

2013 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Chris O'Donnell



Chris O'Donnell is currently Professor of Econometrics, School of Economics, at the University of Queensland (UQ). He served as Deputy Head of the School of Economics 2009-2011 and as acting Head of School for a short period. Chris has been Director of the Centre for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis at UQ since July 2007 and prior to coming to Queensland was Director of a similarly named centre at the University of New England (UNE) for part of the year 2002.

Professor O'Donnell's academic record includes a BAgEc (Hons) from UNE, MComm from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), and PhD from the University of Sydney. Immediately after graduating in agricultural economics from UNE, he spent four years as an economist with the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation. His subsequent positions have all been in tertiary education, including the Department of Econometrics at the University of Sydney, Department of Econometrics at the UNSW, Departments of Econometrics and Economics at UNE, and School of Economics at UQ. His academic journey has also involved Visiting Professorships at the University of Guelph, Texas A&M University, Universidad de Oviedo, and Universidad Autonoma Barcelona, both of these latter institutions in Spain.

Chris has an impressive publication record, mostly focussed on efficiency analysis in agriculture in a large number of overseas countries as well as Australia, but his articles also include work as diversified as estimating support prices and measures of productivity change in public hospitals, optimal paths and costs of adjustment in Chilean department stores (an application of dynamic DEA models), predicting the severity of motor vehicle accident injuries using models of ordered multiple choice, and using demographic risk factors to explain variations in the incidence of violence against women. He has also studied sources of productivity change in the manufacturing sectors of the U.S. economy and technical efficiency and returns to scale for U.S. electricity utilities.

With colleagues originally at UNE and subsequently at UQ, Chris has been a partner in a world-class centre that developed widely used measures of productivity and efficiency change in agriculture and business. A notable feature of this work has been the determination of efficiency in the presence of uncertainty and estimating returns to scale in production frontiers with stochastic assumptions. Centre staff were responsible for the publication of the influential book *An Introduction to Efficiency and Productivity Analysis* in 2005.

Chris and colleagues have been frequent contributors of papers to Australian and international conferences (including AARES, with at least eight contributed papers since 1985). He served as co-editor

of the *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (July 2001 to December 2004), was a member of the editorial board of the *Review of Marketing and Agricultural Economics* (1994-1996), and has been an associate editor of *Empirical Economics* (since October 2012). He was associate editor of the *Journal of Productivity Analysis* (September 2009-December 2012), and associate editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization* (August 2002 and December 2009). Since January 2013, he has been co-editor of the *Journal of Productivity Analysis*.

Professor O'Donnell's service to AARES began as a member of the UNE Branch Committee in the years 1992-1995. He served as president of AARES in 2008-09 and has been active in other professional societies. He was Section Leader (Research Methods/Econometrics) for the International Association of Agricultural Economists Conference, held in Brazil in 2012, and a member of the Australasian Standing Committee of the Econometric Society between 2005 and 2009. He has been a reader for the Australian Research Council since 2008 and a member of Australian Bureau of Statistics Productivity Measurement Reference Group in that period as well.