

# AJASN Newsletter

November 2017

## Public service (& related)

### Inside

- 1 Public service
- 2 Changing workplace
- 2 Health
- 2 Urban & Built
- 3 Education, science & technology
- 4 Frames
- 4 Forward Looks
- 5 News
- 5 Websites / Material
- 5 Events

This LSE [blog](#) discusses how to make research influence policy (i.e. impact.)

Policy makers would benefit from official statistics that encompass new forms of work according to this [paper](#).

A [new report](#) calls for governments to open up their black-box algorithms. The Centre for Public Impact (BCG) published three bulletins on AI's impact [on government](#), its impact [on policy](#), and one more which covers [the risks](#).

The Productivity Commission's search for a new policy model for [reform](#) seems to retreat from the goal of smaller government. The general public has [seemingly](#) swung away from 'a preference for small government and a ruthless approach to cost efficiency, to one where government has a larger role, especially in service delivery, and greater impact.'

This article has an interesting narrative about large ('mega') [project failures](#) and some of the reasons behind failure.

The financial returns from *impact investing* are on par with mainstream investments, according to a [recent report](#). In November a 12-year-long an experiment was started in Kenya involving 6,000 people and \$30 million to test the potential success of [basic income](#). By the year, 2030, researchers will have troves of data on how basic income has affected thousands. Young people are almost twice as likely to need [social welfare payments](#) if their parents have a history of receiving such assistance In Australia. The UK Social Mobility Commission report [Time for Change](#) assessed government policies in Britain over the last 20 years to increase social mobility. It found that public policy was not as impactful as it should be, and it points to five underlying reasons.

The Australian Government has invested \$9.5 million in a new gender-sensitive poverty metric, the [Individual Deprivation Measure](#) (IDM). It measures poverty at the individual level and assesses poverty on multiple dimensions beyond money, including access to food, clothing, family planning, and freedom from violence. It has been piloted in several countries and will be ready for global use by 2020.

NATO [discusses](#) the *2017 Strategic Foresight Analysis Report: An Analysis of Trends Shaping the Future International Security Environment*. (It will be released in 2018.)

Dutch designer Rudy van Belkom has envisioned [a radical new electoral system](#) that would allow voters to pick and choose policies from different political parties.

DFAT released a [report](#) on the economic impacts of Australian trade liberalisation. A [critique](#) of the report says that it overestimates the potential effect of trade protectionism.

The right to repair movement is discussed [here](#) – it is already driving legislative change in France and the U.S. This affects what it means to 'own' things.

The UK released its [Industrial strategy](#) white paper. It uses very different language than is the tradition for these types of documents. The strategy is [discussed](#) by the Behavioural Insights team in a blog post. (The BI team also provides an [overview](#) of 'Behavioural Insights' work in Australia in a different post.)

A [paper](#) says policy development cannot be solely evidence-based as it is also linked to cognitive and contextual factors.

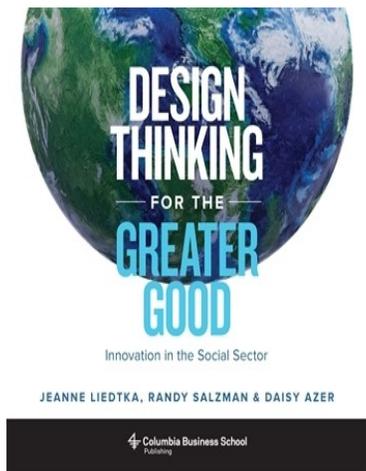
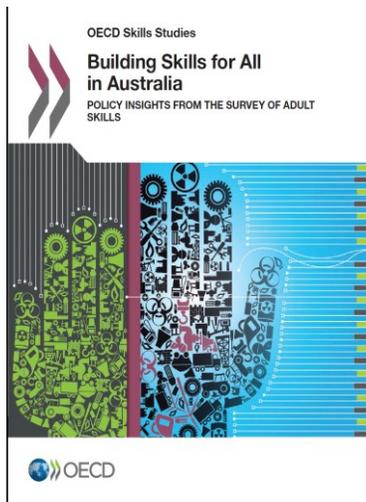
LARGEST LOSSES IN ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY: 2005 - 2015



Australia's declining economic complexity discussed [here](#).

