

# Melbourne Empirical Trade Conference

**December 12-14, 2024**  
**University of Melbourne**

**Venue:**

[The Spot](#), Room 4012  
Faculty of Business and Economics  
University of Melbourne

**Sponsors:**

David Finch Lectureship Fund, University of Melbourne,  
Monash University

<http://www.freit.org/METC/2024>



Organizers:

*Reshad Ahsan, University of Melbourne*

*Laura Puzzello, Monash University*

*Tibor Besedeš, Georgia Institute of Technology*

Program Committee:

*Reshad Ahsan, Laura Puzzello*

## Thursday, December 12, 2024

9:15 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome and opening remarks  
➤ **[Paul Kofman, Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Melbourne](#)**

### Session 1

Chair: Laura Puzzello, Monash University

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **[Trade and Intergenerational Income Mobility: Theory and Evidence from the U.S.](#)**  
➤ **[Kohei Takeda, National University of Singapore](#)**  
*Discussant: James Lake, University of Tennessee*

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Break – Morning tea**

### Session 2: David Finch Keynote

Chair: Phil McCalman, University of Melbourne

11:00 – 12:15 p.m. **Great Firewall and Knowledge Diffusion**  
➤ **[Andrew Bernard \(Dartmouth – Tuck\)](#)**

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

### **Session 3**

Chair: Maria Ptashkina, University of Melbourne

- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **[International Transport Infrastructure and Regional Economic Development](#)**  
➤ **[Yawen Zheng, Peking University](#)**  
*Discussant: Kohei Takeda, National University of Singapore*
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. **[High-Speed Railways and Domestic Value Added in Exports](#)**  
➤ **[Hiau Looi Kee, World Bank](#)**  
*Discussant: Ziho Park, National Taiwan University*
- 3:45 – 4:15 p.m. **Break – Afternoon tea**

### **Session 4**

Chair: Vladimir Tyazhelnikov, University of Sydney

- 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. **[Tariff Cuts, Uncertainty Reduction, and the Force of Many: The Impact of Plurilateral Agreements](#)**  
➤ **[Irene Iodice, Bielefeld University](#)**  
*Discussant: Maria Ptashkina, University of Melbourne*
- 6:00 p.m. **Conference Dinner (Invitation Only)**

## **Friday, December 13, 2024**

### **Session 5**

Chair: Phil McCalman, University of Melbourne

- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **[PPML, Gravity, and Heterogeneous Trade Elasticities](#)**  
➤ **[Vladimir Tyazhelnikov, University of Sydney](#)**  
*Discussant: Chen Liu, National University of Singapore*
- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Break – Morning tea**

### **Session 6**

Chair: Maria Ptashkina, University of Melbourne

- 11:00 – 12:15 p.m. **Sanctions and the Death of Trade**  
➤ **[Tibor Besedeš, Georgia Institute of Technology](#)**
- 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

## Session 7

Chair: Laura Puzzello, Monash University

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

### Human Capital and Labor Market Shocks in the Modern Economy

➤ Valerie Smeets, Aarhus University

*Discussant: Mauro Caselli, University of Trento*

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

**Break**

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

### To Comply or not to Comply: Understanding Developing Country Supply Chain Responses to Russian Sanctions

➤ Ziho Park, National Taiwan University

*Discussant: Vladimir Tyazhelnikov, University of Sydney*

3:45 – 4:15 p.m.

**Break – Afternoon tea**

## Session 8

Chair: Cong Pham, Deakin University

4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

### Anti-dumping and Product Quality

➤ Mauro Caselli, University of Trento

*Discussant: Hiau Looi Kee, World Bank*

## Saturday, December 14, 2024

## Session 9

Chair: Vladimir Tyazhelnikov, University of Sydney

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

### Shift-Share Design Under Imperfect Substitution

➤ Chen Liu, National University of Singapore

*Discussant: Valerie Smeets, Aarhus University*

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

**Break – Morning tea**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### The GATT vs Inflation: Tokyo Drift

➤ James Lake, University of Tennessee

*Discussant: Irene Iodice, Bielefeld University*

12:00 pm -

**Winery Lunch (Invitation Only)**

*Adjourn Conference*