

Current Research Interests

Dr Jayanthakumaran's research has concentrated on the manufacturing performance of Australia and Asia. The findings from his research have important policy implications for Australian manufacturing and trade policies, showing among other things that declining protection in Australian manufacturing is associated with rising productivity and rising exports, despite the fact that the positive productivity growth does not appear to have been passed on to consumers in the form of lower prices; that the positive productivity effect of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) does not appear to have been translated into export gains; that trade reforms have had a negative impact on employment; that declining protection is weakly associated with increasing employment to the degree that trade flows are intra-industry; and that declining protection in the passenger motor vehicle industry has increased the volume of trade and productivity, but reduced the locally produced cars for internal consumption.

Dr Jayanthakumaran is also working on economic integrations and performance of Australia and New Zealand in Closer Economic Relations, Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN) and South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The findings from his research have important policy implications for regional economic integrations, demonstrating among other things that multilateralism and regionalism are complementary, and that regional income convergence is likely with a like-minded and committed regionalism that often has links culturally and geographically.

Dr Jayanthakumaran is currently working on trade induced environmental emissions. This combines current anti-pollution policies with increased level of trade liberalisation in countries such as China and India. The analysis is further extended to state emissions in order to achieve the national emissions target.

Dr Jayanthakumaran has also extended this work to analyse the World Trade Organisation. The outcomes of his research on Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in Asia indicate that Post-Uruguay Round policy may eventually result in lower rates of private returns and may pose a threat to EPZs.

Journal Articles

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