

# 26

# Global Network Conference

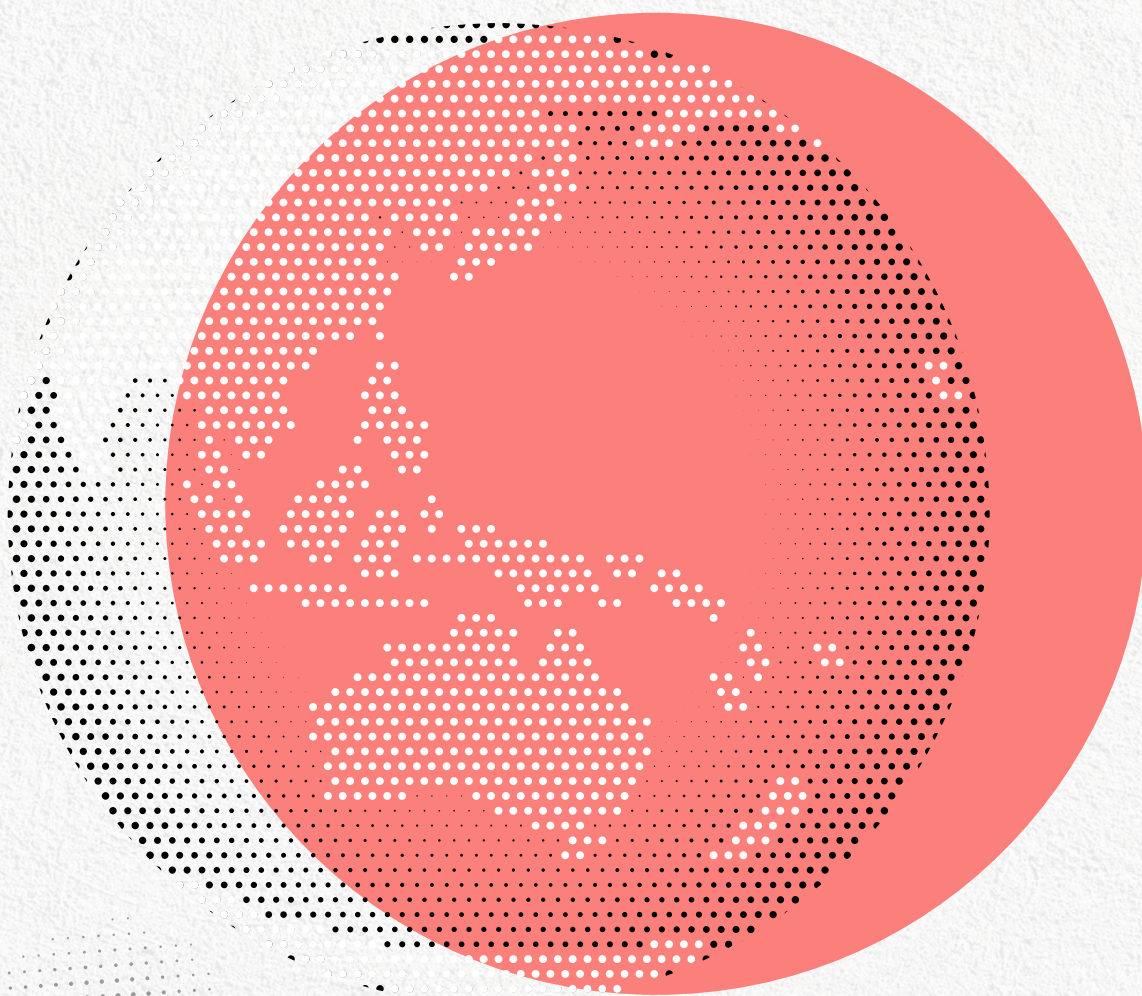
## REIMAGINING GLOBAL TRADE

Sponsored by



Australian Government

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**ACITI**  
Australian Centre for International  
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

co-hosting with



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

China International Business  
& Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre

