natural resources to maximise the productivity of ecological and social systems. Her work combines bio-economic and demographic modelling, non-market valuation and optimisation approaches. Katrina completed her PhD (2016) through the School of Agricultural & Resource Economics at the University of Western Australia. Katrina holds Adjunct Research Fellow positions at the UWA School of Agriculture and the Oceans Institute at the University of Western Australia, and Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions at the University of Queensland.

The event was held on 7 September, 2021 online via Zoom. A paper related to this presentation can be found [here](#).

Claire Doll, ECR WA

Western Australian Branch Conference

AARES WA gathered at Forrest Hall on the University of Western Australia campus on 7 September 2021 for our annual state conference. Once again, we were fortunate that local COVID-19 conditions allowed us to connect for an in-person event. We had a full schedule, which included 10 PhD student presenters and a special keynote presentation



by Dr. Katrina Davis titled *The Costs and Consequences of Human-Wildlife Conflict in our Seas*. Dr. Davis was once a PhD student at UWA and is now an Associate Professor at the University of Oxford.

Reflecting on her career path to date, Katrina offered valuable advice to students that aspire to stay in academia, including:

- Realise that publications take a lot of time. Write every day and write multiple papers at a time. Reading: *How to Write a Lot* by Paul Silvia.
- Start planning for the future early. Develop grant writing skills when the costs of failure are low.
- Grow your network. Realise that many employers want to reduce risk by hiring people they know.
- be resilient. Be clear on your objectives to effectively overcome failures.
- Cultivate good collaborators.
- Be the research you wish others would be. Reading: *Mindset* by Carol Dweck.

Overall, the conference successfully provided opportunities to present new research, receive valuable feedback, and engage with members of the Society.

Claire Doll, ECR WA



AARES 2022 Conference

The 2022 AARES Conference will feature a fantastic array of keynote speakers, dealing with topical and important issues related to the theme of the conference.

Keynote Speakers

Climate Change and Health: Elizabeth J Z Robinson, London School of Economics



Professor Elizabeth Robinson is Director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, at the London School of Economics. She is an environmental economist with over twenty five years' experience undertaking research particularly in lower-income countries, including six while living in Tanzania and Ghana. Her research addresses the design of policies and institutions to reduce climate change emissions, protect the environment, and improve the livelihoods of resource-dependent communities. Her recent focus includes climate change and systemic risk; and tracking the co-benefits of climate change mitigation and health, oriented particularly around food security and food

systems. From 2004-09 she was coordinating lead author for the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, sub-Saharan Africa. She was on the UK Defra Economic Advisory Panel for five years; and in 2019-20, Specialist Advisor to the UK House of Lords Select Committee on Food, Poverty, Health, and Environment. She is Working Group 1 lead for the Lancet Countdown, that addresses climate change impacts, exposures, and vulnerability. Elizabeth has a first-class degree in Engineering, Economics, and Management from the University of Oxford, and a PhD in Applied Economics from Stanford University. Before joining GRI, she was Professor of Environmental Economics at the University of Reading, and prior to this she has worked at the Boston Consulting Group, the World Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, Natural Resources Institute, and as a tutorial fellow in economics at the University of Oxford.

Australia's Potential to Supply Zero-Carbon Energy to the Asia-Pacific: Paul Burke, Australian National University

Paul Burke is an Associate Professor and the Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. His research interests are in energy economics, environmental economics, transport economics, and development economics, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific. Paul has published in journals including the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Climate Change*, and *Global Environmental Change*. Paul Burke is an Associate Professor and the Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. His research interests are in energy economics, environmental economics,



transport economics, and development economics, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific. Paul has published in journals including the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Climate Change*, and *Global Environmental Change*. His ongoing research topics include international electricity trade, energy access issues, policies for zero-carbon energy in the Asia-Pacific, carbon price designs, and electricity demand. Paul is a researcher within the Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific ANU Grand Challenge project and is on the Executive Committee for the Australasian Development Economics Workshop.

Food Policy, Prices and Nutrition: William A Masters, Tufts University



Masters is a Professor of Food Economics and Policy, in the Friedman School of Nutrition and the Department of Economics at Tufts University in Boston. His work on the economics of agriculture, food and nutrition includes new retail price indexes used to track the affordability of healthy diets and a variety of other projects described on his research site, teaching blog, and on twitter. He is a Fellow of the U.S. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), an International Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE), a former editor-in-chief of the journal *Agricultural Economics*, and a co-author of an undergraduate textbook on *Economics of Agricultural Development: World Food Systems and Resource Use*.

