

# Dr Darcy William Ellis ALLEN

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## BIOGRAPHY

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Darcy Allen is an institutional economist focused on the economics and political economy of new technologies. Dr Allen's scholarly writing has been published across academic journals, conferences and books, he has engaged widely in public debate, appeared many times as an expert witness before parliamentary inquiries, and he recently edited a book on Australian regulation. Dr Allen is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the RMIT Blockchain Innovation Hub, an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs, an Academic Fellow of the Australian Taxpayers' Alliance, an Academic Fellow of the Worldwide Blockchain Innovation Association. He is currently on the Editorial Board of The Journal of the British Blockchain Association and is an Academic Affiliate of the University College London Centre for Blockchain Technologies. His award-winning PhD thesis in economics was passed outright in 2017 and described as "opening up entirely new analytical vistas" and "wonderfully lucid".

## EDUCATION

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2013—2017: **PhD (Economics), School of Economics, Finance and Marketing, RMIT University, Melbourne.**

- Awarded **university-wide prize for research excellence**.
- Thesis **passed outright** and described as a "first-rate piece of research", "well written, carefully organized, and lucid" and "opening up entirely new analytical vistas".
- Examined by Professor Richard Wagner and Professor Anthony Endres.
- Thesis title: *The Private Governance of Entrepreneurship: An Institutional Approach to Entrepreneurial Discovery*.

2009—2012: **Bachelor of Business (Economics and Finance) with First Class Honours, RMIT University, Melbourne.**

- First Class Honours, GPA 3.9/4.0.
- Thesis title: *Real Business Cycles: Stylised Facts for Australia*.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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2018— **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Blockchain Innovation Hub, RMIT University, Melbourne.**

- Academic research into the economics and political economy of blockchain.
- Journal articles and conference papers (domestic and international).
- Extensive engagement with policymakers and industry partners.
- Successful grant applications across multiple disciplines.
- Development of course content and a new minor in blockchain technology.

2018— **Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Public Affairs, Melbourne.**

- Academic guidance and advice on research projects.
- Contributions to research policy reports.

2018— **Academic Fellow, Australian Taxpayers' Alliance, Sydney.**

- Academic guidance on research projects.

2018 **Industry Mentor for *Developing Blockchain Strategy* Course, RMIT Online.**

- Industry mentor to students developing blockchain strategies.
- Running weekly online video drop-in sessions.

2014—2018: **Research Fellow, Institute of Public Affairs, Melbourne.**

- Writing research reports and submissions to government across a wide range of topics.
- Member of IPA Research Committee, including determining research priorities, approving reports, quality management and mentoring.
- Appearances as expert witness before parliamentary inquiries at both federal and state level.
- Widespread citations across parliamentary committee and Productivity Commission reports.
- Researcher on joint project quantifying regulatory burden with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Virginia.
- Research and commentary across state and national media through live radio appearances, opinion pieces and front page research coverage.

2017—2018: **Editor, *IPA Review*, Institute of Public Affairs, Melbourne.**

- Edited 4 editions of the *IPA Review*, Australia's longest running quarterly magazine on politics and culture.
- Timely commissioning of articles within a set budget.
- Received mainstream media coverage for the magazine.
- Management of a team of internal and external writers, editors, designers.

2014 **Research Assistant (Cultural science), RMIT University, Melbourne.**

- Research assistance on a project on cultural science.

2013—14 **Research Assistant (3D printing and the law), Swinburne Institute for Social Research.**

- Published a peer-reviewed journal article, assisted in the planning and execution of a seminar, and presented academic research at industry conference.

## TEACHING

2018: **Mentor, *Developing Blockchain Strategy*, RMIT Online.**

2015: **Tutor, *Development Economics*, RMIT University.**

2014: **Tutor, *Prices and Markets*, RMIT University.**

## GRANTS

- [Successful but pending negotiation] – *Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund, 'Blockchain encryption technology to secure patient medical records'* partnered with DB Results (**\$299,961**). With Professor Jason Potts, Dr Chris Berg and Dr Mikayla Novak.
- *Blockchain and Digital Innovation Projects for the APEC Business Advisory Council in PNG* (**\$135,000**). With Dr Chris Berg.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- RMIT Prize for Research Excellence – Higher Degree by Research – Enterprise.
- Winner of RMIT College of Business Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Represented RMIT at the PhD Business Conference at the University of Queensland.
- Australian Research Council (ARC) PhD Scholarship.
- Vice-Chancellor's List for Academic Excellence, 2012.
- RMIT Economics and Finance Honours Scholarship based on Academic Merit.