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# DAY 1 SCHEDULE

9.30 – 10.30 am

Registration opens, Networking and morning tea

10.30 – 10.45 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks

10.45 – 11.00 am

A Word from our Sponsor TDM

## **Panel 1: Global Trade - What has Changed and Why Does it Matter?**

11.00 – 12.30 pm

**Moderator:** Dr Prudence Gordon - Executive Director, ACITI

Prof James Laurenceson - Director Australia-China Relations Institute, UTS

Patricia Holmes - First Assistant Secretary, Trade Law and Economic Security Division and Chief Trade Law Officer, DFAT

Stefano Moritsch - Global Geopolitics Lead, KPMG

12.30 – 2:00 pm

Lunch

2.00 – 3.30 pm

## **Panel 2: How is Trade Used to Achieve National Security Objectives and is it Effective?**

**Moderator:** Prof Weihuan Zhou - CIBEL, UNSW

Simon Lacey (Virtual) - Founder, Market Access X

Hayley Channer - Director of the Economic Security Program with the USSC, University of Sydney

Prof Lisa Toohey - CIBEL, UNSW

# THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER

Afternoon Tea

3.30 – 4.00 pm

**Panel 3: Is Mark Carney's Vision (for an Intergovernmental System Based On Variable Geometry) realistic?**

4.00 – 5.30 pm

**Moderator:** Mr Philipp Ivanov -  
CEO, GRASP

Chief Global Resilience Officer, RMIT  
Associate Director, ACITI,

Meredith Kolsky Lewis - Buffalo School of  
Law and Victoria University of Wellington  
Law School

Prof Markus Wagner - University of  
Wollongong

Prof Bernard Hoekman (Virtual) - Professor  
and Director, Global Economics, European  
University Institute in Florence, Italy



# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

9.00 – 10.30 am

## **Panel 4: Is industrial Policy Antiethical to Open Markets and How can Australia Reconcile Industry Policy Goals with Liberal Trade?**

**Moderator:** Prof Deborah Healey - CIBEL, UNSW

Louise McGrath - Head of Industry Development and Policy, Australian Industry Group

Prof Roy Green - Emeritus Professor and Special Innovation Adviser, University of Technology Sydney

Dr John Kunkel - Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the USSC, University of Sydney

Carl Chang - Head of Industrial Capability and Supply Chains Division, DISR

10.30 – 11.00 am

Morning Tea

11.00 – 12.30 am

## **Panel 5: How Will Emerging Technologies such as AI Impact Global Trade and How to Embrace such Technologies in Trade Policymaking?**

**Moderator:** Prof Kun Fan - CIBEL, UNSW

Anthony Wan - Founder, Clear.ai

A/Prof Han-Wei Liu (Virtual) - Associate Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Centre for Digital Law, Singapore Management University

Prof David Widdowson - Head of Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, Charles Sturt University and WiseTech Academy

# FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

Lunch 12.00 - 1.30 pm

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**Panel 6: Will Great Power Competition  
Detriment Green Trade?** 1.30 – 3.00 pm

**Moderator:** Prof Lisa Toohey -  
CIBEL, UNSW

Prof Elizabeth Thurbon -Professor of  
International Political Economy and  
Founder and Director of the Green Energy  
Statecraft Project, UNSW

Joanna Kay - Program Director,  
The Superpower Institute

Namali Mackay - Managing Director, Critical  
Minerals Association Australia

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Afternoon Tea 3.00 - 3.30 pm

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**Panel 7: Does a New Era of Global Trade  
Require New Approaches to Risk  
Management** 3.30 - 5.00 pm

**Moderator:** Stephen Walters - Principal  
and Chief Economist, Optimal Economics  
and Associate Director, ACITI

George Riddell - Managing Director,  
Goyder Ltd

Yann Duval (Virtual)- Chief Trade and  
Policy and Facilitation Section, UN ESCAP  
(Bangkok)

Dr Merriden Varrall - Founder and CEO,  
Vantage Geopol and Associate Director,  
ACITI

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Closing Remarks 5.00 - 5.15 pm

