Trevor Kollmann

Senior Research Fellow in Economics

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research

t.kollmann@unimelb.edu.au
(+61) 435 413 794
tmkollmann.com
ORCID LinkedIn

PROFILE

I study how government policy shapes innovation, trade and housing markets. Drawing on administrative data and causal inference, I evaluate policy impacts and inform program design and reform. My projects with DISER, Austrade, IP Australia and AHURI span R&D tax incentives, export support, patent policy and social housing.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior Research Fellow in Economics 2026 - Current
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research; University of Melbourne
Carlton, VIC

Senior Research Fellow in Economics 2024 - 2026
Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance; Swinburne University of Technology
Hawthorn, VIC

Research Fellow in Economics 2018 - 2023
Centre for Transformative Innovation; Swinburne University of Technology
Hawthorn, VIC

Lecturer in Economics 2014 - 2017
School of Economics, Finance and Marketing; RMIT University
Melbourne, VIC

Research Fellow in Applied Economics 2011 - 2014
School of Economics; La Trobe University
Bundoora, VIC

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics 2011
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ
Thesis: Housing Markets, Government Programs, and Race during the Great Depression
Advisor: Professor Price Fishback
Fields: Econometrics, Industrial Organisation, Labour Economics, Economic History

MA in Economics 2008
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

BA in Economics and Mathematics 2005
Saint John's University
Collegeville, MN

AFFILIATIONS

Adjunct Research Fellow 2026 - Current
Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance; Swinburne University of Technology
Hawthorn, VIC

Honorary Research Fellow 2026 - 2026
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research; University of Melbourne
Carlton, VIC

Visiting Scholar 2025 - 2026
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research; University of Melbourne
Carlton, VIC

Research Associate 2019 - 2023
Smart Cities Research Institute
Hawthorn, VIC

Associate Member 2018 - Current
Centre of Contemporary Australasian Business and Economic Studies; University of Wollongong
Wollongong, NSW

Research Affiliate 2012 - Current
Centre for Economic History; Australian National University
Canberra, ACT

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Small-area analysis and projections of social housing change 2025
AHURI Final Report No. 445
w/ Stephen Glackin, Steven Rowley and Piret Veeroja

Innovations in stock matching and allocations: the social housing challenge 2023
AHURI Final Report No. 394
w/ Iris Levin, Selina Tually, Jacqueline De Vries, Wendy Stone and Ian Goodwin-Smith

Does local technological specialisation, diversity and dynamic competition enhance firm creation? 2022
Research Policy
w/ Jungho Kim, Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Social interactions, residential segregation and the dynamics of tipping 2021
Journal of Evolutionary Economics
w/ Simone Marsiglio, Sandy Suardi and Marco Tolotti

Racial segregation in the United States since the Great Depression 2018
Journal of Housing Economics; Working Paper
w/ Simone Marsiglio and Sandy Suardi

The New Deal, Race, and Home Ownership in the 1920s and 1930s 2011
American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings
w/ Price Fishback

BOOK CHAPTERS

Do Trademarks Assist Global Fabless Manufacturing? 2023
Improving Intellectual Property; Working Paper
w/ Stephen Petrie, Alex Codoreanu, Russell Thomson and Elizabeth Webster

New Multi-City Estimates of the Changes in Home Values, 1920-1940 2014
Housing and Mortgage Markets in Historical Perspective; Working Paper
w/ Price Fishback

Information and the Impact of Climate and Weather on Mortality Rates during the Great Depression 2011
The Economics of Climate Change: Adaptations Past and Present
w/ Price Fishback, Werner Troesken, Michael Haines, Paul Rhode and Melissa Thomasson

WORKING PAPERS

Persuading voters with partisan TV news: a natural experiment using spatial reception data (Revise and Resubmit in American Journal of Political Science) 2026
IZA Working Paper
w/ Nicolas Hérault and Russell Thomson

Oil Price Shocks and Road Freight Firm Profitability: Evidence from Australian Firm-Level Tax Data (Submitted at Transportation Research Part E) 2026
w/ Xiao Tian, Hadi Ghaderi and Reza Tajaddini

Additionality of R&D Tax Subsidies: Evidence using Regression Discontinuity Design 2026
SSRN Working Paper
w/ Russell Thomson and Nobuaki Yamashita

Australian Opportunity Atlas 2026
w/ Melek Cigdem-Bayrem

Foreign Direct Investment and Services Exports in Australia: Evidence from International Trade Mark Registrations 2026
w/ Fatima Satter Lekhe and Russell Thomson