## PEER REVIEWED CONTRIBUTIONS

1. **Allen, DWE** (forthcoming), '[Entrepreneurial Exit: Developing the Cryptoeconomy](#)', in Swan, M, Potts, J, Takagi, S, Tasco, P, Witte, F (eds.), *Blockchain Economics*, World Scientific.
2. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, C, Lane, AML and Potts, J (2018), '[Cryptodemocracy and its Institutional Possibilities](#)', *The Review of Austrian Economics*, pp. 1-12. (Scimago Q2 ranked).
3. **Allen, DWE**, Berg C and Novak, M (2018), '[Blockchain: An Entangled Political Economy Approach](#)', *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*, vol. 33, no. 1.
4. **Allen, DWE** (2018), '[Red Tape Reform: A New Approach](#)', in Allen, DWE and Berg C (eds.), *Australia's Red Tape Crisis: The Causes and Costs of Over-Regulation*, Connor Court Publishing.
5. **Allen, DWE** and Berg, C (2018), '[Regulation and Technological Change](#)', in Allen, DWE and Berg C (eds.), *Australia's Red Tape Crisis: The Causes and Costs of Over-Regulation*, Connor Court Publishing.
6. **Allen, DWE** and Berg, C (2017), '[Subjective Political Economy](#)', *New Perspectives on Political Economy*, vol. 13, no. 1-2, pp. 19-40.
7. **Allen, DWE** and Potts, J (2016), '[How the Innovation Commons Contributes to the Development and Discovery of New Technologies](#)', *International Journal of the Commons*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 1035-54. (Scimago Q1 ranked in Sociology, Impact Factor: 1.68).
8. MacDonald, TJ, **Allen, DWE** and Potts, J (2016), '[Blockchains and the Boundaries of Self-organized Economies: Predictions for the Future of Banking](#)', In P Tasca, T Aste, L Pelizzon, and N Perony (eds.), *Banking Beyond Banks and Money: A Guide to Banking Services in the Twenty-First Century*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, pp. 279-96.
9. Moilanen, J, Daly, A, Lobato, R and **Allen, DWE** (2014), '[Cultures of Sharing in 3D printing: What Can we Learn from the Licence Choices of Thingiverse Users?](#)' *Journal of Peer Production* 6.

## BOOKS (AS EDITOR)

1. **Allen, DWE** and Berg, C (eds., 2018), [Australia's Red Tape Crisis: The Causes and Costs of Over-Regulation](#), Connor Court Publishing, Brisbane, Australia.
  - Launched by relevant Commonwealth Minister, Craig Laundy at Parliament House, Canberra.
  - Covered exclusively in [The Australian](#) (exclusive and editorial) and later covered in the *Sunraysia Daily*.

## BOOKS UNDER CONTRACT

1. **Allen, DWE**, Lane, AML and Berg, C, *Cryptodemocracy*, Lexington Books Series on *Polycentricity: Studies in Institutional Diversity and Voluntary Governance*.
2. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, C and Novak, M, *The Austrian Economics of Blockchain*, Cambridge University Press Elements.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, C, Davidson, S, Novak M, Potts, J, '[Blockchain TradeTech](#)', *APEC Study Centres Consortium Conference*, 12-14 May 2018, Papua New Guinea.
2. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, C, Lane, AM and Potts, J 2017, '[The Economics of Crypto-democracy](#)', Presented at *Linked Democracy: AI for Democratic Innovation*, 26<sup>th</sup> International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, 19 August, 2017.
3. **Allen, DWE** and Potts, J 2016, '[The Origin of the Entrepreneur and the Innovation Commons](#)' Presented at the *86th Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association Conference*, Washington, D.C. 19-21 November, 2016.
4. **Allen, DWE** 2015, 'Governing Innovation: Asset Specificity, Opportunism, and the Fundamental Transformation', Presented at the *28th PhD Conference in Business and Economics*, University of Queensland, 11-13 November, 2015.
5. **Allen, DWE** 2015, 'The Innovation Fundamental Transformation', *RMIT University Research Seminar*, 2015.

6. **Allen, DWE** 2015, 'The Entrepreneurial Problem of the Blockchain', *Sydney Blockchain Workshops*, 2015.
7. **Allen, DWE** and Potts, J 2015, '[The Innovation Commons – Why it Exists, What it Does, Who it Benefits and How](#)', Presented at the *International Association for the Study of the Commons Biannual Global Conference*, Edmonton, Canada, 25-29 May, 2015.

