

**Curriculum Vitae: Stephen Knowles**  
*University of Otago*

**Contact Information**

Postal Address                      Department of Economics  
   University of Otago  
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**EDUCATION**

PhD, Otago, 1995

BCom (Hons), Otago, 1990

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Professor, Otago, 2018-present

Associate Professor, Otago, 2006-2017

Senior Lecturer, Otago, 1999-2005

Lecturer, Otago, 1994-1998

**DISTINCTIONS**

Life Member of the New Zealand Association of Economists.

**VISITING POSITIONS**

External Research Fellow of CREDIT (Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade), University of Nottingham, 2000-present.

Sabbatical visitor in the School of Economics, University of Nottingham, April 2019.

Sabbatical visitor in the Department of Economics and Finance, University of Canterbury, April-May 2013.

Sabbatical visitor in the School of Economics, University of Nottingham, May 2006.

Sabbatical visitor in the Centre for Economic Policy, University of Cambridge, April 2006.

Sabbatical visitor in the Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government, Australian National University, February-March 2006.

Sabbatical visitor in the Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, March 2006.

Sabbatical visitor in the School of Economics, University of Nottingham, June 2000-July 2001.

Sabbatical visitor in the Institute of the Environment, University of Ottawa, December 2000.

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

Chan, N.W., Knowles, S., Peeters, R. and Wolk, L. (2024) “On generosity in public good and charitable dictator games”, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Economic Organization*, 224:624-640.

Chan, N.W., Knowles, S., Peeters, R. and Wolk, L. (2024) “Measuring strength of altruistic preferences”, *Journal of the Economic Science Association*, (available online at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40881-024-00170-w>).

Knowles, S., Peeters, R., Smith, M.D. and Wesselbaum, D. (2023) “Who behaves charitably? Evidence from a global survey”, *Applied Economics* 56(57):7789-7806.

Fielding, D., Knowles, S. and Peeters, R. (2023) “Timing of rebates and generosity”, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, 107, 102115.

Chan, N.W., Knowles, S., Peeters, R. and Wolk, L. (2023) “Cost-(in)effective public good provision: an experimental exploration”, *Theory and Decision*, 96(3):397-442.

Crump, J.A., Vakaoti, P., Moore-Jones, M., Tan, L., Ergler, C.R., Fenton, E., Anderson, E.M.R., Bremer, P.J., Sharples, K.J., Walls, T., Quinones-Mateu, M.E., Kolandai, K., Hadingham, J., Hill, P.C. and Knowles, S. (2023) “Health nationalism in Aotearoa New Zealand during COVID-19: Problems for global health equity”, *Nature Medicine*, 29(8), 1887-1889.

Chan, N.W., Knowles, S., Peeters, R. and Wolk, L. (2022) “Perception of generosity under matching and rebate subsidies”, *Judgement and Decision Making*, 17(5):1058-1071.

Trinh, K.A., Berg, N., Garces-Ozanne, A. and Knowles, S. (2022) “Why did they not borrow? Debt-averse farmers in rural Vietnam”, *The Developing Economies*, 60(4): 228-260.

McGillivray, M., Feeny, S., Hansen, P. Knowles, S. and Ombler, F. (2022) “What are valid weights for the Human Development Index? A discrete choice experiment for the United Kingdom”, *Social Indicators Research*, 165:679-694.

Fielding, D., Knowles, S. and Peeters, R. (2022) “In search of competitive givers”, *Southern Economic Journal*, 88(4):1517-1548.

Knowles, S., Servátka, M., Sullivan, T. and Genc, M. (2022) “Procrastination and the non-monotonic effect of deadlines on task completion”, *Economic Inquiry*, 60:706-720.

Genc, M., Knowles, S. and Sullivan, T. (2020) “In search of effective altruists”, *Applied Economics*, 53(7):805-819.

Grimson, D. Knowles, S. and Stahlmann-Brown, P. (2020) “How close to home does charity begin” *Applied Economics* 52(34):3700-3708.