Trade Missions as Catalysts: Analyzing the Impact of Victorian Government Support on Export Performance 2025
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya

The Macarthur family wool business - Australia's first producer-driven Global Value Chain 2023
w/ David Paynter

REPORTS AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

CommBank-Melbourne Institute National Innovation Index: Trends in Australia's Innovative Activity and Capability 2026
Melbourne Institute Report
w/ Paul Jensen and Elizabeth Webster

R&D Spillovers, R&D Labour Mobility Effects, and the Effectiveness of R&D Subsidies 2025
Australia Department of Industry, Science and Resources Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster, Russell Thomson and Robert Breunig

Economic Impact Analysis of Austrade's EMDG Program and Trade Services 2024
Austrade Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Computer implemented inventions – patent trends at IP Australia, EPO and USPTO 2024
IP Australia Report
w/ Sarah Hegarty, Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Raising the Bar Reforms: Refining the Impact Measure on Relative Patent Scope through Text Analysis 2024
IP Australia Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya, Aneeq Sarwar and Elizabeth Webster

Social Infrastructure and Green Measures for Affordable Housing Calculator 2023
Community Housing Industry Association Report and Calculator
w/ Christian (Andi) Nygaard

Social and affordable housing in Australia: a social cost-benefit analysis (Peer Reviewed) 2023
Community Housing Industry Association Report
w/ Christian (Andi) Nygaard

Additionality and Spillovers Achieved by the R&D Tax Incentive Program (Peer Reviewed) 2023
Australia Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Report
w/ Russell Thomson, Alfons Palangkaraya and Nobuaki Yamashita

Invest Victoria Trade Index Model 2023
Invest Victoria (Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions) Report
w/ Sarah Hegarty, Le Nguyen and Elizabeth Webster

FDI and Effects on Firm Productivity 2023
Invest Victoria (Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions) Report
w/ Le Nguyen, Russell Thomson and Elizabeth Webster

Raising the Bar Reforms: Measuring the Impact on Relative Patent Scope 2023
IP Australia Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya, Aneeq Sarwar and Elizabeth Webster

Impact Evaluation of the IMCRC's futuremap®, 2018-21 2022
Innovative Manufacturing CRC Report
w/ Nobuaki Yamashita and Elizabeth Webster

Austrade Trade Index Model 2022
Austrade Report
w/ Sarah Hegarty, Alfons Palangkaraya, Elizabeth Webster and Nobuaki Yamashita

Impact of Victoria Trade Mission Program, 2012-19 2021
Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Report
w/ Russell Thomson

The effect of intangible capital on firm performance 2021
Office of Industry Innovation and Science Australia Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya, Russell Thomson, Elizabeth Webster and Nobuaki Yamashita

Impact of innovation on firm performance in the food manufacturing industry 2021
Food Standards Australia New Zealand Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Discussion on evaluating Austrade programs 2021
Austrade Report

Memo: On the cost of a housing shortage for low-income households: total forgone wider social and economic benefits 2021
Community Housing Industry Association Report
w/ Christian (Andi) Nygaard

The Impact of Design Rights on Australian Firms 2020
IP Australia Report
w/ Achinthya Koswatta, Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Analysis of Austrade Export Market Development Grants, 2012-17 2020
Austrade Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Innovation in Manufactured Food and Infant Formula Sectors 2020
Food Standards Australia New Zealand Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Impact of Austrade Tailored Services, 2012-16 2019
Austrade Report
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Effect of worker mobility on productivity in technologically advanced firms 2026
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Knowledge Capital and Worker Mobility: Evidence from Australian Administration Data 2026
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Coca and Development: The Local Economic Effects of Cocaine Production in Colombia, 2000-2020 2026
w/ Alberto Posso

Capturing FDI Spillovers on Australian Firm Productivity 2024
w/ Russell Thomson

GRANTS AND EXTERNAL INCOME

National Social Enterprise Research Project (Chief Investigator) 2026
Department of Social Services
$500,000
w/ Jo Barraket, Libby Ward-Christie and Paul Jensen

Economics of Patent Standards (Chief Investigator) 2026
IP Australia
$110,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Russell Thomson

National Innovation Index: Trends in Australia's Innovative Activity and Capability (Chief Investigator) 2026
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
$55,000
w/ Paul Jensen and Elizabeth Webster

Strategic Examination of R&D (SERD) (Chief Investigator) 2025
Australia Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
$175,000
w/ Elizabeth Webster, Alfons Palangkaraya, Russell Thomson and Robert Breunig

Small area analysis and projection of social housing change in form and location (Chief Investigator) 2024-2025
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (Category 1 Grant)
$177,000
w/ Stephen Glackin, Steven Rowley and Piret Veeroja

