

# Our Experts



National Institute of Economic  
and Social Research

# Introduction

Set up in 1938, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research remains the UK's leading macroeconomic, social research and forecasting institute. The vision of our founders was to understand the economic and social forces that affect people's lives and seek ways in which policy can bring about change. This remains our mission today. We maintain one of the world's most influential macroeconomic models for forecasting and policy simulation: the National Institute Global Econometric Model (NiGEM).

Our subscribers include many of the most influential central banks and finance ministries as well as the OECD and private sector firms. We regularly publish research in academic journals, produce our own quarterly peer-reviewed Review and collaborate with academics at leading institutions. Our staff also provide evidence and are expert advisers to Parliamentary Select Committees, devolved Governments of the UK and overseas forums including at the IMF and the United Nations.

But what makes us special is our independence: as a charity we have a diverse funding base. And are not linked to or supported by any political parties or large private donors, giving us the rare freedom to carry out research free of conflict of interest. We truly are the independent voice of economic and social research.

Jagjit S. Chadha  
Director

# NIESR Senior Experts



**Prof. Jagjit S. Chadha**  
Director

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An expert on financial markets and monetary policy, as well as aspects of monetary and financial history. He has written widely on the design of monetary, fiscal and financial policies and is available for comment on general issues of macroeconomics and social policy, as well as broader issues on the role of research in policy design.



**Prof. Peter Dolton**  
Research Director

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Applied microeconomist: labour, health and education. Expertise on: minimum wages, earnings, PRP, inequality, discrimination, incentives, pensions, returns to education, networks, teachers, the EWTD, PISA and education, training evaluation, active labour market policy, unemployment, occupational choice, student performance, overeducation, public sector pay, primary care, GPs, nurses, obesity.



**Prof. Roger E. A. Farmer**  
Research Director

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Distinguished Professor of Economics at UCLA, currently visiting Warwick University. He is an expert on macroeconomics and specializes in the role of business and consumer confidence as an independent driver of changes in the unemployment rate. He is an advocate for a new form of financial policy designed to tame the credit cycle.



**Dr Garry Young**  
Director of Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting

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Garry leads the Institute's work on macroeconomic modelling and forecasting. His research interests cover all aspects of applied macroeconomics and policy. He rejoined NIESR in September 2017 following 17 years working on monetary policy and financial stability at the Bank of England.



**Dr Angus Armstrong**  
Director of Rebuilding  
Macroeconomics Network

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Director of the ESRC funded Rebuilding Macroeconomics Network. Formerly Head of Macroeconomic Analysis at HM Treasury. PhD in economics, Honorary Professor Stirling University. Fields of expertise: macroeconomics, financial systems, international monetary system and constitutional economics (Scotland and Brexit).



**Rebecca Riley**  
ESCoE Director

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Rebecca's research interests include employment, productivity, UK economy, policy evaluation. She is also the Director of the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), created to provide the Office of National Statistics with expert research for measuring the modern economy, based at NIESR and run as a partnership with other organisations.



### **Amit Kara**

Head of UK Macroeconomic  
Forecasting

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Amit is a macroeconomist with a special interest in the UK and Euro Area economies. Amit has worked for the Bank of England as a research economist, at UBS as Chief UK economist, European Economist and UK Equity Strategist and most recently at HSBC where he helped design the forward economic guidance input for IFRS 9. Amit has also worked as a rating analyst for CRISIL in India.



### **Dr Heather Rolfe**

Associate Research Director

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Heather Rolfe is a social policy analyst who specialises in the areas of migration, education and barriers to employment. On migration, she has a particular interest in employers' policies and practices relating to the recruitment of migrants. She also researches the gap between public opinion on immigration and evidence.



### **Stefan Speckesser**

Associate Research Director

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Stefan is interested in education and labour market institutions. His interests include education policy (and the creation of a workforce having access to specific technical skills), the coordination of wage setting in the aggregate economy and the impact of labour market regulation.

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# NIESR Research Staff



**Andrew Aitken**  
Economist

Andrew's research interests are in labour economics, urban and housing economics, migration and political economy. His research has included analysis of the effects of immigration on native mobility and housing markets. Recent work includes developing democratic measures of economic performance as part of the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE).