Feedback to Kate Delaney  
[kate.delaney@jrca.net.au](mailto:kate.delaney@jrca.net.au)

Thanks to Tim Lester, Dr Bob Frame, & Dr Louise Osborne



Equality and Human Rights Commission

## Improving the relationship between line managers and female staff:

Testing a perspective-taking exercise

Tiina Likki, Kristina Londakova and Janna Ter Meer  
The Behavioural Insights Team

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Click images for link

## Changing workplace

This is a [Canadian report](#) on how millennials and Gen Z are redefining the future of work. Another [report](#) 'Preparing young people for the future of work' was released earlier in the year by the Mitchell Institute (Melbourne.)

A Singaporean [paper](#) links negative employment trends to national security concerns (like anarchy); a [view](#) from PM&C (Australia) on the implications of technological change for the labour market. Finland's Government [Report](#) on the Future, Part 1: A Shared understanding of the transformation of work.

And, a report from the international Labour Organization – [here](#).

This [article](#) examines the relationship between the growth of the gig economy, the social security payment system and growing instability in housing (in Australia).

## Health

A [WHO report](#) shows a serious lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance. But, bacteria keep [swapping resistance genes](#) even with no antibiotics around (i.e. reducing antibiotic use might not work.)

Increases in the population [without living family](#) may represent a growing public health concern. Life expectancy gains track with who voted for Hillary Clinton (above average gains) and Donald Trump (below average gains) in the 2016 presidential election according to a [paper](#).

This work suggests [e-cigarette](#) use could backfire, leading to reduced chances of quitting.

## Urban, & built environment

Boston's new [RentSmart website](#) allows renters to see all of the housing and service complaints for a property filed within the past five years.

A [new study](#) says that the smaller the city, the greater the impact it faces from automation.

To improve air quality, London [introduced a new toxicity charge](#) in effect on weekdays from 7am to 6pm, penalising drivers of old, polluting cars (on top of its existing congestion charge.)

Texas developer Hines is planning to build a six-storey all-[timber](#) office block in central Chicago, the city's first major wooden building since the 19th century.

According to a new [report](#) from OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), the number of passenger cars in the world will almost double by 2040 – driven mainly by increased demand in Asia. Oil demand is not expected to keep up.

In London new [geospatial mapping software](#) has identified locations for 41,000 new dwellings on unused roofs.

A [trial](#) of 1,400 drivers across Melbourne shows road user charging can change driver behaviour in ways that ease congestion. And, Australia Post trials [delivery robots](#) (that have some way to go.)

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) recently launched a report exploring the use and impact of [artificial intelligence \(AI\) in the built environment](#).

This article says [smart cities](#) may be the death knell of privacy as we know it.

## Education, science & technology

A new [article](#) reveals that large corporations are investing less in science (across a range of industries.) The research also found that the value attributed to scientific research has dropped while the value attributed to technical knowledge (as measured by patents) has remained stable. Companies appear to be focusing more on developing existing knowledge and commercialising it, rather than on creating new knowledge through basic research.

In new [work](#) John P. A. Ioannidis et al looked at empirical economics research. They conclude that the field is diseased, with one fifth of the subfields investigated showing a 90% incidence of under-powered studies – a good indicator of low-quality research – and a widespread bias in favour of positive effects. (Ioannidis' earlier work on science replicability contributed to popularization of science credibility questions.)

