Derek Chun Wing Tong

Melbourne, Australia | derek.tong@unimelb.edu.au | derektong.com

Research Interests

Applied microeconomics; labour economics; public economics; family economics; health and wellbeing.

Academic Appointments

Jun 2024–Present **Foundation Fellow**
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Oct 2021–Nov 2022 **Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant (part-time)**
Institute of Economics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Education

2024 **Master of Finance (Financial Technology)**
UNSW Sydney, Sydney, Australia

2020 **Bachelor of Business (Economics and Finance)**
RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
Graduate with Distinction; Global Leader Scholarship

Manuscript under Revision

Bullying and Discrimination during High School: Associations with Mental Distress
with Ferdi Botha and Steeve Marchand
Revise and resubmit, *PLOS ONE*.

Working Papers and Work in Progress

Beyond Parental Absence: Parental Divorce, Bereavement, and Illicit Drug Use in Australia
Solo-authored

Age Pension Reform and Expected Retirement Age
with Roger Wilkins and Ha Vu

Improved Estimates of Imputed Rental Income for Owner-Occupied and Social Housing
with Peter Siminski and Roger Wilkins

Conference Presentations

Oct 2026 **Beyond Parental Absence: Parental Divorce, Bereavement, and Illicit Drug Use in Australia**
HILDA Survey Research Conference, Melbourne Institute, University of Melbourne
Accepted for presentation

Selected Research and Policy Outputs

Dec 2024 **Labour Market Dashboard, YouthView**
with Steeve Marchand and Ujjwal KC
Interactive dashboard presenting Jobs and Skills Australia data on youth labour-market transitions.

Aug 2024 **High Levels of Mental Distress among Australians Who Experienced High School Bullying**
with Steeve Marchand
Taking the Pulse of the Nation, Melbourne Institute
Research note on the prevalence of high-school bullying in Australia and its association with mental distress.

Languages

English; Cantonese; Mandarin.