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# Speaker Biographies



**DR PRUDENCE GORDON**

*Executive Director, ACITI*

Dr Prudence Gordon is Executive Director and founder of the Australian Centre for International Trade and Investment (ACITI). Prior to founding ACITI, Pru was an adviser to three Australian Ministers for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Other roles include General Manager, Trade and Economics at the National Farmers Federation and officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). At DFAT, Pru worked in the Office of Trade Negotiations and the China Economic and Trade Section. She spent three years as a diplomat working in the Trade Branch of the Australian Embassy in Washington DC. Prior to joining DFAT, Pru worked in the School of Politics and International Relations at UNSW, and the Department of International Relations at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU. This followed three years as Dean at Fenner Hall, at the ANU.

Pru has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of New South Wales, a Master of Arts (International Relations) from the Australian National University, and a Doctor of Philosophy (International Political Economy) from the University of New South Wales.

Professor James Laurenceson is an economist and Director of the Australia–China Relations Institute at the University of Technology Sydney. His academic research has been published in leading scholarly journals including China Economic Review, Journal of Contemporary China and Australian Journal of International Affairs. Professor Laurenceson also provides regular commentary on contemporary developments in China's economy and the Australia-China economic and broader relationship in outlets such as the Australian Financial Review, The Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, South China Morning Post, amongst others.



**JAMES LAURENCESON**

*Australia–China Relations Institute,  
UTS*



## PATRICIA HOLMES

*First Assistant Secretary, Trade Law and Economic Security Division, DFAT*

Ms Patricia Holmes is the First Assistant Secretary, Trade Law and Economic Security Division and Chief Trade Law Officer at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ms Holmes was the Deputy Permanent representative of Australia to the WTO, UNCTAD and WIPO.

Ms Holmes formerly served as Australia's Ambassador to Argentina, chargé d'affaires of the Australian Embassy in Mexico and has previously served in Geneva WTO, PNG, and Vanuatu.

Ms Holmes holds a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Law (Hons) degree from Macquarie University; a Graduate Diploma in Legal Studies from the University of Technology, Sydney; a Master of Arts in Foreign Affairs and Trade and a Masters of Laws in Environmental Law from the ANU. Ms Holmes was admitted to the Bar of NSW and the ACT in 1992 and holds an ACT government practicing certificate.

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Stefano Moritsch heads KPMG International's global geopolitics function, helping clients around the world manage geopolitical risk and identify opportunities in a volatile environment. His work links macro political trends to sector-level challenges through strategic scenario planning, due diligence and geopolitical risk management, and he manages KPMG's global alliance with Eurasia Group. He took up the global role in 2022 after eight years in Australia advising private sector and government clients on policy and government affairs strategy, including tax, trade and energy policy reform projects for governments in Australia, Asia, Latin America and Europe. Before joining KPMG, he worked in multilateral diplomacy at the EU delegation to the UN in Geneva and as an academic researcher in international trade law.

He holds an LL.M. in International Law from the Graduate Institute, Geneva, a Master's in Diplomacy, and a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Padua.



## STEFANO MORITSCH

*Global Geopolitics Lead, KPMG*



## PROFESSOR WEIHUAN ZHOU

*CIBEL Director, UNSW*

Professor Weihuan Zhou is a recognized expert in the field of international economic law, and a Director of the China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre at the Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney. His research explores the most current and controversial issues in the field of international economic law. He has published in all top journals in this field. His work has been cited widely, including in reports of the European Parliament, the Parliament of Australia, Australia's Productivity Commission, US Congressional Research Services and the World Economic Forum.

Professor Zhou sits on the Council of Future Trade and Investment at the World Economic Forum, the Executive Council of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), and editorial boards of the World Trade Review, the Journal of International Trade Law and Policy and the Journal of WTO and China. Professor Zhou is a qualified lawyer in Australia and consults for governments and major companies on trade remedy cases and other cross-border trade and investment matters.

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Simon Lacey is the founder of Market Access X, a Hong Kong-incorporated trade and regulatory intelligence practice. Previously, he spent six years at the World Trade Institute in Berne, where he directed the MILE master's programme in international economic law and delivered trade policy programmes. He later served as an embedded adviser to the Legal Bureau of Indonesia's Ministry of Trade.