The [article](#) 'Academic journal publishing is headed for a day of reckoning' discusses 'journal' business models and costs (that are unsustainable.) Scholarly publishing giants Elsevier and the American Chemical Society (ACS) have filed a lawsuit in Germany against [ResearchGate](#) alleging copyright infringement on a mass scale. This article is quite critical of [peer review](#). And the Federal Trade Commission has filed a lawsuit against 3 [predator publishing](#) companies.

Australia is 23<sup>rd</sup> in the world on the [Global Innovation Index](#) that shows Australia is an *inefficient* innovator. Although Australia puts much effort into the elements that underpin innovation (12<sup>th</sup> in world on inputs) it has not yet seen results (30<sup>th</sup> on outputs of innovative activities.) This discrepancy leaves Australia ranked 76<sup>th</sup> in the world in innovation efficiency.

A [study](#) finds floating open ocean wind turbines create (up to) three times the electricity as turbines on land, increasing the energy potential for a technology that has yet to be proven at scale. A [report was released](#) by ACOLA & the Office of the Chief Scientist on energy developments. This [article](#) says the once successful OPEC cartel is dead. A new [study](#) by ANU has found Australia can meet its 2030 carbon emissions target by replacing coal-fired power stations with renewables at zero net cost.

New [technologies such as hearables](#) could be changing how innovators approach older people (book link next page.)

This [article](#) suggests AI (machine learning) systems are being tricked already and warns 'the rewards for learning how to trick them will likely outweigh the costs.'

A Deloitte [report](#) *Soft Skills for Business Success* reports that two-thirds of jobs will be "soft skills intensive" by 2030, compared to half of all jobs in 2000. Axios claims the [MBA is dying](#) in the United States.

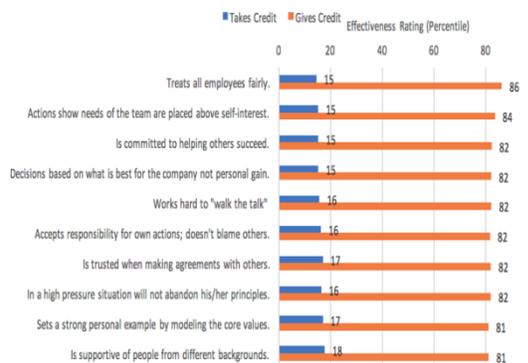
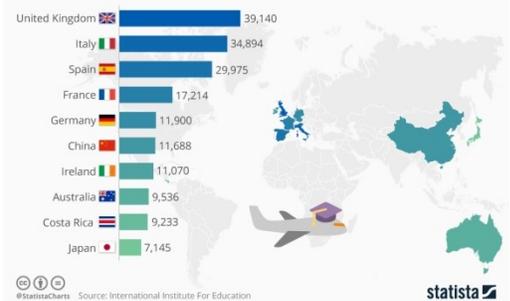
Australian students performed well coming in 10<sup>th</sup> on PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) testing for collaborative [problem solving](#) (NZ 9<sup>th</sup>.)

A comprehensive review suggests that the instructional [practices of preschool teachers](#) have the largest impact on young children's academic and social skills.

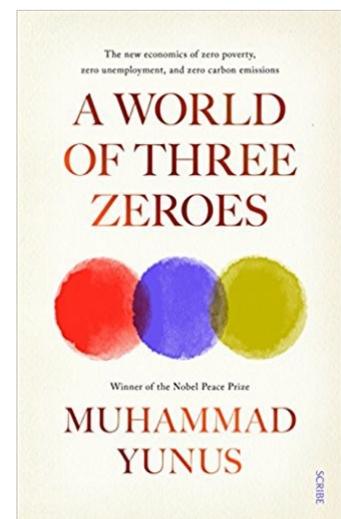
This paper looks at how to reverse the decline of international student numbers: [An audit of international student mobility to the UK](#).

### Europe Top Choice For U.S. International Students

Leading destinations for U.S. international students in 2015/16



This [graph](#) comes from a 10 Nov 2017 Forbes article by Joseph Folkman, article in AJASN database.