Fielding, D. Knowles, S. and Robertson, K. (2019) “Materialists and altruists in a charitable donation experiment”, *Oxford Economic Papers* 72(1):216-234.

Feeny, S., Hansen, P., Knowles, S., McGillivray, M. and Ombler, F. (2019) “Donor motives, public preferences and the allocation of UK foreign aid: a discrete choice experiment”, *Review of World Economics*, 115: 511-537.

Fielding, D. Knowles, S. and Robertson, K. (2018) “Alcohol, generosity and empathy”, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, 76: 28-39.

Clark, J., Garces-Ozanne, A. and Knowles, S. (2017) “Emphasising the problem or the solution in charitable fundraising for international development”, *Journal of Development Studies*, 54: 1082-1094.

Knowles, S. and Sullivan, T. (2017) “Does charity begin at home or overseas”, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 46: 944-962.

Cunningham, H., Hansen, P. and Knowles, S. (2017) “Bilateral foreign aid: how important is aid effectiveness to people for choosing countries to support? *Applied Economics Letters*, 24: 306-310.

Etang, A., Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. (2016) “What sort of people vote expressively?”, *Bulletin of Economic Research*, 68: 105-117.

Knowles, S. and Servátka, M. (2015) “Transaction costs, the opportunity cost of time and procrastination in charitable giving”, *Journal of Public Economics*, 125: 54-63.

Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. (2015) “Can you spare some change for charity? Experimental evidence on verbal cues and loose change effects in a Dictator Game”, *Experimental Economics*, 18: 718-730.

Hansen, P., Kergozou, N., Knowles, S. and Thorsnes, P. (2014) “Developing countries in need: Which characteristics appeal most to people when donating money?”, *Journal of Development Studies* 50: 1494-1509.

Etang, A., Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. (2012) “Giving to Africa and perceptions of poverty”, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 33:819-832.

Etang, A., Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. (2012) “Are survey measures of trust correlated with experimental trust? Evidence from Cameroon”, *Journal of Development Studies*, 48(12):1813-1827.

Etang, A., Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. (2011) “Does trust extend beyond the village? Experimental trust and social distance in Cameroon”, *Experimental Economics*, 14(1):15-35.

Etang, A., Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. (2011) “Trust and ROSCA membership in rural Cameroon”, *Journal of International Development*, 23(4):461-475.

Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. (2011) “Dangerous interactions: Problems in interpreting tests of conditional aid effectiveness”, *World Economy*, 34 (6):972-983.

- Dulal, H. Foa, R. and Knowles, S. (2011) "Social capital and cross-country environmental performance", *Journal of Environment and Development*, 20(2):121-144.
- Knowles, S. and Owen, P.D. (2010) "Which institutions are good for your health? The deep determinants of comparative cross-country health status", *Journal of Development Studies*, 46(4):701-723.
- Knowles, S. (2007) "Social capital, egalitarianism and foreign aid allocations", *Journal of International Development*, 19(3):299-314.
- Alexander, W.R.J., Bell, J.D. and Knowles, S. (2005) "Quantifying compliance costs of small businesses in New Zealand", *New Zealand Economic Papers*, 39(1):37-50.
- Knowles, S. (2005) "Inequality and economic growth: the empirical relationship reconsidered in the light of comparable data", *Journal of Development Studies*, 41:135-159.
- Grafton., R.Q. and Knowles, S. (2004) "Social capital and national environmental performance: A cross-sectional analysis", *The Journal of Environment and Development*, 13:336-370.
- Grafton, R.Q., Knowles, S. and Owen, P.D. (2004) "Total factor productivity, per capita income and social divergence", *Economic Record*, 80:302-313.
- Knowles, S. and Garces, A. (2003) "Measuring government intervention and estimating its effect on output: with reference to the High Performing Asian Economies", *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 51:451-477.
- Knowles, S. and McCombie, J. (2003) "Erkin Bairam's contribution to economics", *Ekonomia*, 6:1-18.
- Knowles, S., Lorgelly, P.K. and Owen, P.D. (2002) "Are educational gender gaps a brake on economic development? some cross-country empirical evidence", *Oxford Economic Papers*, 54:118-149.
- Knowles, S. (2001) "Are the Penn World Tables data on government consumption and investment being misused?", *Economics Letters*, 71:293-298.
- Lorgelly, P.K., Knowles, S. and Owen, P.D. (2001) "Barro's fertility equations: the robustness of the role of female education and income", *Applied Economics*, 33:1065-1075.
- Richardson, M. and Knowles, S. (1999) "On the use of competition policy to enhance the effectiveness of industrial policy", *Review of Development Economics*, 3:58-65.
- Humphries, H. and Knowles, S. (1998) "Does agriculture contribute to economic growth? some empirical evidence", *Applied Economics*, 30:775-781.
- Hansen, P. and Knowles, S. (1998) "Human capital and returns to scale", *Journal of Economic Studies*, 25:118-123.
- Knowles, S. and Owen, P.D. (1997) "Education and health in an effective-labour empirical growth model", *Economic Record*, 73:314-328.
- Knowles, S. (1997) "Which level of schooling has the greatest economic impact on output?", *Applied Economics Letters*, 4:177-180.