From 2015 to 2019 he was Vice President, Trade Facilitation and Market Access, at Huawei Technologies in Shenzhen. He was subsequently Senior Lecturer at the Institute for International Trade, University of Adelaide. From 2023 to 2025 he was Head of Digital Trade and Geopolitics at the World Economic Forum. His publications include contributions to the Elgar Companion to the WTO (2022), a Cambridge University Press volume on investment facilitation (2022) and the Journal of World Trade (2020). In 2026 he taught Applied Trade Policy at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing under the Foreign Expert Programme, and addressed the APEC Group on Services in Dalian. He holds a law degree from the University of Fribourg and an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.



## SIMON LACEY

*Founder, Market Access X (Virtual)*



## HALEY CHANNER

*Director of the Economic Security Program with the USSC, The University of Sydney*

Hayley Channer is Director of the Economic Security Program with the United States Studies Centre (USSC) at the University of Sydney. Hayley brings an interdisciplinary lens to her analysis, having worked as an Australian government official, Ministerial adviser, scholar, and represented global non-profit organisations.

Hayley works at the intersection of economic policy and national security and brings expertise on trade and tariffs, industrial policy, critical mineral supply chains, and public-private partnerships.

Previously, Hayley was a Department of Defence official working across the Strategy, Policy and Industry Group as well as with Defence Science and Technology (DST). Hayley's work has been published in Foreign Policy, the Australian Financial Review, and academic journals. She has spoken at the Australian Parliament House, the National Press Club, Sydney Opera House and overseas. Hayley has a Master of International Relations from the University of Queensland and a Certificate in Public Policy from the London School of Economics.

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Lisa Toohey is a Professor of Law at the UNSW Faculty of Law & Justice and a founding member of CIBEL. Her research focusses primarily on the sociolegal dimensions of international trade law and dispute resolution. She is an alumna of the Fulbright program, as the awardee of a senior fellowship sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Prior to academia, Lisa practised commercial law in Australia at Corrs Chambers Westgarth and in Vietnam at Baker & McKenzie, where she developed expertise in WTO law, dispute resolution, and general commercial practice. She has worked across East, Southeast, and Central Asia funded by the Australian, US and Canadian governments and with international donors such as the Asian Development Bank.



## PROFESSOR LISA TOOHEY

*CIBEL, UNSW*



## MR PHILIPP IVANOV

*Chief Global Resilience Officer at RMIT University, Associate Director, ACITI, CEO of GRAS*

Philipp Ivanov is a strategist and advisor on geopolitical risk, resilience and academic security, with two decades of executive experience across government, think tanks and universities. He is currently Chief Global Resilience Officer at RMIT University, where he is leading a university-wide global resilience strategy.

He is the Founder and CEO of GRASP (Geopolitical Risks and Strategy Practice), an advisory firm helping companies, governments and universities and their leaders build geopolitical resilience. A globally recognised expert on China and China-Russia relations, Philipp has been published in the New York Times, Financial Times and the South China Morning Post.

Recently, Philipp was Global Chief Programming Officer at Asia Society New York, and CEO of Asia Society Australia. Earlier, he served as a diplomat and China policy officer in the Australian Government. A Fulbright Scholar, Endeavour Executive Fellow and McKinsey Executive Leadership Program alumnus.

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Meredith Kolsky Lewis is Professor of Law at the University at Buffalo School of Law, State University of New York and Associate Professor at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School. Meredith's research focuses on international economic law, with a particular emphasis on international trade law. Her recent research has focused on plurilateralism and its interplay with, and implications, for, the multilateral trading system.

She is a founding member and former Co-Executive Vice President of the Society of International Economic Law and former co-rapporteur of the International Law Association's Committee on Sustainable Development and the Green Economy in International Trade Law. She has held leadership positions in ASIL and ANZSIL interest groups and is currently co-chair of the US APEC Study Centers Consortium. Meredith serves on several editorial boards, including the Journal of International Economic Law and Journal of World Investment & Trade.