Adapting to Climate Change in an Uncertain Future: Anita Wreford, Lincoln University

Anita Wreford is an applied economist specialising in adaptation to climate change, with a particular focus on agriculture and the primary sector. She has two decades of research experience, across many areas of climate change adaptation, including economic evaluations of impacts and adaptation (focusing particularly on applying robust methods to deal with climate uncertainty); identifying and evaluating the effectiveness of adaptation options across sectors; risk assessment; community resilience to extreme weather events; and adaptation decision-making among various stakeholders. Currently based in the AERU at Lincoln University, she leads the Deep South National Science



Challenge's programme on Impacts and Implications. A lead author on two Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports: A Special Report on Climate Change and Land (2019) and the forthcoming Australasia Chapter of the Sixth Assessment Report (2021), she works closely with policy makers both at a national level and local government (in the UK and New Zealand), providing advice and analysis for climate adaptation decisions and conducted work for the EU Commission and the OECD, the Scottish Government's ClimateXChange programme, and the UK's Committee on Climate Change.

Gearing Asian Agriculture under the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Opportunities and Challenges: The 10th ASAE International

The Asian Society of Agricultural Economists (ASAE) is a recognised association of agricultural economists and other professionals in Asia. With the new wave of information technology and biotechnology revolution in the past four decades, Asia faces huge challenges and opportunities to



raise agricultural productivity and achieve rural transformation in the new era. The 10th ASAE International Conference in 2021 is an opportunity for participants around the world to learn how Asian countries respond to the opportunities and challenges brought to agriculture by the fourth industrial revolution. It will also provide useful insights and experience for Asian countries to fight COVID-19 and facilitate food system transformation in the long run. Since the middle of the 18th century, there have been three industrial revolutions in human history. Although the previous three industrial revolutions brought unprecedented prosperity to the human society, they also caused huge increases in consumption of energy and resources and dramatically expanded the contradiction between human and nature. In the 21st century, we are now confronted with an unprecedented global energy and resources crisis, a global ecological and environmental crisis, as well as a global climate change crisis and multiple challenges, which has triggered the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is a new green industrial revolution, which is represented by the IoT (Internet of Things), Big Data, Robot, Artificial Intelligence, Gene Editing, Nano-technology and other new technologies. The applications of these cutting-edge technologies in the agricultural field will greatly improve agricultural productivity and facilitate food system transformation. The past four decades have witnessed a rapid development of agricultural technology along with the new wave of information technology and biotechnology revolutions, throughout the whole world. Many countries in Asia still face a large number of challenges in the process of agricultural development and rural transformation. Asia has more than 70% of world's small farms. Without appropriate institutional innovation and policy support, they will be unable to enjoy rapid technological progress and lag behind the pace of agricultural modernisation. Therefore, how to realise the agricultural modernisation, promote transformation of small farms in the new era, and increase resilience of food system in light of uncertainty around the spread of the COVID-19 internationally has become a major concern of the world's agricultural societies.

The challenges require academia, researchers, scientists, and practitioners (from public, private, and civil society) to analyse and better understand the implications of the fourth industrial revolution to agriculture in general and small farms in particular in Asia.

The 10th ASAE International Conference aims to provide a venue by bringing together a good mix of acknowledged policymakers, university researchers, professionals and specialists from development agencies and private industry to share experiences, exchange perspectives, and discuss how Asian countries can effectively cope with the opportunities and challenges brought by the fourth industrial revolution to Asia's agricultural economies and rural societies.

Discussing topics such as the impact of advanced technologies on Asian countries, rural economic revitalisation in Asia, consuming transformation, modern food value chain, regional food security, and the sustainable development of Asian agricultural economic environment will enhance participants' understanding of Chinese experience in rural development, expanding international exchanges and cooperation to promote the rapid development of agricultural and rural economy. Furthermore, the conference will bring together intellectual inputs to help shape agricultural policy design in the region.

The conference will be held between the **6-8 December 2021**, online via Zoom or by Tencent Meeting.

Conference themes

Main theme: Gearing Asian Agriculture under the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Opportunities and Challenges.