**Hector Espinoza**  
Economist

Hector currently works in the Education and Labour Programme. His research interests include policy evaluation, technological change, human capital, productivity, economic performance and growth.



**Francesca Foliano**  
Economist

Francesca's research interests lie mainly in the fields of labour economics and economics of education with a focus on the effect of childhood investments on attainment and non-cognitive outcomes. She also focuses on international trade, in particular the effect of regional trade agreement on bilateral trade and foreign direct investments.



**Arno Hantzsche**  
Senior Economist

Arno is a member of the Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting team. His interest lies in empirical macroeconomics and his research focuses on sovereign credit risk, fiscal policy, labour market dynamics and the economics and politics of the European Monetary Union.



**Nathan Hudson-Sharp**  
Senior Social Researcher

With expertise in the interdisciplinary study of labour market disadvantage, Nathan's main research experience is in the changing nature of work, welfare and economic life. He also has expertise in programme and policy evaluation, and is available to comment on issues regarding poverty and LGB&T equality.



**Jason Lennard**  
Senior Economist

Jason is a member of the Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting team, producing forecasts for a number of European economies. Prior to joining NIESR, he studied at the London School of Economics and is currently completing a PhD at Lund University in Sweden. He is interested in empirical macroeconomics and economic history.



## **Cyrille Lenoel**

Senior Economist

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Cyrille works on the Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting team where he is responsible for producing forecasts for a range of European economies, including France and contributing analysis to the National Institute Economic Review. He has practical experience in developing quantitative models in economics and finance. His research interests include monetary policy, financial markets and macroeconomics.



## **Iana Liadze**

Principal Economist

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A key member of the macroeconomic modelling and forecasting team, Iana is actively involved in the production of the institute's quarterly Review. This includes maintaining and analysing large macroeconomic datasets, forecasting, running simulations, writing up country forecasts (particularly US and China) and presenting the world overview at NIESR's quarterly press conference.



## **Marta Lopresto**

Economist

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Marta has recently graduated from Warwick MSc. in Economics and International Finance, and has got experience in Macroeconomics Research in the financial sector. She is covering Italy and Portugal in the Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting team as well as providing contributing analysis to the Institute's Review. Her research interests include Applied Macroeconomics and Econometrics.



## **Dr Chiara Manzoni**

Social Researcher

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Chiara's main interests and experience lie in the field of vulnerable groups, including disadvantaged young people, migrants and ethnic minorities in particular, in relation to their access to education and employment. She also has expertise in programme and policy evaluation at the national and EU level.



## **David Nguyen**

Economist

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David is an Economist in the Trade, Investment & Productivity directorate at NIESR and a Research Associate at ESCoE. His research interests are wide and include measurement and productivity of the modern economy, the shortage of housing, staffing and hospital quality in the NHS, and international linkages via trade, migration and foreign investment.



## **Dr Marta Paczos**

Economist

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Marta's expertise is in the fields of international trade and finance. Her main research experience is in the firms' product quality and offshoring decisions, the role of global value chains participation for the export upgrade, and links between banking sector reforms and international capital flows.



**Ana Rincon-Aznar**  
Principal Economist

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Ana specialises in international comparisons of productivity and economic performance. Her research aims to further our understanding of the sources of growth in modern economies, investigating the changing role of production inputs and technology, skills and intangible assets, as well as the influence of policies and regulations.



**Johnny Runge**  
Social Researcher

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As part of NIESR's Employment and Social Policy team Jonny primarily carries out qualitative research on the UK labour market, particularly on the future of work and EU migration. In addition, he has participated in research projects on various aspects of health and education policy.



**Dr Lea Samek**  
Economist

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Lea's main area of expertise is the measurement of labour productivity and how labour productivity is affected through different drivers. Her research interests also include the role of health in human capital, in particular through labour supply decisions and productivity.



**Lucy Stokes**  
Principal Economist

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Lucy's research interests focus primarily on issues relating to education and employment. Research on education includes consideration of school performance and effectiveness, as well as evaluation of educational interventions. She also conducts research on various issues concerning employment and labour markets, with a particular interest in employees' experiences at work.

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