## MEREDITH KOLSKY LEWIS

*Buffalo School of Law & Victoria University of Wellington Law School*



## PROFESSOR MARKUS WAGNER

*University of Wollongong*

Professor Markus Wagner is an internationally recognised expert in international economic law, governance, peace and security. His recent scholarship includes co-leading the ADF funded Weaponised Trade and projects on the intersection between international trade law and sustainable food systems.

He joined UOW in 2018 from Warwick Law School, and has previously worked at the University of Miami. He has a law and master's degree in international law, both at the University of Giessen, Germany. From 2002 to 2005, he worked at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany, during which time he also served as legal counsel for the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN in New York. In 2006, he graduated from Stanford Law School with an LL.M. degree. Professor Wagner subsequently clerked for then-President of the Supreme Court of Israel, Aharon Barak. Starting in 2007, he worked for the Brussels office of WilmerHale.

Professor Wagner was elected the Executive Vice-President of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) in 2018 and re-elected in 2021.

Bernard Hoekman is part-time Professor and Director, Global Economics at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

He was awarded a European Research Council Advanced Grant in 2024 for a project studying Plurilateral Integration Agreements and Noneconomic Objectives (PIANO). Previously he was Director of the International Trade Department and a Research Manager in the World Bank. He served as economist in the GATT Secretariat during the Uruguay Round.

A graduate of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, he holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. He has published over 300 articles on international cooperation, trade policy and economic development and is the co-author of *The Political Economy of the World Trading System* (with Michel Kostecki, Oxford University Press).



## PROFESSOR BERNARD HOEKMAN

*Professor and Director, Global Economics, European University Institute in Florence, Italy (Virtual)*



## PROFESSOR DEBORAH HEALEY

*CIBEL, UNSW*

Deborah Healey is a Professor in the Faculty of Law and Justice at UNSW, Sydney, where she is a Director of the China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre. She previously practised as a lawyer extensively in Australian competition law, consumer and commercial law, and in that role, she actively advised on all areas of competition law and consumer protection.

Deborah researches and writes on Australian competition law and on the developing competition law and policy of China, Hong Kong, and the ASEAN nations. She has been a regular visitor to those jurisdictions to research, write and teach. Within competition law and policy, she is particularly interested in the role of government in markets, merger regulation, and digital regulation.

Deborah is a member of the Law Council of Australia Competition Law Committee, a non-government advisor to the ICN, and a practising lawyer. She has completed projects for the OECD, UNCTAD, ASEAN, and the ACCC, and has presented at the WTO.

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Louise McGrath is Head of Industry Development and Policy at Australian Industry Group (AiG). She provides strategic leadership and guidance for AiG's policy agenda in building competitive industries through global integration, infrastructure development and innovation. Louise represents Australia in several multilateral forums, including the B20 Taskforces, Global Business Coalition and the East Asia Business Council working group on RCEP.

Louise is a board member of Standards Australia and the National Reference Group of The Australian Consortium for 'In-Country' Indonesian Studies (ACICIS). She also represents AiG on the International Trade Remedies Forum, National Committee for Trade Facilitation, the Net Zero Authority Stakeholder Group and the Modern Slavery Expert Advisory Group.



## LOUISE MCGRATH

*Head of Industry Development and Policy, Australian Industry Group*



## PROFESSOR ROY GREEN

*Emeritus Professor and Special  
Innovation Adviser, University of  
Technology Sydney*

Roy Green is Emeritus Professor and Special Innovation Adviser at the University of Technology Sydney, where he was previously Dean of the UTS Business School. He has undergraduate degrees from the University of Adelaide and a PhD in economics from the University of Cambridge. Roy has pursued a career in universities, government and industry and published widely on innovation and industrial policy, including with the OECD. Currently he chairs the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Hub and is on the boards of CSIRO, SmartSat CRC and the Industry Capability Network (ICN).

Dr. John Kunkel is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, where his work focuses on economic security and Australia-US economic relations. He has worked across a diverse range of roles as an economist, speechwriter, policy analyst, and adviser to government and industry.