Yunus won the Nobel for his work in microfinance. He encourages us to see the world not through the lens of profit, but of social impact.

## Frames / framing

This paper assesses the relative likelihood of a crisis emerging from a period of [zero growth](#) versus a period of positive growth. An economy based on zero growth could be more stable, experiencing fewer crashes, and bring higher wages.

This [report](#) says that claims that income inequality is high and increasing in Australia are wrong. Income inequality is lower today than 15 years ago and is around the OECD average.

This [article](#) says unless we change our thinking (and reform parliament) away from the two-party politics mindset 'it is inevitable that the parliament will be permanently in gridlock with no government controlling the Senate.'

This [work](#) argues that we need to challenge *political thinking* about the role of small business in the economy.

Community citizen science – where volunteers actively lead and conduct research, taking control and ownership – is on the rise ([RAND](#).)

This [commentary](#) argues that blockchain has no economic future.

An opinion piece makes the case that the [notion of peak oil](#) is misguided. A Swedish power plant is burning H&M clothing as a way to move closer to becoming a fossil-fuel free facility by 2020, [according to Bloomberg](#).

This [research](#) finds increasing feelings of physical safety (less fear) increases conservatives' socially progressive attitudes.

The return on investment for R&D dollars spent is a topic of debate. This [article](#) suggests 'The issue may not be that spending on research and development is becoming less productive, but that the economy is missing important complementary investments into research translation and change management.'

## Forward looks

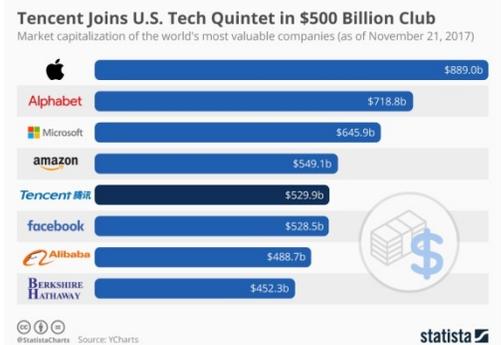
This article provides an interesting summary of foresight essentials: [The Futures Problem: Why Big Organizations Have Problems Making Long-Term Forecasts and What to Do About It](#)

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy recently announced the creation of the [Consortium for Scenario Planning](#), "an initiative to bring together urban planners, software developers, researchers, and others from the public, private, academic, and nonprofit sectors to build capacity for better land use and transportation planning." The Lincoln Institute recently published a white paper written by Robert Goodspeed titled "[An Evaluation Framework for the Use of Scenarios in Urban Planning](#)."

With all the advances being made in technology 'it's time for state transportation departments to be innovative and forward thinking, but that is not the case,' according to the latest edition of McKinsey & Co.'s *Voices on Infrastructure* report. (This [link](#) is to a piece on the department of transport of the future.)

This [opinion piece](#) says 'The pipeline effect of people getting older without being able to purchase will produce even higher numbers of homeless older people, most whom will be women.'

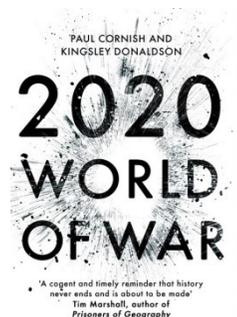
The [rapid aging](#) of East Asia (includes China, Hong Kong, Japan, North and South Korea, Mongolia, Macao, and Taiwan) is one of the most important demographic trends of the past half-century.



Tencent China 'became one of five most valuable companies in world by market capitalisation'



A better [future](#) ... where politicians work directly with those who voted for them



A worse future ... discussed [here](#)

**QUOTE:** 'For a movement that prides itself on providing a cornucopia of knowledge, it's astounding the extent to which citizen science is predicated upon glaring ignorance. It involves blindness concerning motives and agendas, and blindness about scientific practice among participants.' ([Source](#))

**Bottom line:** ... question citizen science

