

Tong, Chun Wing (Derek)

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RESEARCH PROFILE

My research applies microeconomic methods to evaluate how early-life shocks, family dynamics, and social disadvantage influence long-term health, labour market, and behavioural outcomes. I am particularly interested in the determinants of risky, antisocial, and offending behaviours, and in how evidence-based public policy can reduce crime and mitigate social harm.

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Foundation Fellow <i>Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, the University of Melbourne</i>	Jun 2024 – Present <i>Melbourne, Australia</i>
Pre-Doctoral Part-time Research Assistant <i>Institute of Economics, Academia Sinica</i>	Oct 2021 – Nov 2022 <i>Taipei City, Taiwan</i>

EDUCATION

University of New South Wales <i>Master of Finance (Financial Technology)</i>	Sydney, Australia 2024
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology <i>Bachelor of Business (Economics and Finance)</i>	Melbourne, Australia 2020
• Graduate with Distinction • Global Leader Scholarship	

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Beyond Parental Absence: Parental Divorce, Bereavement, and Illicit Drug Use in Australia	Oct 2026
• Solo-authored paper accepted for presentation at the HILDA Survey Research Conference, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne.	

WORKING PROJECTS

Improved Estimates of Imputed Rental Income on Owner-occupied and Social Housing
• With Peter Siminski, Roger Wilkins • This project builds a transparent, annually updateable variable that captures the net rental value homeowners and social-housing tenants implicitly receive from their dwellings.

WORKING PAPERS

Bullying and discrimination during high school: Short- and long-term associations with mental distress
• With Ferdi Botha, Steeve Marchand • We quantify how high-school bullying and discrimination are associated with mental distress during high school and longer-term adult outcomes.

FINISHED PROJECTS

Transition to Work Data	Apr 2025
• With Steeve Marchand, Ujjwal KC • We link 3 datasets from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and make it research ready for other researchers.	
Empowering Early School Leavers: Discovering Quality Job Opportunities through Data	Dec 2024
• With Steeve Marchand, Ujjwal KC • We investigate the determinants of long-term employment outcomes for individuals placed into jobs through employment service providers throughout Australia, by leveraging datasets from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' Transition to Work(TtW) program and external labour market indicators.	

Labour Market Dashboard of YouthView

Dec 2024

- With Steeve Marchand, Ujjwal KC
- We visualize the data from Jobs and Skills Australia to offer insights on youth transitions in Australia
- [Click here to view the dashboard](#)

High Levels of Mental Distress among Australians who Experienced High School bullying

Aug 2024

- With Steeve Marchand
- We used the Taking the Pulse of the Nation (TTPN) survey to examine the prevalence of high school bullying in Australia and its association with mental distress.
- [Click here to view the report](#)

LANGUAGE

English, Cantonese, Mandarin