Dr. Kunkel brings extensive experience at the highest levels of Australian government and industry. He served as Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Scott Morrison from August 2018 to May 2022, and earlier as speechwriter to Prime Minister John Howard from 2004 to 2007. His private sector career includes roles as Deputy CEO of the Minerals Council of Australia and Head of Government Relations, Australia for Rio Tinto.

Dr. Kunkel was a Fulbright Scholar to the United States, has a PhD from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from the University of Queensland.



## DR JOHN KUNKEL

*Senior Fellow at the USSC, The  
University of Sydney*



## CARL CHANG

*Head of Division, Industrial Capability and Supply Chains, DISR*

Carl Chang is the Head of Industrial Capability and Supply Chains Division at the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, leading policy and coordination on economic resilience, critical supply chains, industrial capability, and defence industry policy. Prior to this, he led the Commercialisation Division, delivering policy and programs that support research, development, commercialisation, and attracted investment, and helped innovative Australian businesses bring ideas to market.

Carl has extensive national security and international experience. He previously worked at the Office of National Intelligence and served overseas with DFAT in Beijing, New Delhi, Tokyo, and Hong Kong.

Carl was awarded an Australian Intelligence Medal in the 2026 Australia Day Honours for distinguished service to the National Intelligence Community.

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Dr. Kun Fan is Professor of Law at UNSW Law and Justice. Her research focuses primarily on international dispute resolution and China's engagement with the international legal order.

She has held visiting appointments at leading institutions, including as Scholar-in-Residence at WilmerHale, Visiting Scholar at Harvard Yenching Institute, University Paris Panthéon-Assas, and Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy.

Professor Fan also has extensive experience in ADR practice, having acted as counsel, legal expert, arbitrator, tribunal secretary and domain names panelist. During her time as Deputy Counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration, she oversaw more than 100 international arbitrations. She is admitted to the New York Bar, an accredited mediator of the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited, a domain names panelist for CIETAC, HKIAC, ADNDRC, and an arbitrator with a number of arbitration institutions in China and internationally.



## PROFESSOR KUN FAN

*CIBEL, UNSW*



## ANTHONY WAN

*Founder, Clear.AI*

Anthony Wan is the founder of Clear.ai, an AI-native software company with a mission to accelerate freight. Clear.ai allows freight forwarders and customs brokers to deploy industry-leading AI agents that save time and money. Anthony believes the next generation of freight companies won't win by simply bolting software onto old processes. They'll rebuild how work flows through the business from the ground up. In that future, software takes care of the repetitive work; giving people more time to solve problems, serve customers, and grow the business. Clear.ai exists to help every logistics company succeed in the AI era.

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Han-Wei Liu is Associate Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Centre for Digital Law at Singapore Management University. His research focuses on law and technology, international economic law, and comparative law. He has served in the ASIL International Law and Technology Interest Group and the ILA Committee on Artificial Intelligence and International Law.

He holds visiting and adjunct positions at Melbourne, Monash, and National Taiwan University, and editorial roles at the Journal of World Trade, Chinese (Taiwan) Yearbook of International Law and Affairs, Chinese Journal of Comparative Law, and European Journal of Comparative Law and Governance.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HAN-WEI LIU

*Associate Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Centre for Digital Law, Singapore Management University (Virtual)*



## PROFESSOR DAVID WIDDOWSON

*Head of the Centre for Customs and  
Excise Studies, Charles Sturt  
University*

Professor David Widdowson heads the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at Charles Sturt University, Australia. He is the Head of Customs Studies at Wisetech Academy, the founder and president of the International Network of Customs Universities, founder and Editor-in-Chief of the World Customs Journal, a member of the World Customs Organization's Partnership in Customs Academic Research & Development, a member of the Scientific Board of the World Customs Organization, and a member of the Australian National Committee on Trade Facilitation.

David holds a PhD in Customs Management and has over 45 years' experience in international trade regulation, including 21 years with the Australian Customs Service. In 2019 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to higher education in the field of international trade and customs. His research areas include Trade Facilitation, Regulatory Compliance Management, Risk Management and Supply Chain Security.

