

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Rhema VAITHIANATHAN

CURRENT POSITION: Associate Professor
Department of Economics
University of Auckland

Director
Centre for Applied Research in Economics
(CARE)

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS:

2007 – 2008 Harvard Medical School (Harkness Fellow, Department of Health Care Policy)

2000 – 2002 Research Fellow, Australian National University

1999 – 2000 Health Economist, Waitemata DHB

1997 – 1999 Economic Consultant to the NZ Health Funding Authority

1995 – 1996 Health Economist, Northern Regional Health Authority

1988 – 1991 Policy Analyst, NZ Treasury

EDUCATION:

2000 University of Auckland, PhD

1995 University of Auckland, MCom with First Class Honours

1989 University of Auckland, BCom

Professional Service

Memberships

International Health Economics Association
Australian Health Economics Association

Elected and Appointed Positions

Health Research Council, Strategic Advisory Panel (2009-present)

Economic Policy Committee, New Zealand Labour Party (2009-2010)

Board Member, ARC Economic Design Network (2005, 2007)

Board Member, Australian Health Economics Society (2004-2006)

Conference Committee Chair, AHES Annual Conference (2005)

Member, Medical Specialities Advisory Committee, Australian Medical Council (2001-2002)

Research

Current Research Interests

My research fields are divided between **Applied Micro-Economics** and **Health Services Research**.

Applied Micro-Economics

In Economics, my current research continues my close collaboration with Matthew Ryan on applied micro-economics research. We have a number of papers in preparation including a second paper with Luca Rigotti (University of Pittsburgh) on entrepreneurial optimism (following Rigotti, Ryan and Vaithianathan, *Economic Theory*, 2011). Matthew and I also have a paper on Direct to Consumer Advertising of pharmaceutical, which is currently being prepared for submission. This paper applies some of the same ideas as Ryan and Vaithianathan (*JEBO*, 2011) and specifically to the advertising of medicines.

I have also established a close collaboration in development and household economics with Tatyana Chesnokova of University of Adelaide. Following from Chesnokova and Vaithianathan's paper on child labour, (*BE Press: Advances in Economics Analysis and Policy*, 2008) we have written the first ever economics paper on Female Genital Cutting (*BE Press: Topics in Economic Analysis and Policy*, 2010). This paper takes a unique economic view on a sociological phenomena, showing how FGC can be undertaken by "rational" agents in a competitive marriage market. We are currently working on a project which attempts to provide a theoretical explanation of the rapid decline in fertility and delay in child-bearing amongst East Asian countries during the demographic transition. This work is closely related to research I conducted with Reiko Aoki (Hitotsubashi University) on Japan's ageing population (Aoki and Vaithianathan, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University, 2009). Reiko and I have an ongoing project in Japan, where we have been promoting the idea of Demeny Voting (a type of voting where children receive a proxy vote by their parents).

Health Services Research

I have an ongoing collaboration with Dr Geraint Lewis, and senior research fellow at the Nuffield Trust (UK). We have a large grant evaluating the impact of the Virtual Ward – a variant of the hospital at home care system. We have a number of manuscripts we are currently completing on this project. We are also involved in health care safety initiatives and are currently developing a proposal with colleagues from University of Nottingham for implementing some of the innovations from our recent paper (*Milbank*, 2011).

Refereed Journal Articles

1. Gilbert, A; Peter Hockey, R.Vaithianathan et al “Perceptions of Junior doctors in the NHS about their training: Results of a regional questionnaire” BMJ: Safety and Quality (In press)
2. Vaithianathan, R; Peter Hockey, Geraint Lewis and Peter Lees “Recruit with caution, manage with care” British Journal of Healthcare Management (In press)
3. Lewis,G; Lorraine Wright and R.Vaithianathan "Multidisciplinary Case Management for Patients at High Risk of Hospitalization: Comparison of Virtual Ward Models in the UK, USA and Canada", Population Health Management (In press)
4. Lewis, G., Bardsley, M., VAITHIANATHAN, R., et al “ Do ‘virtual wards’ reduce rates of unplanned admissions, and at what cost? A research protocol using propensity matched controls. International Journal of Integrated Care (In press)
5. Gorgens, T., M. Xin and R. VAITHIANATHAN “Stunting and Selection Effects of Famine: A Case Study of the Great Chinese Famine” Journal of Development Economics (In Press)
6. Pannatoni, L., R. VAITHIANATHAN, T. Ashton and G. Lewis “Predictive Risk Modelling in Health: Options for New Zealand and Australia” Australian Health Review (In Press)
7. Ryan, M. and R. VAITHIANATHAN “Verifiability and Neologism-Proofness in a Sender-Receiver Game” Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (Available online 1 March 2011).