Computer Implemented Inventions Research (Chief Investigator) 2024
IP Australia
$88,000
w/ Sarah Hegarty and Alfons Palangkaraya

Evaluation of EMDG Grants (Chief Investigator) 2023-2024
Australia Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)
$140,000
w/ Sarah Hegarty, Russell Thomson and Elizabeth Webster

A fair rent? Facilitating residential tenancy determination through rental data analysis (Chief Investigator) 2023-2024
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (Category 1 Grant)
$54,000
w/ Terry Burke, Chris Martin, Liss Ralston and Sean McNellis

Raising the Bar Reforms: Refining the Impact Measure on Relative Patent Scope (Chief Investigator) 2023
IP Australia
$40,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Invest Victoria Trade Index Model (Chief Investigator) 2023
Invest Victoria
$50,000
w/ Sarah Hegarty, Le Nguyen and Elizabeth Webster

FDI and Effects on Firm Productivity (Chief Investigator) 2023
Invest Victoria
$70,000
w/ Le Nguyen, Russell Thomson and Elizabeth Webster

Social and Green Benefits Calculator (Chief Investigator) 2022-2023
Community Housing Industry Association
$54,000
w/ Christian (Andi) Nygaard

Testing the impact of RTB reforms using machine learning approaches to predict patent scope 2022
IP Australia
$86,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya, Aneeq Sarwar and Elizabeth Webster

IMCRC futuremap Evaluation (Chief Investigator) 2022
Innovative Manufacturing CRC
$50,000
w/ Elizabeth Webster and Nobuaki Yamashita

Trade Index Model (Chief Investigator) 2021-2022
Australia Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)
$204,000
w/ Sarah Hegarty, Alfons Palangkaraya, Elizabeth Webster and Nobuaki Yamashita

Additionality of R&D Tax Policy in Australia 2021-2022
Australia Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
$130,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya, Russell Thomson and Nobuaki Yamashita

Innovations in stock matching and allocations for social housing (Chief Investigator) 2021-2022
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (Category 1 Grant)
$116,000
w/ Iris Levin, Selina Tually, Jacqueline De Vries, Wendy Stone and Ian Goodwin-Smith

The Effect of Intangible Capital on Firm Performance 2021
Office of Industry Innovation and Science Australia
$130,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya, Russell Thomson, Elizabeth Webster and Nobuaki Yamashita

Delivery of Program Evaluation Workshop (Chief Investigator) 2021
Australian Trade and Investment Commission
$33,500

Innovation in Manufactured Food and Infant Formula Sectors (Chief Investigator) 2020
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
$24,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Social and Affordable Housing Illustrator 2020
Community Housing Industry Association
$26,500
w/ Christian Nygaard

Evaluation of the Export Market Development Grants (Chief Investigator) 2019-2020
Australia Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)
$67,800
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

R&D Spill-over effects in Australia by Fields of Research (Chief Investigator) 2019
Australian Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources
$65,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Research into drivers and impediments to design innovation in Australia (Chief Investigator) 2019
IP Australia
$67,800
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Training an Austrade Intern to Undertake Program Evaluations 2019
Australia Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)
$17,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Impact assessment of Austrade's tailored services (Chief Investigator) 2018
Australia Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)
$67,000
w/ Alfons Palangkaraya and Elizabeth Webster

Early delivery of equitable and healthy transport options in new suburbs (Chief Investigator) 2017
RMIT Enabling Capability Platforms (Internal/External)
$631,137
w/ Robin Goodman (Project Leader), Kath Phelan, Elizabeth Taylor, Larissa Nicholls, Lucy Gunn and Melanie Davern

Economic Welfare Analysis of reverse Mortgages in Australia (Chief Investigator) 2015
RMIT College of Business
$8,820
w/ Farzad Alavi Fard

Who takes up reverse mortgages? A behavioural and economic assessment of Australian retirees (Chief Investigator) 2015
RMIT College of Business
$10,000
w/ Ashton de Silva, Farzad Alavi Fard and Sarah Sinclair

Public Housing and Local Communities during the Great Depression (Chief Investigator) 2013
National Bureau of Economic Research
$1,700

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Knowledge Capital and Worker Mobility: Evidence from Australian Administration Data (Presentation) 2026
Australian Conference of Economists (2026)
Canberra, ACT

Economic Impact of the Victorian Trade Missions (Presentation) 2024
East Asia Economic Association Conference (2024)
Bangkok, Thailand