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Elizabeth Thurbon is a Professor of International Political Economy at UNSW Sydney and founder and Director of the Green Energy Statecraft project, a research and policy collaboration dedicated to turning the green energy transition into a source of lasting prosperity and security. The Project brings together Australian and international researchers, industry partners and other stakeholders to develop practical solutions to the transition's toughest challenges. Elizabeth has spent her career researching how governments strategically shape economic transformation, with a focus on Northeast Asia and Australia. Her recent co-authored publications include *Developmental Environmentalism: State Ambition and Creative Destruction in East Asia's Green Energy Transition* (Oxford University Press) and *Green Energy Statecraft for Comprehensive National Security* (AP4D / Harvard Kennedy School Reimagining the Economy Initiative). She currently serves as a Member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Equitable Transition.



## PROFESSOR ELIZABETH THURBON

*UNSW and Founder and Director of  
the Green Energy Statecraft project*



## JOANNA KAY

*Program Director, International Strategy, Partnerships and Engagement, The Superpower Institute*

Joanna Kay specialises in energy policy, sustainable development, and international collaboration. Prior to joining The Superpower Institute, she served as Executive General Manager at the Smart Energy Council and as the Australian Government's Specialist Advisor to the International Solar Alliance in Delhi.

Joanna was a board member at the Institute of Sustainability, Energy and Resources at Adelaide University. She has been instrumental in shaping Australia's National Hydrogen Strategy and has served on the Advisory Board for the Scaling Green Hydrogen Cooperative Research Centre. She is currently an advisor to the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Trade and Environment at the University of Adelaide.

Joanna is pursuing an MBA (Research) at the University of New England and has completed postgraduate study at Harvard University and executive programs at Yale School of Management. She mentors emerging leaders through the Paris Collaborative Global Fellowship program.

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Namali Mackay is Managing Director of the Critical Minerals Association Australia. Prior to taking on this role, Namali led on the critical minerals agenda for the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) in London where she worked with UK and Australian critical minerals stakeholders, on behalf of the Australian Government. Following Brexit, Namali was the Trade Advisor to Make UK (the UK's largest manufacturing industry body) where she worked with UK manufacturers on supply chain and trade strategies for Brexit- readiness.

Namali is a former Australian diplomat and trade negotiator, covering the trade, industry, resource and climate portfolios during her posting at the Australian High Commission in London. After her posting, Namali was appointed Group Head of International Relations at Prudential in London where she managed the Group's trade and international agenda across the ASEAN region.



## NAMALI MACKAY

*Managing Director, Critical Minerals Association Australia*

Stephen Walters is Principal and Chief Economist of Optimal Economics, based in Sydney.

Stephen previously was Chief Economist for the Business Council of Australia (BCA) and Chief Economist of NSW. Before joining NSW Treasury, Stephen was Chief Economist with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and, for 14 years, was Chief Economist for investment bank J.P.Morgan. Stephen previously was Senior Economist with Access Economics in Melbourne and International Economist with Norwich Union and Alliance Capital in the United Kingdom. He also spent seven years as an Economist with the Treasury in Perth.

Stephen holds a Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Western Australia and a Master's degree in applied finance from the University of Melbourne. He also has qualifications in journalism and graduated from the AICD's Company Directors Course in 2017. Stephen has published three books, with a fourth to be published soon.

Stephen is a member of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) and is on the advisory board of the Sydney Investors and Professionals Business Network (SIPBN). He is a former chair of the Executive Committee of the Australian Business Economists (ABE) and is on the National Executive of the Australian Republic Movement (ARM).



## STEPHEN WALTERS

*Principal and Chief Economist,  
Optimal Economics and Associate  
Director, ACITI*

George is a leading expert in international trade policy with extensive experience advising businesses on the challenges and opportunities created by global trade. He helps clients understand the implications of shifting trade dynamics, manage geopolitical risks, and develop strategies to strengthen their supply chains and capitalise on new market opportunities. Before joining the private sector, George represented the UK in trade negotiations at the WTO, OECD and G7, and served as a Special Advisor to the Kenyan government during the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference.