8. Rigotti, L; M. Ryan and R. VAITHIANATHAN (2011) "Optimism and Firm Formation" Economic Theory, 46 (1), 1-38.
9. Lewis, G., R. VAITHIANATHAN et al. (2011) "Counter Heroism, Common Knowledge and Ergonomics: Concepts from Aviation that Could Improve Patient Safety" Milbank Quarterly 88(1), 3-35 [Feature Article]
10. Chesnokova, T. and R. VAITHIANATHAN (2010) "The Economics of Female Genital Cutting" BE Press: Topics in Economic Analysis and Policy 10(1), Article 64.
11. VAITHIANATHAN, R. and G. Lewis (2010) "NHS as an Insurer" Journal of Health Services Research and Policy 15(3), 171-173.
12. VAITHIANATHAN, R. "Building on Myths: An Economist's Response to the Ministerial Working Group Report on the Health System" (2010) New Zealand Medical Journal 123(1314), 79-83.
13. R. VAITHIANATHAN (2009) "An Economic Critique of Urban Motorways: The Case the Waterview Connection in Auckland" Road and Transport Research 18(3), 86-90.
14. VAITHIANATHAN, R. et al. (2009) "Iatrogenic Effects of COX-2 Inhibitors in the US Population" Drug Safety 32(4), 335-343.
15. Chesnokova, T. and R. VAITHIANATHAN, (2008) "Lucky Last? Intra-Sibling Allocation of Child Labor" BE Press: Advances in Economics Analysis and Policy 8(1), Article 20.
16. VAITHIANATHAN, R. and G. Lewis, (2008) "Operational Independence for the NHS: Applying the Theoretical Framework of the Central Banks to Healthcare" British Medical Journal 337:a497.
17. VAITHIANATHAN, R. (2006) "Better the Devil You Know than the Doctor You Don't" Journal of Health Service Policy and Research 11, 235-239.
18. VAITHIANATHAN, R., (2006) "Health Insurance and Imperfect Competition in the Health Care Market" Journal of Health Economics 25(6), 1193-1202.
19. VAITHIANATHAN, R. (2006) "A Critique of the Private Health Insurance Regulations in Australia" Australian Economic Review 37(3)
20. VAITHIANATHAN, R., (2006) "Supply-Side Cost Sharing when Patients and Doctors Collude" Journal of Health Economics 22(5), 763-780.

21. Ryan, M. and R. VAITHIANATHAN, (2004) "Medical Insurance with Rank-Dependent Utility" Economic Theory 22(3), 689-698.
22. Ryan, M.J. and R. VAITHIANATHAN, (2003) "Adverse Selection and Insurance Contracting: A Rank-Dependent Utility Analysis" BE Press: Contributions to Theoretical Economics 3(1), Article 4.
23. VAITHIANATHAN, R. (2002) "Will Subsidising Private Health Insurance Help the Public Health System?" Economic Record 78(242), 277-283.
24. VAITHIANATHAN, R., (1999) "The Failure of Corporatisation: Public Hospitals in New Zealand" Agenda 6(4), 325-338.

Refereed Book Chapter

2004 VAITHIANATHAN, R., "Comment on the Strategy for Indigenous Health by the Office Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health" in *Economics and Indigenous Australian Health Policy*, edited by Michael Otim, Ian Anderson and Ian Scott. University of Melbourne, 2004.

Policy Discussion Documents

Aoki, R and VAITHIANATHAN, R "Is Demeny Voting the Answer to Low Fertility in Japan?" Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University (2009)

VAITHIANATHAN, R "The Economic Impact of the Super-City". Paper prepared for the New Zealand Labour Party (2009)

Maani, S., R.VAITHIANATHAN and B. Wolfe, "Inequality and Health: Is Housing Crowding the Link?" Motu Working paper (2006) and La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Working Paper (2007)

Hurley, J., R. VAITHIANATHAN, D. Cobb-Clark and T. Crossley, "Parallel Private Health Insurance in Australia: A Cautionary Tale and Lessons for Canada". CHEPA Discussion Paper #01-12 (2001)

Hawkins, L. and R. VAITHIANATHAN, "Accountability Mechanisms for the National Funding Agency and Its Relationship with the Ministry of Health". Health Funding Authority, Wellington (1997)

VAITHIANATHAN, R., "Improving Health Purchasing: A Pilot in Public Health". Northern Regional Health Authority, Auckland (1997)

VAITHIANATHAN, R., "Equality of Outcomes and Equality of Opportunity". NZ Department of Labour Occasional Paper 1995/2 (1995).