Additionality of R&D Tax Subsidies: Evidence using Regression Discontinuity Design (Presentation) 2022-2023
Asia-Pacific Innovation Conference (2022); ABS BLADE User Showcase (2023)
Various Locations

Do Trademarks Assist Global Fabless Manufacturing? (Presentation) 2019-2020
University of Liverpool (2020); Copenhagen Business School (2020); 5th Geography of Innovation Conference (2020); Asia-Pacific Innovation Conference (2019); United States Patent and Trademark Office (2019)
Various Locations

A comprehensive look at the interaction of heritage, zoning and housing values (Presentation) 2017-2019
The American Real Estate and Urban Economics National Conference (2019); Economics of Cities Workshop at Monash University (2019); Infrastructure Victoria (2017)
Various Locations

Revisiting industrial growth in interwar Turkey (Ulaş Karakoç) (Discussant) 2018
Workshop on Middle Eastern Economic History
Canberra, ACT
Organised by Laura Panza and John Tang

Racial Segregation in Interwar United States (Presentation) 2017
Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference
Melbourne, VIC
Organiser/Host at RMIT University

The Samurai Bond, Credit Supply and Economic Growth in Pre-War Japan (John Tang) (Discussant) 2017
Australasian Cliometrics Workshop
Canberra, ACT

Hedonic Price Indexes during the Great Depression (Presentation) 2014-2015
Population Association of America 2015 Annual Meeting; 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference; 2014 Australasian Cliometrics Workshop
Various Locations

Clearing the Slums? Determining the Factors that Influenced the Location of New Deal Public Housing Projects (Presentation) 2012-2013
NBER Conference on the Microeconomics of New Deal Policy (September 2011; March 2012; July 2012); Centre for Economic History Junior Economic Historian Workshop (2013)
Various Locations

Built with Good Intentions? An Examination of Public Housing Projects on Local Communities (Presentation) 2012-2013
Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference (2012); Deakin University (2012); Centre for Economic History Junior Economic Historian Workshop (2013)
Various Locations

The New Deal Race, and Housing in the 1930s (Presentation) 2011
American Economic Association
Denver, CO

Impact of African-American Migration on Housing in New York City Neighborhoods during the Great Depression (Presentation) 2010-2011
University of California-Merced (2010); University of Michigan-Dearborn (2011); La Trobe University (2011); California State University-Northridge (2011)
Various Locations

New Multi-City Estimates of the Changes in Home Values, 1920-1940 (Presentation) 2008-2009
NBER Summer Institute (Development of the American Economy (2008); Great Depression Housing and Mortgage Crisis Workshop at the St Louis Federal Reserve (2009)
Various Locations
Working Title: Housing Roller Coaster: Fluctuations in Urban Housing Markets

Information and the Impact of Climate and Weather on Mortality Rates during the Great Depression (Presentation) 2007
Sound Economic History Workshop (University of Lund)
Lund, Sweden

MEDIA AND PUBLIC EVENTS

Media Coverage Regarding the Social Infrastructure and Green Measures for Affordable Housing Calculator 2023
ABC; Mirage; Australian Property Journal; The National Tribune

Conversations with Members 2020
Smart Cities Research Institute
Melbourne, VIC

MTalks November Speakeasy: Densification and future decision-making for housing 2019
Hosted by the Smart Cities Research Institute
Melbourne, VIC

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

Export Market Development Grants Independent Review 2026
Report Citation

Ambitious Australia: Strategic Examination of R&D 2025
Report Citation

Intellectual Property Committee Meeting 2025
Presentation of Computer Implemented Inventions Research

Hayball 2024
Utilisation of SIGMAH

Austrade Market Search Tool 2022
Trade Index Model

Independent Review of Austrade EMDG 2020
Report Citation

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Non-Traditional Research Output Assessment Panel (Swinburne) 2026-Current
Member

ABS Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) Working Group 2019-Current
Member

Housing Studies 2019-Current
Referee

Journal of Economics & Management Strategy; PLOS One; Scientometrics; Journal of Economic History 2024-Current
Referee

PhD Milestone Panel Member 2018-Current
Chenhui Zhu (PhD) Federico Bignone (PhD); Stephen Cook (PhD); Le Nguyen (PhD); Babu Ram Pantha (PhD); Seyed Abbas Seyed Salehi (PhD); Aneeq Sarwar (PhD); William Scales (PhD); Nga Vo (PhD)
Swinburne University of Technology

Dataplace Data Sharing Beta Tester 2022
Office of the National Data Commissioner

PhD Thesis Examination 2020
Queensland University of Technology

External Seminar Coordinator 2019
Centre for Transformative Innovation at Swinburne University of Technology