## APPEARANCES AS EXPERT WITNESS BEFORE PARLIAMENT

1. Senate Committee on Red Tape, [Environmental Assessments and Approvals](#), 22 August 2017, Perth (with Simon Breheny).
2. Senate Committee on Red Tape, [The Effect of Red Tape on the Sale, Supply and Taxation of Alcohol](#), 24 February 2017, Sydney (with Dr Chris Berg).
3. Senate Standing Committee on Economics, [Inquiry into Criminal, Civil and Administrative Penalties into White Collar Crime](#), 6 December 2016, Melbourne (with Andrew Bushnell).
4. Victorian Standing Committee on Economy and Infrastructure, [Inquiry into Ride Sourcing Services](#), 8 September 2016, Melbourne (with Dr Chris Berg and Aaron Lane)

## WORKING PAPERS

1. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, A, Berg, C, Markey-Towler, B and Potts, J, [Some Economic Consequences of the GDPR](#). Available at SSRN.
2. **Allen, DWE**, [Hackerspaces as Entrepreneurial Anarchy](#). Available at SSRN.
3. **Allen, DWE**, [The Subjective Political Economy of The Innovation Commons](#). Available at SSRN.

## SELECTED RESEARCH REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

1. **Allen, DWE** and Berg C, 'Blockchain for Development', RMIT Blockchain Innovation Hub and APEC Study Centre Research Report.
  - Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
  - Presented directly to parliamentarians in Papua New Guinea, including the Minister for Communications and Energy.
2. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, A, Berg C, Davidson, S, Lane, A, Novak, M, Potts, J, Submission to Senate Standing Committee Inquiry into My Health Record System', *RMIT Blockchain Innovation Hub Submission*, 19 September 2018.
3. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, A, Berg C, Davidson, S, Lane, A, Novak, M, Potts, J, 'Submission into the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics Inquiry into Impediments to Business Investment', *RMIT Blockchain Innovation Hub Submission*, 13 September 2018.
4. Wild, D and **Allen, DWE** 2018, '[Five Principles of Red Tape Reduction](#)', *IPA Occasional Paper*.
  - Research covered in [The Australian](#) newspaper.
5. Begg, M, **Allen, DWE** and Wild, D 2017, '[Decentralising the Protection of Australian Threatened Species](#)', *IPA Occasional Paper*.
  - Research covered in [The Australian](#) newspaper.
6. **Allen, DWE** and Wild, D 2017, '[Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Environmental Assessments and Approvals](#)', *IPA Submission*
  - Cited in the [Senate Red Tape Committee Report](#).
7. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, C, and Fraser, J 2017, '[Liquor Licensing Red Tape on Australian Businesses](#)' *IPA Occasional Paper*.
  - Cited in the [Senate Red Tape Committee](#) report.
8. **Allen, DWE** 2016, '[The Case for Cutting Red Tape on Drones](#)', *IPA Occasional Paper*.
  - Covered *The Australian*.
  - Cited in [Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport](#) report.
9. **Allen, DWE**, Wild, D and Hogan, B 2016, '[On Regulation, Productivity and Growth: Reforms to Make Australia More Prosperous](#)', *IPA Occasional Paper*.
  - Cited in the [Productivity Commission](#) report.
10. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, C, Novak, M and Wild, D 2016, '[A Response to the Productivity Commission Draft Report of the Regulation of Agriculture](#)' *IPA Submission*.

- Cited in the [Productivity Commission](#) report.
11. **Allen, DWE** and Novak, M 2016, '[Ten Red Tape Initiatives for the Next Australian Government](#)', *IPA Occasional Paper*.
  12. **Allen, DWE** and Berg, C 2016, '[Submission to the Senate Inquiry into White Collar Crime Penalties](#)', *IPA Submission*.
    - Research covered in the [Australian Financial Review](#).
    - Cited in the [Senate Economics Committee](#) report.
  13. **Allen, DWE**, Berg, C and Breheny, S 2016, '[Submission Relating to the Vegetation Management \(Reinstatement\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016](#)', *IPA Submission*.
    - Cited in the [Queensland Parliament Committee](#) report.
  14. **Allen, DWE** and Potts, J 2015, '[Innovation Strangled by Red Tape](#)', Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Business Set-up, Transfer and Closure, *IPA Submission*.
  15. Stanley, V, **Allen, DWE**, Lane, AML 2014, '[Freedom to Teach: A Research Report on the Work and Conditions of Teachers in Australia](#)' *IPA Occasional Paper*.
    - Research covered on the front page of [The Australian](#) newspaper.
  16. **Allen, DWE** and Berg, C 2014, '[The Sharing Economy: How Over-Regulation Could Destroy an Economic Revolution](#)', *IPA Occasional Paper*.
    - Covered in [The Australian](#).