Conference Presentations

Plenary

Targets and Outcomes, Third National Tertiary Services Conference, Auckland District Health Board, 2010
Virtual Wards: Some Early Results, St Mary's Hospital/ McGill University Colloquium, Montreal (2010)

Invited Roundtables and Workshops

"Strength and Weakness of Demeny Voting", Conference on the Political Economy of Low Fertility and Ageing, Hitotsubashi University, 2011
Exercise and Sports Science, FMHS, Auckland University, 2010
Treasury/VUW Tax Colloquium, VUW, 2009
CAER Workshop on Health Economics, UNSW, 2003 and 2004
OECD Roundtable on Health Insurance in Australia, 2003
Liberty Fund Workshop, Christchurch, 2001
Workshop on Indigenous Health Economics, University of Melbourne, 2001

Seminars by Invitation

Waitemata District Health Board, 2010
McMaster University, Toronto, 2010
Otago University, 2010
COMPASS, University of Auckland, 2009
University of Melbourne, 2009
University of Pompeu Fabra, 2009
Hitotsubashi University (Japan) 2009
University of New Hampshire, 2008
Pennsylvania State University, 2008
BU/ Harvard/ MIT Health Economics Seminar, 2008
Canterbury University, 2005
Victoria University of Wellington, 2004
School of Population Health, University of Auckland, 2004
Australian Defence Force Academy, 2002
University of Sydney, 2002
University of Queensland, 2001
Australian National University, 2000
University of Melbourne, 2000
Deakin University, 2001

NZ Ministry of Health, 1999
Australian National University, 1999
Law and Economics Association of NZ, Wellington, 1998

Conference Presentations

European Health Economics Workshop, Brescia, Italy 2011
Harkness Reporting Seminar. Academy Health Meeting. Washington DC, 2008
International Health Economics Association Meeting, Barcelona, 2005
Australian Health Economics Conference, Auckland 2005
Australian Economic Theory Workshop, Melbourne, 2003
Summer Workshop in IO, Auckland, 2004
New Zealand Econometric Study Group, Auckland, 2004
Australasian Meetings of the Econometrics Society, Brisbane, 2002
Australian Economic Theory Workshop, Sydney, 2001
International Health Economics Association Meeting, York, 2001
Australasian Meetings of the Econometrics Society, Auckland, 2001
Australasian Meetings of the Econometrics Society, Sydney, 1999
NZ Association of Economists' Conference, Wellington, 1998
Australian PhD Conference in Business and Economics, UWA, 1997

Grants and Commercial Research Contracts (2009-2010)

Health Research Council (NZ), "Stroke Rehabilitation" (AI) . Health Research Council. \$1,126,268. 2011-2014
Waitemata DHB "Developing a Predictive Risk Model for the Waitemata Population" (PI). \$50,000 . 2011-2012
National Institute for Health SDO (UK) "Evaluation of Virtual Wards" £235,000 (AI), 2009-2012
Faculty Research Grant "Predictive Risk Modelling" \$33,600 (PI), 2006-2010

PI on range of commercial research contracts (clients include NHS (UK), Oxford Deanery (UK), Strategic Health Authority (UK), Ministry of Health (NZ), Accident Compensation Corporation (NZ); various hospital boards. Currently managing over \$300,000 of commercial contract through Uniservices (the University of Auckland commercialisation office).

Discussant

Australian Economic Theory Workshop: UTS, 2001; ANU, 2002; Melbourne, 2004 and 2010

International Health Economics Association Conference, Barcelona, 2005
Australian Health Economics Association Conference: Melbourne, 2004;
Auckland, 2005
New Zealand Economic Association Conference, Auckland, 2003
Summer Workshops in IO, Auckland, 2003 and 2004

Significant Distinctions and Awards

Auckland Business School Research Excellence Award for Research Relevance and Impact (2011)

Nominated to attend the NZVCC Women in Leadership Programme (2010)

Imperial Gift Foundation Boshi-Aiiku-Kai Foreign Scholar Grant, Japan (2009)

Harkness Fellowship in Health Policy, Harvard Medical School (2007-08)

Auckland Business School Research Excellence Award for Best New Researcher (2004)

Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Faculty of Business and Economics (2000)

Jan Whitwell Prize for Best Student Paper, NZ Association of Economists Conference (1998)

McKinsey Prize for Best Paper, Australian PhD Conference in Business and Economics (1997)

PhD Fellowship, Health Research Council of NZ (1997)

Academic Visits:

University of Adelaide (2010, 2011)

University of Melbourne (2010)

University of Queensland (2010)

Nuffield Trust, London (2010, 2011)