Knowles, S. and Owen, P.D. (1995) “Health capital and cross-country variation in income per capita in the Mankiw-Romer-Weil model”, *Economics Letters*, 48:99-106.

Devlin, N., Hansen, P. and Knowles, S. (1995) “Financing New Zealand’s tertiary education: How much subsidy: comment”, *Agenda*, 2:223-225.

Knowles, S. (1993) “The evolution of basic needs and human development”, *The International Review of Economics and Business (Rivista Internazionale di Scienze Economiche e Commerciali)*, 60:513-542.

### **Chapters in Books**

Fielding, D. and Knowles, S. “The importance of social capital in New Zealand’s COVID-19 Response”, in S. Ratuva, T. Ross, Y. Crichton-Hill, A. Basu, P. Vakaoti and R. Martin (eds.) *COVID-19 and Social Protection*, Palgrave MacMillan, 261-277.

Jones, M., Knowles, S. and Owen, P.D. (2007) “The fundamental determinants of health and education: institutions versus geography”, in W.R. Garside (ed.) *Institutions and Market Economies: The Political Economy of Growth and Development*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 167-185.

Knowles, S. (2007) “Is Social Capital Part of the Institutions Continuum and is it a Deep Determinant of Development?”, in *Advancing Development: Core Themes in Global Economics*, G. Mavratos and A. Shorrocks (editors), Palgrave MacMillan, London, 197-223.

Grafton, R.Q., Knowles, S. and Owen, P.D. (2002) “Social Divergence and Productivity: Making a Connection”, in *The Review of Economic Performance and Social Progress: Towards a Social Understanding of Productivity*, A. Sharpe, F. St-Hilaire and K. Benting (editors), Institute for Research on Public Policy and Centre for the Study of Living Standards, Montreal and Ottawa, 203-226.

Garces, A. and Knowles, S. (2001) “Government Intervention and Economic Growth in East Asia”, in *Asian Nationalism in an Age of Globalization*, R. Starrs (editor) Curzon Press, Surrey: 49-64.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Principles of Economics (both micro and macro) (100 level)

The World Economy (200 level)

Asian Economic Development (200 level)

The Economics of Developing Countries (300 level)

Economic Growth and Development (400 level)

The Global Economy (500 level)

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

Immediate Past President of the New Zealand Association of Economists, 2013-2015.

President of the New Zealand Association of Economists, 2011-2013.

Vice-President of the New Zealand Association of Economists, 2009-2011.

Council Member of the New Zealand Association of Economists, 2007-2009.

### **SIGNIFICANT UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS**

Academic Staffing Advisory Committee, 2022 and 2024-present.

Leadership Group of the Otago Global Health Institute, 2020-present.

Master of International Studies Board of Studies, 2021- present.

Salvation Army/University of Otago Steering Group, 2025-present.

Director of Postgraduate Studies, 2001-2009, 2014-present.

Head of Department of Economics, 2010-2012.

Chair of the Department of Economics Research Committee, 2010-12.