HDR Conference Panels 2015-2017
RMIT University

CURRENT AND COMPLETED SUPERVISION

Ollie Cansdell (Co-Supervisor) 2030
Having a Plan and Sticking To It: Evidence of managerial practices and survival in Australian firms (PhD Part-Time)
Current

Andrew Duver (Co-Supervisor) 2030
Innovation in Agriculture (PhD Part-Time)
Current

Mingzhe Yuan (Primary Supervisor) 2028
Geoeconomic Shocks, Supply Base Diversification and Innovation in U.S. Semiconductor Firms (PhD)
Current

Vinuri Jayawardane (Co-Supervisor) 2028
Economic Policy Uncertainty and the Australian Economy (PhD)
Current

Sucharitha Navarathne Kahadawa Appuhamilage (Co-Supervisor) 2027
Digital Transformation and Entrepreneurship (PhD)
Current

Mohammad Danish (Co-Supervisor) 2026
Foreign Patenting, Inventor Mobility and Knowledge Spillovers: An Empirical Analysis of Firms in India (PhD)
Current

Fatima Lekhe (Co-Supervisor) 2025
The Role of the Service Industry in Global Economic Development (PhD)
Completed

David Paynter (Co-Supervisor) 2022
How Digital Technologies Assist Firms to Create their own Global Value Chains (PhD)
Completed

Students in AVA40006 (Aviation Business Research Project) 2021
Drivers, Enablers, and Challenges of Air Transport (Undergraduate)
Completed

Adrian Puglia (Supervisor) 2015
A Premium for Zoning, Impacts on Housing Demand in Melbourne (Honours)
Completed

John Buncle (Co-Supervisor) 2014
The Impact of the First Home Owners Grant on House Prices in Victoria (Honours)
Completed

TEACHING AND WORKSHOPS

Data Science Fundamentals 2024-2025
Postgraduate
Swinburne University
Co-Convener and Co-Lecturer with Alfons Palangkaraya

Developments in Program Evaluation 2021-2022
Postgraduate and Government Workshop
Swinburne University
Workshop Designer and Delivery

Urban Economics and Governance 2021-2022
Postgraduate
Swinburne University
Co-Convener and Co-Lecturer with Christian (Andi) Nygaard

Economics of Innovation
2021-2022
Postgraduate
Swinburne University
Guest Lecturer

Introduction to Stata
2015-2022
Postgraduate and Academic Workshop
Swinburne University
Workshop Designer and Delivery

Managerial Economics and Strategy
2020
2nd Year Undergraduate
Swinburne University
OUA Session Convener

Economic Policy in Society
2020
3rd Year Undergraduate
Swinburne University
OUA Session Convener

Introduction to QGIS
2017
Postgraduate and Academic Workshop
RMIT University
Workshop Designer and Delivery

Introduction to Business Statistics
2014-2017
1st Year Undergraduate
RMIT University
Convener, Lecturer and Tutor

Quantitative Analysis
2014
2nd Year Undergraduate
RMIT University
Lecturer

International Business Environment
2013
2nd Year Undergraduate
La Trobe University
Convener and Lecturer

Economics of Information and the Internet
2009
3rd Year Undergraduate
University of Arizona
Convener and Lecturer

Macroeconomic Institutions and Policy
2007-2008
2nd Year Undergraduate
University of Arizona
Convener and Lecturer

AWARDS AND HONOURS

School of Economics, Finance, and Marketing Teaching Award
2016
Improvements in Introduction to Business Statistics
Melbourne, VIC
RMIT University

RMIT University Teaching Award
2016
Business Quality Standards Project Team for Improving the First Year Student Experience
Melbourne, VIC
RMIT University

Emerging Diversity Scholar Citation
2013
National Center for Institutional Diversity
Ann Arbor, MI
University of Michigan

Allan Nevins Prize Finalist for best dissertation on U.S. Economic History topic 2011
Economic History Association

Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science Finalist for *Impact of African American Migration on Housing in New York City Neighborhoods during the Great Depression* 2011
Western Regional Studies Association

Second Place in Student Paper Competition for *Impact of African American Migration on Housing in New York City Neighborhoods during the Great Depression* 2010
IVth World Conference of the Spatial Econometrics Association

SOFTWARE EXPERTISE

Expert	Stata; QGIS; ArcGIS Pro; MS Office
Intermediate	Blender; Matlab; Geoda; LaTeX; Photoshop; Python; R
Beginner	SQL

PERSONAL

Citizenship	Australia; United States of America