He has since led trade policy teams at two major consulting firms and worked with over 100 companies to develop sustainable supply chains and comply with new regulations, including the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the EU Deforestation Regulation.



## GEORGE RIDDEL

*Goyder Ltd*



## **DR YANN DUVAL**

*Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation  
Section, UN ESCAP (Bangkok)  
(Virtual)*

Dr Yann Duval is the Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) where he has been instrumental in enhancing trade policy and facilitation across Asia and the Pacific. His work includes spearheading the development of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), the ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database, and the UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation.

Duval has also been involved in the negotiation of a new intergovernmental Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, adopted as a UN treaty in 2016. His contributions have significantly impacted the trade landscape in the region, making him a key figure in the field of trade policy and facilitation.

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Dr Merriden Varrall is a geopolitical strategist and Founder and CEO of vantage geopol, where she helps organisations understand and navigate an increasingly complex global environment. She spent seven years at KPMG Australia, most recently as Lead Partner for Geopolitics. She is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Lowy Institute, having previously served as Director of the Institute's East Asia Program from 2014 to 2018, and an Associate Director at ACITI.

Merriden's spent nearly a decade living and working in China, including time as a senior UN diplomat with the United Nations Development Programme and as a lecturer in foreign policy at the China Foreign Affairs University. Earlier in her career she held policy roles with the Australian Government Treasury and the Department of Family and Community Services. She holds a PhD examining Chinese foreign policy from Macquarie University and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, a Master's degree in International Affairs from the Australian National University, and an undergraduate degree in international studies from the University of Technology Sydney.

Merriden's analysis has featured in leading outlets including The New York Times, Nikkei Asian Review, Foreign Policy and the East Asia Forum.



## **DR MERRIDEN VARRAL**

*Founder and CEO, Vantage Geopol  
and Associate Director, ACITI*

## ABOUT US

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The Australian Centre for International Trade and Investment (ACITI) is an independent not for profit, nonpartisan organisation. It is dedicated to advancing Australia's international economic management by facilitating access to information, fostering networks across business, government, academe, and civil society, and conducting and promoting research and analysis on trade and investment issues of national importance

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## OUR PURPOSE

ACITI's purpose is to increase awareness of the importance of international trade and investment for Australia and Australians; build the capacity of Australian firms to engage in international trade and investment; and strengthen Australia's policy capability to help resolve issues impeding international economic cooperation.



# WHAT WE DO

## ACITI INFO

ACITI's website provides non-technical information on Australia's trade and investment profile, policies, key issues, trade and investment partners and institutions. This resource continues to grow and evolve to support awareness and understanding of the contribution international trade and investment make to Australia.

## ACITI ACADEMY

ACITI Academy offers education and skill development courses on a range of international trade policy and practice topics.

Our courses help participants understand Australian domestic and global developments driving trade and trade policy and develop the knowledge to successfully navigate them.

## ACITI FORUM

ACITI Forum hosts regular webinars, seminars, workshops and an annual conference that bring together business, government, researchers and analysts.

## ACITI RESEARCH

ACITI Research showcases the individuals and institutions undertaking the critical research on international trade and investment topics that informs business, policy and consumer decisions. ACITI promotes this work to foster national discussions and collaboration.





**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

China International Business  
& Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre

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The China International Business and Economic Law Centre (CIBEL) is a UNSW long-term strategic initiative within UNSW Law & Justice. It is the world's largest centre outside China for the research and teaching of international business and economic law issues focusing on the impact of China domestically, in the Asia Pacific and internationally. CIBEL brings together a world-class team of scholars working at the intersection of international trade law, investment law, commercial law, and dispute resolution.

CIBEL's research leadership addresses a range of cutting-edge legal issues related to geopolitical tensions, economic industrialisation, digital transformation, green transition and supply chain resilience. Since 2018, CIBEL hosted a Global Network Conference annually to engage with stakeholders, build networks and partnerships, and expand impact in Australia and overseas.

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