## SELECTED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, PANELS

- 'Institutional Cryptoeconomics and Supply Chains', to Blockchain Pasifik Conference, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 11 October 2018.
- 'Blockchain for development', Brief to the Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 10 October 2018.
- 'Cryptodemocracy', Proof of Work Seminar, RMIT School of Economics Finance and Marketing (with Aaron Lane), Melbourne, 4 October 2018.
- 'Introduction to blockchain', Board of the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance (with Sinclair Davidson), Melbourne, 26 September 2018.
- 'The proto-entrepreneur and the innovation commons', RMIT Enterprise & Innovation Seminar, Melbourne, 21 September 2018.
- 'How blockchain impacts supply chain governance', Zhejiang Institute of Administration, RMIT Executive Education, Melbourne, 12 July 2018.
- 'Blockchain TradeTech', APEC Study Centres Consortium Conference, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 14 May 2018.
  - Coverage in [Business Advantage PNG](#)
  - Coverage on Papua New Guinean television.
- FinTech Australia and Australian Taxpayers' Alliance Panel on the Regulation of Cryptocurrencies, 1 May 2018, Melbourne.
- 'Blockchains, economics and the cryptoeconomy', Guest Lecture to RMIT class, 2018.
- Panel Member at Hall & Wilcox Law event on blockchain, Melbourne, 2018.
- 'Towards a classically liberal innovation policy', Australian Libertarian Society, Sydney, 2017.
- 'Innovation, entrepreneurship and regulation', ANZSFL Annual Conference, Melbourne, 2015.
- 'Regulation and new technologies', ALS Annual Conference, Sydney, 2015.
- 'Cultures of sharing and Thingiverse', Inside 3D Printing Conference, Melbourne, 2014.
- '3D printing, disruption and the law', Swinburne Institute for Social Research Interdisciplinary Seminar, 2014.

## OTHER POPULAR WRITING

1. Allen, DWE 2018, Clause for Concern, *IPA Review* 70(2).
2. **Allen, DWE** and Berg C 2018, Blockchain to smart up global trade, *Vietnam Investment Review*, 10 September 2018.
3. **Allen, DWE** 2017, [Over-regulation could keep drones grounded](#), *The Weekly Times*, 26 July 2017.
4. **Allen, DWE** 2017, [The future of reform](#), *IPA Review* 69(4).
5. Bushnell, A, and **Allen, DWE** 2017, [Collared](#), *IPA Review* 69(2).

6. Allen, DWE 2017, [Budget leaves a philosophical deficit](#), *IPA Review* 69(2).
7. Allen, DWE 2017, [Too much regulation clips wings of innovation](#), *The Australian*, 19 May 2017.
8. Allen, DWE 2017, [Seeding prosperity](#), *IPA Review* 69(1).
9. Allen, DWE 2017, [Trumping architecture](#), *IPA Review* 69(1).
10. Allen, DWE 2017, [IPA Review: A voice for 70 years](#), *IPA Review* 69(1).
11. Allen, DWE 2017, [Taxi license compensation sends the wrong message](#), *Herald Sun*, 14 February 2017.
12. Allen, DWE 2016, [Private order](#), *IPA Review* 68(4).
13. Allen, DWE 2016, [Red tape hampers resources recovery](#), *The West Australian*, 7 October 2016.
14. Allen, DWE 2016, [Civilized economics](#), *IPA Review* 68(4).
15. Allen, DWE and Wild, D 2016, [Toxic greens](#), *IPA Review* 68(3).
16. Allen, DWE 2016, [Cut green and red tape to drive more growth in farming sector](#), *Mercury*, 31 July 2016.
17. Allen, DWE 2016, [Drive productivity through innovation](#), *Farm Weekly*, 28 July 2016.
18. Allen, DWE 2016, [Bat problem impossible to fix until we get rid of red tape](#), *The Queensland Times*, 29 June 2016.
19. Allen, DWE 2016, [Let's get rid of this suffocating bureaucracy](#), *The Weekly Times*, 8 June 2016.
20. Allen, DWE 2016, [Why the proposed tree laws are the very worst kind of red tape](#), *Queensland Country Life*, 7 April 2016.
21. Allen, DWE 2015, [Lessons from private cities](#), *IPA Review* 67(4).
22. Allen, DWE 2015, [The case for personal income taxation cuts](#), *IPA Review* 67(4).
23. Allen, DWE 2015, [New money](#), *IPA Review* 67(3).
24. Hannaford, P and Allen, DWE, 2015, [Freedom works](#), *IPA Review* 67(1).
25. Allen, DWE 2015, [New laws will impact Sydney apartment sizes](#), *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 May 2015.
26. Allen, DWE 2014, [What is a taxi? Regulation and the sharing economy](#), *OECD Insights*, 22 December 2014.

## REFERENCES

Academic and professional references available on request.

## REVIEWER

- Cambridge University Press
- Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy
- Sustainability (x3)
- Logistics
- Journal of Law, Information and Science
- Mercatus Centre at George Mason University