

Professor Gigi Foster

ESA Victorian Branch Nomination for ESA Young Economist Award:

The purpose of the Young Economist Award is to honour that Australian economist under the age of 40 who is deemed to have made a significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge.

Dr Gigi Foster is a Professor in the School of Economics, at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Dr Foster received her BA from Yale University in 1996 (majoring in Ethics, Politics, and Economics) and her PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland in 2003.

Dr Foster's research contributions spans several fields of literature, including education, social influence, corruption, laboratory experiments and time use. A distinguishing feature of Dr Foster's research contribution is her multidisciplinary approach towards issues the frontiers of the economics profession.

Dr Foster's contributions to economic thought and knowledge are illustrated by her expansive record of research outputs. She has authored over 25 research articles in academic journals including the *Journal of Public Economics*, *Economics Letters*, *Quantitative Economics*, *Human Relations*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, and *Journal of Economic Psychology*. She has published a holistic treatise on behavioural economics, titled *An Economic Theory of Greed, Love, Groups, and Networks*, co-authored with Paul Frijters and published by Cambridge University Press in 2013. She has published seven book chapters and served as an editor with Charlene Kalenkoski on the 2016 publication by Palgrave MacMillan, titled *The Economics of Multitasking*.

According to Google Scholar, as at 1 May 2019, Dr Foster's publications have amassed 902 citations, generating a current h-index¹ value of 14.

The quality of Dr Foster's research pursuits are reflected in her competitive grant success, including:

- Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant to the value of AUD\$231,800, awarded over three years (2015-2017) by the ARC for the project entitled 'The Economics of Cooperative Behaviour' with Ben Greiner, Paul Frijters and Attila Ambrus
- Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant to the value of AUD\$221,000, awarded over three years (2009-2011) by the ARC in 2008 for the project entitled 'Should Rational Individuals be Optimistic? Theory, Survey Evidence, Experimental Evidence, and Policy Implications' with Paul Frijters and Benno Torgler

¹ Sourced from: <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=1f5nDlsAAAAJ&hl=en>.

- Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant to the value of AUD\$89,740, awarded over three years (2008-2010) by the ARC in 2007 for the project entitled ‘Distributional Consequences of Mass-Market Higher Education in Business’.

Dr Foster has served the economics profession in a variety of roles including as an ARC Expert Assessor, National Economics Learning Standards Working Party member, and as the most junior female member of Economic Society of Australia-Monash National Economic Panel (NEP). Dr Foster’s has contributed to Australian policy debate through national and international media outlets.

Alongside her research outputs, Dr Foster has been intensively involved in course co-ordinator, lecturer and supervisory roles. Her contribution to teaching was recently been recognised in a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning to the value of AUD\$10,000 awarded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training in 2017 under the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) program.

More recently, Dr Foster has served to help educate and engage the wider public in her co-hosting role with Peter Martin on the ABC Radio National podcast titled ‘The Economists’. She is an active advocate for the Women in Economics Network (WEN) in Australia and has given her time to feature as one of the role models in the WEN “Careers in Economics” video aimed at inspiring the next generation of young women a career in the economics profession.

Eligibility for Young Economist Award:

Eligibility requirements: Any Australian (resident) economist under the age of 40, who is a member of the Society, and who has studied and/or worked in Australia for five out of the previous ten years would be eligible.

The Society will consider nominations of individuals over the age of 40 who have had career interruptions, which when taken into account, would qualify them for nomination.

To the best of the knowledge of the members of the ESA Victorian Committee who endorse this nomination, Dr Gigi Foster fulfils these eligibility requirements by way of:

1. Possessing dual Australian and US citizenship
2. Working for at least five years, out of the past ten years, in Australia (Dr Foster was a Senior Lecturer from 2009-2004, and has been an Associate Professor since 2015, at the School of Economics at the University of New South Wales)
3. Fulfilling the caveat conditions that apply to the age restriction on this Award, owing to career interruptions (see below).

To support the third condition, Dr Foster is aged 44 years, but has raised two children and allocated a significant portion of her career time towards attending to the needs of her infirmed elderly mother. We are confident that Dr Foster’s allocation of time towards these caring roles would have otherwise seen her fulfil the ‘under the age of 40’ criteria.

Submitted by ESA Victorian Branch
