

Visit by Professor Kathleen Lahey, Queens University, Canada November 2015

The Tax and Transfer Policy Institute (TTPI) was fortunate to receive a grant from the Gender Institute in 2015 which supported part of Professor Kathleen Lahey's visit to Australia. Professor Lahey is Queen's National Scholar, Faculty of Law, Queen's University, Canada. She also holds appointments in Cultural Studies and Gender Studies. Professor Lahey has multijurisdictional expertise in tax and economic laws and policy, and has consulted on numerous law reform commissions and bodies.

TTPI and the Gender Institute co-hosted Professor Lahey to give a public lecture on 4 November 2015, on gender equality in the tax and transfer system. Governments in Australia, the UK and Canada have been introducing tax/transfer policies in the last two decades that institutionalise austerity in annual budgets at the same time that economic development planning becomes increasingly challenging, and as women's roles and responsibilities have continued to change.

In the public lecture, Professor Lahey used gender budget analysis to identify key issues and barriers to women's economic equality created by competing tax/transfer policy approaches, growing global and domestic income inequalities, and economic volatilities, and outlined policy alternatives capable of producing better outcomes for women over their life courses. There were approximately 80 attendees at this lecture.



Professor Kathleen Lahey and Professor Miranda Stewart

The Event page including audio and slides of the Lecture is [here](#).

Workshop on Gender Equality in the Tax/Transfer System

As part of her visit, Professor Lahey also participated in a workshop on 4-5 November on Gender Equality in Australia's Tax and Transfer System. The workshop was co-hosted by Academy of Social Sciences of Australia; the Gender Institute and TTPI; and Curtin University Business School Women in Economic and Social Research Cluster.

The workshop explored how taxes and transfers affect gender equality of wellbeing, benefits and burdens, and how gender norms affect the design of our tax and transfer system. The workshop brought together researchers from economics, law, social policy, and political science with the aim of investigating gender equality in the tax and transfer (social security) system. Workshop participants included leading scholars from various disciplines and universities around Australia and internationally. Speakers included:

- Professor Kathleen Lahey
- Ms Marie Coleman AO, PSM, National Foundation for Australian Women
- Professor Marian Sawer, The Australian National University
- Professor Rhonda Sharp, University of South Australia
- Professor Patricia Apps, University of Sydney
- Professor Guyonne Kalb, University of Melbourne
- Dr Sarah Voitchevsky, Melbourne Institute
- Professor Peter Whiteford, The Australian National University
- Ben Phillips, NATSEM
- Professor Maria Racionero, The Australian National University
- Dr Huong Dinh, The Australian National University
- Dr Julie Smith, The Australian National University
- Dr Jenny Gordon, Productivity Commission
- Dr Tim Higgins, The Australian National University
- Dr Mathias Sinning, The Australian National University
- Assoc Professor Helen Hodgson, Curtin University
- Assoc Professor Siobhan Austen, Curtin University

The webpage for the Workshop, final report, program and presentations are available [here](#). Revised workshop papers have been included in a book with ANU Press (publication in 2017). 32 people participated in this workshop.

Miranda Stewart
Director
Tax and Transfer Policy Institute