Member of Senate, 2010-2012, 2021-present.

Member of the Summer School and Continuing Education Board, 2001-2012.

Deputy Head of Department of Economics, 2007-2009.

Member of the Steering Committee of the International Health Research Network, 2008-2015.

Member of the Department of Economics Academic Board 2001-2005, 2007-2012, 2014-2016.

Editor of EcoNZ@Otago, 1998-9, 2007.

Member of the Board of Asian Studies, 1996-8.

### **EXTERNAL GRANTS**

Marsden Fund, “Social Capital, Mutual Trust and Economic Performance”, 2000-2002 (with P. D. Owen).

Marsden Fund, “The Effect of Gender Gaps in Education and Health on Economic Growth Across Countries”, 1996-98 (with P. D. Owen).

### **SUPERVISION OF RESEARCH STUDENTS**

#### PhD Supervision

“The Impacts of Credit Access and Market Access on Multi-dimensional Poverty Reduction of Farmers in the Rural Mekong Delta”, Khoa Anh Trinh, 2019 – present (supervised with N. Berg, A. Garces-Ozanne).

“Essays on Income Inequality” Otago, D. Clyne, 2017 – present (supervised with T. Smith and P.D. Owen).

“The Role of Gender Equality in Sustainable Development Strategy”, R. Badru, 2015 – present (supervised with P.D. Owen and A. Garces-Ozanne).

“Climate and the Aggregate Economy: Empirical Evidence from Cross-Sectional, Panel and Time-Series Analysis”, A. Tan, 2011-2015 (supervised with P.D. Owen).

“Exploring the Potential for a Christian Conception of Economic Life in Karl Barth’s Doctrine of Creation”, A. Callander (Department of Theology and Religious Studies), 2010-2012 (supervised with M. Rae).

“Education and Economic Development in Senegal”, A. Le Nestour, 2009- present (supervised with P.D. Owen and T. Viitanen).

“Economic Determinants of Gender Discrimination, M.-C. Robitaille-Blanchet, 2006-2010 (supervised with M. Genc and P.D. Owen).

“Trust, ROSCA Membership and Social Distance in Rural Cameroon”, A. Etang, 2006-2010 (supervised with D. Fielding).

“Determinants of Economic Growth: The East Asian “Miracle” Revisited and Further Evidence From Time Series and Panel Data”, A. Ozanne, 1997-2002 (supervised with W.R.J. Alexander and P.D. Owen).

“The Effect of Gender Gaps in Education and Health on Economic Growth Across Countries”, P. Lorgelly, 1996-2000 (supervised with P.D. Owen)

#### Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) supervision

“Does a Lower Overhead Ration Reflect a More Effective Charitable Organisation?” Linda Taylor, 2018-ongoing (supervised with R. Adler).

#### Masters supervision

MINtS thesis, The Impact of Refugee Influx and Foreign Aid on Jordan’s Political and Economic Viability, Otago, J. Young, 2023-2024.

MINtS thesis, “How Closely does New Zealand’s Recent Strategic Change in Foreign Aid Policy Reflect the Preferences of New Zealanders?”, Otago, H. Cunningham, 2015 (supervised P. Hansen).

MINtS thesis, “Tourism – Ticket to Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa”?, Otago, S. Laste, 2003-2004.

MCom thesis, The Determinants of Economic Growth in Taiwan: Following and Extending Tallman and Wang (1994), H. Humphries, 1996-2000 (supervised with P.D. Owen).

#### Honours supervision

“Do Aid Donors Care About The Characteristics of the Recipient Country, and what the Money is Spent on?” N. Kergozou, 2012 (supervised with P. Hansen).

“The Deep Determinants of Comparative Poverty Levels”, R. Wilson, 2010 (supervised with P.D. Owen).

“Which Deep Determinants Matter for Development? A Multi Dimensional Approach”, C. Allan, 2010 (supervised with P.D. Owen).

“Explaining New Zealand’s Productivity”, D. Gradwell, 2009 (supervised with P.D. Owen).