South Central Strategic Health Authority, UK (2010)

Victoria University of Wellington (2010)

Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo (2009)

University of Sydney (2002)

CORE, Belgium (2001)

Conference Organisation:

Private and Public Health Care in New Zealand: Auckland, 2010.
(Committee Member)

Setting the Agenda: NZ 2020 (Public Lecture Series): Auckland, 2009.
(Co-organiser with Associate Professor Mike Mintrom, Department of Political Studies)

Predictive Risk Modelling in New Zealand: Auckland, 2009.
(Principal Organiser)

23rd Australasian Economic Theory Workshop: Auckland, 2005.
(Co-organiser)

Workshop on Game Theory and Social Choice: Auckland, 2004.
(Co-organiser)

Australian Health Economics Conference, Auckland, 2003 (Principal organiser)

20th Australian Economic Theory Workshop: ANU, 2002.
(Co-organiser)

Regulating Private Health Insurance: Priorities for Australia and Lessons from Abroad: ANU, 2002.
(Initiator and principal organiser)

Public Lectures/Debates

“Ideas for a Productive Economy”, Sponsored by Labour and Green Party MPs (2011)

“ Diffusion of Innovation in Health Care” , Oxford Deanery, UK (2011).

“Private and Public Health Care Provision”, NZ Institute of Health Managers, Auckland (2010)

“Tertiary Funding and the 2009 Budget”, Speech to NZUSA Annual Conference, Auckland (2009)

“Health Care Funding”, Speech to Wellington School of Medicine, Wellington (2009)

“Health Care Funding”, Speech to Otago School of Medicine, Christchurch (2009)

“Female Quotas on Corporate Boards”, Evening Panel Debate, Auckland University Debating Society (2009)

“Workers and the Recession”, Speech to the Industries Branch of the NZ Labour Party (2009)

“Locally Left” Panel Debates, Grey Lynn and Auckland Central Branches of the NZ Labour Party (2009, 2010, 2011)

“Health Care Funding”, Panel Debate, NZ Public Health Association, Auckland (2008)

“Health Care Rationing”, After-dinner Speech to Clinical Training Programme of the NHS, London (2008)

Media

Guest Blogs

- Dominguez, B. & VAITHIANATHAN, R.: “The Debt Bogey”. Guest blog on The Standard website, 2009.
- VAITHIANATHAN, R.: “Economics of the Waterview Tunnel”. Guest blog on Public Address website, 2009.
- Gerber, A., VAITHIANATHAN, R. et al.: “Learning from Abroad: Promises and Pitfalls”, Health Affairs online forum (Nov, 2007) [contribution by 2007-8 Harkness Fellows]

Letters to the Editor

Number of letters to the Editor published in New Zealand Herald, Australian Financial Review, New York Times, Sunday Star Times, Listener etc.

Media Appearances

Regular TV and Media appearances. In 2011 these included:

- Panel member, *The Nation* (TV 3) on ageing and health
- Interview on research published in the Milbank Quarterly (TVNZ, *Breakfast Show*)
- Interview for *TV3 News* on growth in fast food outlets
- Interview on *News Radio 1ZB* on reinsurance following Christchurch Earthquake
- Milbank Quarterly paper cited in a New York Times op-ed piece (*When Blame isn't Enough* April 7, 2011) and the Wall Street Journal Blog (*How Far Does Aviation-Health Comparison Go?*).

Refereeing

Agenda

Australian Economic Review

Berkeley Electronic Press

Economic Record

European Economic Review

Health Economics

Health Services Research

International Journal of Industrial Organisation

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

Journal of Economics, Management and Strategy

Journal of Health Economics

Journal of Health Services Research and Policy

Journal of Population Economics

NHMRC Grant Applications

Social Science Medicine

University Administration

Director, Centre for Applied Research in Economics (2011-)

Steering Group Member, Health Leadership Programme, An interdisciplinary initiative between Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Business School

Advisory Board Member, Centre for Mathematical Methods in Social Science (COMPASS)], an interdisciplinary centre in Sociology and Statistics 2010-

Advisory Board Member, CHRSP, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences , 2010-

Advisory Committee, Women in Mentoring Programme, Business School , 2010

Departmental Recruitment Committee, Chair (2008)

Departmental Recruitment Committee, Member (2007)

Departmental Research Workshop Coordinator (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007)

Faculty EEO Committee (2006-2007)

Departmental Seminar Program Coordinator (ANU, 2001-2002; Auckland, 2005)

Departmental Postgraduate Committee, Member responsible for weekly student workshops (2003)

Member, Recruitment Committee, School of Public Health, ANU (2001)