

2018 YOUNG ECONOMIST AWARD NOMINATION

Citation: Professor Rachel Ong Viforj

Rachel's research has delivered original scholarly contributions that are highly relevant to international debates in the fields of housing economics and population ageing. She has published widely on the financialisation of the family home, housing asset based welfare in retirement, intergenerational housing concerns, housing affordability dynamics, and the links between housing and the economy. She has co-developed an ongoing international research program that led to the first Australia-UK micro-social analysis of channels from housing wealth to consumption and equity exchange at the edges of home ownership. The program is additionally innovative because of its integration of multi-disciplinary and cross-country perspectives.

Rachel's research profile features a unique ability to integrate economic techniques with other disciplines to produce high-quality interdisciplinary research. She has published widely in globally prestigious interdisciplinary journals including *Urban Studies*, *Housing Studies*, *Environment and Planning A* and *Journal of Social Policy*, as well as internationally esteemed economics journals including *Journal of Housing Economics* and *Feminist Economics*.

Rachel has made high-impact research contributions that have influenced policy development. She is a co-designer of Australia's first and only dynamic housing microsimulation model that allows for the modelling of policy changes over more than ten years using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey. She has been commissioned to conduct numerous policy simulations to shed light on the distributional and budgetary impacts of housing related policies including for the *Australia's Future Tax System Review*. Her research is often cited in Federal and State parliamentary debates and senate inquiry reports.

Rachel has been invited to deliver addresses at high-profile forums such as the National Press Club and Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. She has participated in national policy roundtables and served on expert panels. Her research has attracted considerable media attention including coverage by the *Australian Financial Review*, *The Age* and *Sky News*. She is one of four academics, and the only economist, whose name is featured on cover of *The Conversation's* 2017 Yearbook.

As a mark of her standing in the economics profession, Rachel was invited to join the National Economic Panel in 2017. The Panel comprises leading economists in Australia who comment on topical economic issues. Rachel is currently Editor-in-Chief of the *Economic Papers*, which features high-quality research in applied economics and economic policy analysis. She has been elected as the Helen Cam Visiting Fellow by Cambridge University for the 2018-19 academic year.