“The Fundamental Determinants of Health Status, a Cross-Country Investigation Into Geography and Institutions”, M. Jones, 2004 (supervised with P.D. Owen).

“External Debt and Economic Growth: The Investment Channel, A. Ratcliffe, 2003 (supervised with P. D. Owen).

“Gender Gaps in Education and the Effect on Economic Growth, G. Connor, 2002.

“Does East Asia Grow Differently?”, S. Barber, 2002.

“The Effects of Foreign Aid on Economic Growth, E. Dawe, 2002.

“Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth”, Lau Ka Ming (Eric), 2001 (supervised with M. Genc).

“The Demand for Super 12 Rugby Attendance in New Zealand”, Otago, H. Caldwell, 2000 (supervised with E. Bairam).

“Ethnic Diversity and Economic Growth”, B. Medlicott, 1997.

“An Empirical Analysis and Interpretation of the Determinants of Life Expectancy”, Otago, C. King, 1996 (supervised with P.D. Owen).

“An Investigation into the Industrialisation Process of the Malaysian Economy: Does Malaysia Have the Ability to Become a NIC?”, Otago, D. Rutherford, 1995 (supervised with P. Wooding).

“Structural Disequilibrium and the Convergence Hypothesis”, Otago, H. Humphries, 1995.

### **PHD EXAMINATION**

Macquarie University (2020), Victoria University (2017 & 2021), Deakin University (2016), Monash University (2014 & 2015), Massey University (2002 & 2009), University of Sydney (2008), University of Waikato (2002), University of Massey (2002).

### **INVITED SEMINARS**

University of Queensland, 2025; University of Lincoln (UK), 2019; Lily School of Philanthropy, 2019; Victoria University, 2018; Monash University, 2014; World Vision National Directors Hui, 2014; University of Canterbury, 2013 and 2015; University of Massey, 2011; University of Canterbury, 2011, 2019; Auckland University of Technology, 2009; APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2008; Ministry of Justice, 2007; Road to Riches Workshop, Australian National University, 2005; University of Auckland, 2004; New Zealand Treasury, 2004; University of Ottawa, 2000; University of Nottingham, 2000, 2019; University of Dundee, 2000.

### **PUBLIC LECTURES**

Effective Altruism Dunedin, 2022 and 2023.  
Save the Children webinars 2021 and 2022.

University of the Third Age, 2013 and 2020.

University of Otago, Inaugural Professorial Lecture, 2018.

New Zealand Institute for the Study of Competition and Regulation (ISCR), 2004.

### **MEDIA**

I have been interviewed by various media over the years including TVNZ Breakfast Show, Newshub, NewsTalk ZB, the Spinoff, Otago Daily Times, New Zealand Herald, Medical News Today, Thrive Magazine, Radio Live, Plains FM, Hills AM and Radio One.

### **EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics.

### **REFEREEING**

New Zealand Economic Papers, Economics Letters, Economic Record, Bulletin of Economic Research, Eastern Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Development Studies, New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Economic Surveys, Journal of Economic Education, International Economic Journal, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Macroeconomics, Southern Economic Journal, Agricultural Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Productivity Analysis, Journal of Feminist Economics, World Economy, Journal of African Economies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Metroeconomica, Australian Economic Papers, Economica, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Environment and Development, Journal of Economic Inequality, Macroeconomic Dynamics, Journal of African Economies, World Development, Journal of Public Economics, Economic Papers, Economic Journal, Journal of Socioeconomics, Annals of Economics and Statistics, Ecological Economics, Journal of Economic Inequality, Disasters, Australian Journal of Labour Economics, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Economic Psychology, Applied Economics, Economics and Politics, Health Policy and Planning, Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies, Empirical Economics, Social Sciences, Eurasian Economic Review, Health Economics, Oxford Economic Papers, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, Global Environmental Change.

### **CONFERENCE ORGANISATION**

Member of the Organising Committee for the New Zealand Association of Economists Annual Conference, 2009, 2010, 2011.

Member of the Organising Committee for the Otago Global Health Institute Conference, 2022, 2023, 2025.