Annual Report for
The Centre for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (CEPA)

For the year ended 31 December 2014
Annual Report for
The Centre for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (CEPA)

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Overview of the Centre (including Mission Statement)

The main purpose of the Centre is to provide a focal point for research, consultancy and training in efficiency and productivity analysis in Australia and the Asia/Pacific Region.

The principal aims and objectives of the Centre are to undertake theoretical and applied research, develop useful end-user-driven short courses and workshops and to develop computer software for use by private and public sector organizations. Specific objectives are:

• to assess and develop methods for the measurement of productivity, efficiency and economic performance;
• to apply these methods to assess the performance of firms, industries and sectors within the domestic and international economies;
• to conduct research directed towards explaining and interpreting patterns of productivity and economic growth across nations;
• to conduct *ex post* assessments of the effects of microeconomic reform and deregulation on productivity and efficiency;
• to provide technical advice to private and public sector organizations on efficiency and productivity measurement; and
• to offer short courses and workshops to researchers, managers and policy analysts from various sectors of industry and government.
Agreed objectives for 2014 Calendar Year

Agreed objectives:

- Continue to produce high quality journal publications.
- Continue to provide high quality supervision to our PhD students and encourage them to produce journal publications from their research.
- Continue to attract high profile visitors and good quality PhD students to work on projects undertaken by CEPA staff.
- Continue to seek external research funding through consultancies and grants.
- Run the Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference
- Deliver at least two short-courses on introductory and/or advanced productivity and efficiency analysis methods.

Performance against agreed objectives:

In 2014 CEPA staff:

- produced twenty journal publications, twenty-three conference/workshop papers, seven working papers, and two other scholarly works associated with the UQ International Comparisons Database (UQICD).
- were involved in the supervision of seven PhD students;
- hosted fourteen international visitors;
- applied for external research funding through the ARC (unsuccessfully)
- ran the Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference
- presented and/or organised eight short courses and workshops;
- served in journal editorial roles and made various other contributions to the profession.
Governance

The governance of the Centre is through the CEPA Advisory Committee consisting of Professor C.J. O’Donnell (Director), Professor C.A.K. Lovell, Professor D.S.P. Rao, Associate Professor C. Nauges, Associate Professor A.N. Rambaldi, Associate Professor V. Zelenyuk and Dr A. Peyrache.

The Advisory Committee usually meets once a year. Members of the Committee meet informally on a more regular basis to prepare tenders for consulting projects and interim and final reports for research projects.

The Director consults with the Head of the School of Economics on all substantive matters relating to the Centre.
List of Staff Associated with Centre

**Director**

Professor Chris O’Donnell

**Other Staff**

Associate Professor Necmi Avkiran
Professor Knox Lovell
Associate Professor Celine Nauges
Dr Antonio Peyrache
Associate Professor Alicia Rambaldi
Professor D.S. Prasada Rao
Associate Professor Valentin Zelenyuk

**Postdoctoral Fellows**

Dr Renuka Ganegodage
Publications List for 2014 Calendar Year

Journal Articles


Li, D., L. Simar and V. Zelenyuk (2014) Generalized nonparametric smoothing with mixed discrete and continuous data. *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*. DOI:10.1016/j.csda.2014.06.003


**Conference/Workshop Papers**


**Working Papers**


**Other Scholarly Work**


## Research Students Associated with Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Enrolled</th>
<th>Submitted</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
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<tr>
<td>PhD. ongoing</td>
<td>T. Nguyen</td>
<td>02/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD. ongoing</td>
<td>Kelly Trinh</td>
<td>07/13</td>
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<td>PhD. ongoing</td>
<td>L.T. Huynh</td>
<td>01/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD. ongoing</td>
<td>T.H.Y Tran</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>12/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD. ongoing</td>
<td>S. Ahmad</td>
<td>06/09</td>
<td>12/13</td>
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<td>PhD. ongoing</td>
<td>T.T. Pham</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. ongoing</td>
<td>R. Carrington</td>
<td>06/06</td>
<td>02/14</td>
<td>06/14</td>
</tr>
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Seminars

Lovell, C.A.K. *Imperfect Optimisation*. Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland, 4 April.


Rao, D.S.P. *Levels and trends in regional and global inequality and poverty, 1993 - 2011: How sensitive are these to the choice of PPPs and Real Incomes?* Maastricht University, 2 October.

