Gruen Lecture Series

Improving economic policy conversations: US and Australian perspectives

Thursday 8 September, 2011 5.30 – 7pm, followed by light refreshments

Professor Cliff Winston Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, Brookings Institution, USA
Ross Gittins AM Economics Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald

Law Theatre, Law School-South Wing, Building #5, (the Law Theatre is located adjacent to the College of Law reception) Fellows Road, ANU.

With the advent of recent market turmoil since the GFC the question on everyone’s lips is, “Has economic policy failed us?”

Is it true that the quality of economic debate is deteriorating in the US and Australia and the link between good economic policy and good political strategy is becoming more tenuous? Can we improve the policy conversation?

The HC Coombs Policy Forum and the Research School of Economics at the ANU bring together two prominent economists to present a framework for discussion around what makes good economic policy in Australia and the US. Is it sensible to think of the political policy debate in these two societies as evolving in a similar fashion?

Professor Clifford Winston, a Senior Fellow in the Brookings Institution’s Economic Studies program, has written extensively on regulation with a focus on policy and government performance. He is an applied microeconomist who specializes in the analysis of industrial organisation, regulation, and transportation. Winston has also been co-editor of the annual microeconomics edition of Brookings Papers on Economic Activity. Prior to his fellowship at Brookings, he was an Associate Professor in the Transportation Systems Division of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Department of Civil Engineering.

Ross Gittins has been Economics Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald since 1978. He is also an economic columnist for The Age, Melbourne. His journalistic experience includes editorial writing and stints in the parliamentary press galleries in Sydney and Canberra. Before joining the Herald he worked as an auditor with the national chartered accounting firm Touche Ross & Co. He is a winner of the Citibank Pan Asia award for excellence in finance journalism. In 2008 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for service to journalism as a commentator on economics.

In this public lecture, Professor Winston and Mr Gittins will debate the above questions, and will take questions from the audience, chaired by Emeritus Professor Bob Gregory. The lecture will be followed by light refreshments.

Presented by

HC Coombs Policy Forum and the Research School of Economics, CBE

Registration required

Online registrations at W winstongittinspl.eventbrite.com
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This lecture is free and open to the public
The Gruen lectures information:
rse.anu.edu.au/news_events/gruen_lectures.php