

## 2026 AARES Distinguished Fellow Associate Professor Steven Schilizzi



Steven Schilizzi, Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia, has made sustained and distinguished contributions to research, teaching, and professional service in agricultural, environmental, and resource economics domestically and internationally. Since joining UWA in 1996, he has been a central figure in Australia's only remaining university department dedicated to agricultural and resource economics, shaping both its academic direction and its engagement with national and global issues.

Steve's early research focused on farming systems and whole-farm modelling, often in collaboration with international teams. From the late 1990s, his work expanded to environmental issues such as dryland salinity, greenhouse gas abatement, and groundwater management. In the early 2000s, he became a leading researcher on market-based policy mechanisms for environmental management, with a long-standing focus on conservation tenders that benefited from ARC funding and collaborations in Australia and Germany. His research has addressed tender design, participation, risk, and the integration of insurance mechanisms, providing valuable insights for both policy and practice. His latest research, also ARC-funded, focuses on non-financial instruments as enhancers of economic interventions to transition agriculture and natural resource management towards more environmentally sustainable practices.

A major strand of Steve's scholarship has centred on international development, frequently co-authored with his PhD students. This work, mostly funded by ACIAR and DFAT, spans topics such as aquaculture in Vietnam, food security and poverty in Pakistan, environmental impacts and diets in China, and food safety and natural disasters in developing countries. He has also made influential contributions to research methods in applied economics, publishing on optimisation, model validation, agent-based modelling, discounting, and experimental economics. Beyond these core themes, his research has encompassed a wide range of issues including sustainable agriculture, fisheries management, ecological footprints, business and the environment, and water-sensitive urban design.

Steve's impact is reflected in over 4300 citations on Google Scholar (H-index 35) and 1720 on Scopus (H-index 23) from 83 academic publications, supported by \$3.9 million in competitive research funding, as well as five academic books. He is known for his intellectual curiosity, collaborative spirit, and generosity as a colleague. As Professor John Rolfe notes, "Steve's bubbling enthusiasm and excitement about trying new theories have always made him great to work with. His curiosity leads him to integrate different people and travel experiences into his research projects, and I suspect that his best work has always been done in a coffee shop in a foreign country with good friends." He has

been an ARC project assessor since 2016 and has been invited to the scientific committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> WCERE World Congress in 2026.

In the classroom, Steve has been an innovative and dedicated teacher, embedding experimental economics in undergraduate learning for which he has been working to set up a new experimental lab at UWA. He has supervised or is supervising 18 Masters and Graduate Diploma students and 22 PhD students, four of whom have received the AARES Prize for Best PhD Thesis. He has been asked to assess PhDs and early career academics for promotion by several universities in Australia and overseas.

Over three decades, Steve has been an active and generous contributor to AARES. He has organised numerous conference symposia and workshops, chaired the PhD Prize Committee, mentored early-career researchers, and twice received AARES publication awards. He has published extensively in *AJARE*, regularly reviewed for the journal, and been invited to apply twice for its editorship. In 2021 he invited 2002 Economic Nobel laureate Vernon Smith to present at the AARES conference on auction mechanisms as policy instruments. In 2024, he was invited to deliver the AARES WA Branch Annual Address on *“The Role of AI in Education and Its Impact on Student Excellence and Research.”*

Through his research, teaching, and service, Professor Schilizzi has made a lasting contribution to the advancement of agricultural and resource economics in Australia and abroad.