The conference's sub-themes include:

- Accessing the impacts of advanced technologies (i.e. ICT, IoT, AI, etc.) on agriculture in Asian countries.
- Innovating and prioritising institutions, policies and investment initiatives to modernise small farms dominated by Asian agriculture.
- Rural development and policies under the new wave of biotechnology and gene revolution in Asian countries.
- Revitalising Asian rural economy: agricultural transformation, rural industrialisation, off-farm employment, farm mechanisation, etc.
- Changing consumer behaviors, smart agriculture and risk management (including agricultural insurance and financial development in rural areas).
- The modern food value-chain, network trading and digital economy.
- Food security, agricultural trade and market integration under uncertain international relationships.
- Innovative solutions for sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture.
- Facilitating food system transformation in Asian countries, to cope with uncertainty caused by climate change and trade dispute.
- Increasing resilience of food system and fighting against COVID-19.

Additional information can be found at www.asae2020.pku.edu.cn, or by contacting:

- Ms Li Wang, asae2020@pku.edu.cn (Peking University)
- Ms Sansi Yang, sansi.yang@rmu.edu.cn (Renmin University)
- Ms Yihan Liu, liuyihan@cau.edu.cn (China Agricultural University)

Members in the News



Congratulations to Associate Professor Marit Kragt (University of Western Australia) for commencing a new role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor Diversity and Inclusion (PVC - DI).

As PVC - DI, Marit will provide direction, support, organisation, and education to foster and promote an equitable and inclusive culture at the university. Her portfolio incorporates all aspects of diversity: gender equity, accessibility, LGBTIQ+, cultural and linguistic diversity, and student equity. Marit's work will be supported by the established university working groups as well as through collaboration with students and staff. Dr Kragt will continue

her academic role in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UWA School of Agriculture and Environment.

Call for Nominations



Nominations for AARES Outstanding Post Graduate Thesis, Quality of Research Discovery and Quality of Research Communication are still open.

For information on the **AARES Post Graduate Thesis Award**, click [here](#). Professor Lata Gangadharan is the chair of the nominations committee, supported by Professor Tom Kompas and Dr Stuart Whitten. Nominations close on **Monday 15 November 2021**, and can be sent to office@aares.org.au.

For information on the **Communication Award**, click [here](#). For the **Research Discovery Award** click [here](#). Professor Darla Hatton MacDonald is the chair, with support from Associate Professor Alec Zuo and Dr Maksym Polyakov. Nominations close on **Monday 15 November 2021**, and can be sent to office@aares.org.au.

Positions Vacant



Associate Researchers / Assistant Researchers / Post-doctoral Candidates / Research Assistants in Agricultural Economics for the Institute of Advanced Agricultural Science, Peking University

The Institute of Advanced Agricultural Science, Peking University, a public institution jointly established by Peking University and People's Government of Shandong Province, holds multiple vacancies, including associate researchers, assistant researchers, postdocs, and research assistants, for candidates with a background in food and agricultural economics, digital agriculture, resource and environmental economics, or agricultural and rural development.

Candidates should have a background in food and agricultural economics, digital agriculture, resource and environmental economics, or agricultural and rural development.

1. Associate researchers are required to have at least 3 years of research experience and to have studied and worked in recognised international or domestic universities; have undertaken and implemented important research topics, published high-level papers in top academic journals at home and abroad as the first author. Candidates who have carried out research on agricultural and rural development strategy and policy, and policy suggestion report adopted by the government are preferred.
2. Assistant researchers should have a strong background in agricultural economics, applied economics, or theoretical economics; with adequate field research experience in rural areas. Those who hold the ability to independently carry out strategic and policy research projects, publish influential research papers and participate in the drafting of important policy advisory reports are preferred.
3. Post-doctoral candidates should have a strong background in agricultural economics, applied economics, or theoretical economics and adequate field research experience in rural areas. This ability to independently carry out strategic and policy research projects, publish influential research papers and participate in the drafting of important policy advisory reports is preferred.
4. Research assistants should be master graduates from recognised international or domestic universities and have published research papers in important international or domestic journals. Proficiency in STATA and other software is preferred.

How to Apply

Resume should be sent to rczp@pku-iaas.edu.cn, indicating "position + name" in the subject line of the email. For more information click [here](#). Those interested may also contact [Ms Li Wang](#), or [Ms Xiuwei Cao](#) with any inquiry on the details about the positions.



AITHER are recruiting to expand their team of consultants within Australia

Aither's offices are located in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra and Adelaide, with potential for flexible work arrangements.

Information about the following positions can be found [here](#).

- Senior Consultant – Water Policy & Management
- Senior Consultant – Strategy & Performance
- Senior Consultant – Economist