Rao, D.S.P. *Dramatic Revisions to the size of the World Economy and Levels of Inequality and Poverty: Reconciling the 2005 and 2011 International Price Comparisons*. University of Graz, 5 November.
Short Courses

Fare, R. and S. Grosskopf (2014) *Joint Production and Externalities*, University of Queensland, Australia, 7 July.


Simar, L. and V. Zelenyuk (2014) *Bootcamp on the Bootstrap: Introduction to Bootstrap Methods*, University of Queensland, Australia, 7 July.


Conferences and Workshops

*Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference*, University of Queensland, Australia, 8-11 July.

*Workshop on Inter-Country and Intra-Country Comparisons of Prices and Standards of Living* (jointly with University of Florence), Arezzo, Italy, 1-3 September.

*Advanced Efficiency and Productivity*, University of Queensland, 3 October.
**Significant External Service**

**Avkiran, N.**
- Guest Editor of a special issue of *OMEGA (The International Journal of Management Science)* on Network DEA in the Service Sector.
- Member of the Scientific Committee for 12th International Conference on Data Envelopment Analysis, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14-17 April.

**Lovell, C.A.K.**
- Member of Scientific Advisory Committee, European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis
- Member of Advisory Committee, North American Productivity Workshop
- Member of Organizing Committee, Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference
- Co-editor (with T.-T. Fu & C. Huang) of a special issue of the *Journal of Productivity Analysis* containing selected papers from the 2010 Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference.

**O’Donnell, C.J.**
- Co-Editor, *Journal of Productivity Analysis*
- Member of Editorial Board, *Empirical Economics*
- Member of Organizing Committee, Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference

**Peyrache, A.**
- Associate Editor, *Journal of Productivity Analysis*
- Co-Chair of Organizing and Scientific Committees, Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference (APPC)
- Co-editor (with V. Zelenyuk) of a special issue of the *Journal of Productivity Analysis* containing selected papers from the 2014 Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference.

**Rao, D.S.P.**
- Elected Member of the Council of the Society for Economic Measurement (since 2013).
- Elected Member of the Council of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (for the period 2012-2018).
- Member, Results Review Group for ICP 2011, World Bank (for the period 2013-2014).
- Associate Editor, *Journal of Productivity Analysis*
- Co-Editor, *Review of Income and Wealth* (from 1 August, 2014)
- Member of Editorial Board, *Review of Income and Wealth* (until 30 July 2014)
- Member of Organizing Committee, Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference
- Organised two sessions on the International Comparison Program at the General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, Rotterdam, 24-30 August.
Zelenyuk, V.

- Associate Editor, *Journal of Productivity Analysis*
- Co-Chair of Organizing and Scientific Committees, Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference (APPC)
- Co-editor (with A. Peyrache) of a special issue of the *Journal of Productivity Analysis* containing selected papers from the 2014 Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference.
Visitors to the Centre:

Christine Amsler  
*Michigan State University*  
4 June – 1 August

Bert Balk  
*Erasmus University*  
6 July – 16 July

Philippe Bontems  
*Toulouse School of Economics*  
26 April – 9 May

Christophe Bontemps  
*Toulouse School of Economics*  
29 September – 10 October

Erwin Dievert  
*University of British Columbia*  
17 October - 1 November

Rolf Fare  
*Oregon State University*  
6 – 11 July

Emili Grifell-Tatjé  
*Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*  
18 June – 15 August; 20 September – 30 October

Shawna Grosskopf  
*Oregon State University*  
6 – 11 July

Heikki Kauppi  
*University of Turku, Finland*  
18 January – 14 February

Subhash Ray  
*University of Connecticut*  
17 July - 25 July

Peter Schmidt  
*Michigan State University*  
4 June – 1 August
Robin Sickles  
*Rice University*  
1 July – 30 October

Leopold Simar  
*Université Catholique de Louvein*  
30 June – 13 July

Marcel Timmer  
*University of Groningen*  
28 June – 15 July
Agreed objectives for 2015 Calendar Year

- Continue to produce high quality journal publications.
- Continue to provide high quality supervision to our PhD students and encourage them to produce journal publications from their research.
- Continue to attract high profile visitors and good quality PhD students to work on projects undertaken by CEPA staff.
- Continue to seek external research funding through consultancies and grants.
- Deliver one or more 3-day short-courses on productivity and efficiency analysis methods.
- Run one or more 1-2 day workshops on productivity and efficiency topics.

Centre Director
Professor C.J. O’Donnell

Head of School
Professor Rodney Strachan