

VITA – BEN SHEPHERD, PH.D. PRINCIPAL.

I combine a policy background with strong quantitative skills to provide policy-relevant research on the full range of trade and development issues. I have worked extensively with major international organizations such as the World Bank, OECD, Asian Development Bank, UNESCAP, APEC, and FAO. I have published more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, and a similar number of book chapters. My 2022 *World Economy* article won the inaugural Corden Prize for the most significant contribution to the evaluation of trade policy. I am also the co-founder of the Trade Policy Research Forum, a volunteer online community bridging the gap between research and practice in trade policy.

Particular areas of specialization include:

- Trade Policy.
- Global Value Chains.
- Global Trade Modeling.
- Trade Facilitation and Non-Tariff Measures.
- Trade in Services.

Professional History

2023-Current: *Non-Resident Senior Fellow*, European Center for International Political Economy.
 2020-Current: *Co-Founder*, Trade Policy Research Forum.
 2009-Current: *Principal*, Developing Trade Consultants.
 2008-2009: *Postdoctoral Fellow*, Niehaus Center for Globalization & Governance, Princeton Univ.
 2006-2008: *Extended Term (In-House) Consultant*, Development Research Group – Trade, World Bank.
 2005-2006: *Consultant (In-House and External)*, Trade Directorate, OECD, Paris, France.
 2003-2006: *Lecturer and Research Assistant*, Groupe d’Economie Mondiale, Sciences Po, Paris.
 2001-2003: *Junior Professional*, Agency for International Trade Information & Cooperation, Geneva.
 1997-1999: *Lawyer*, Commercial Litigation, Minter Ellison Lawyers, Brisbane, Australia.
 1996: *Associate (Clerk) to the Chief Justice*, Queensland Supreme Court, Brisbane, Australia.

Academic Background

2003-2008: *Ph.D. in Economics*, Summa Cum Laude. Sciences Po, Paris, France.
 2001-2003: *M. Phil. (D.E.A.) in International Economics*. Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland.
 1999-2000: *M. Phil. in International Relations*. Cambridge University, U.K.
 1993-1997: *LL.B (J.D. equiv.)*, Summa Cum Laude; *B.A. (major: Japanese)*, Bond University, Australia.

Other Information

Languages: English (native), French (bilingual), Japanese (intermediate).
 Nationality: USA, Australia, and UK.

Selected Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

(2026) “The Surprising Bias of PPML Estimates of Structural Gravity Models with Two Way Fixed Effects”, *Review of International Economics*. (With Tom Zylkin.)

(2022) [“Modeling Global Value Chains: From Trade Costs to Policy Impact.”](#) *The World Economy*. Winner of the 2022 Corden Prize.

(2017) [“Services Productivity, Trade Policy, and Manufacturing Exports”](#), *The World Economy*, 40(3): 499-516. (With Bernard Hoekman.)

(2016) [“Trade Costs in the Developing World: 1996-2010”](#), *World Trade Review*, 15(3): 451-474. (With Jean-François Arvis, Yann Duval, Chorthip Utoktham, and Anasuya Raj.)

Selected Consulting Engagements

2026

“Open Markets Index”, International Chamber of Commerce: methodological review and technical quality assurance.

“ASEAN Trade and Gender Dashboard Feasibility Study”, RT4D: project management and quality assurance.

“Japan–LAC Economic Engagement”, Inter-American Development Bank: quantitative analysis and report drafting.

“Services in Global Value Chains” and “Asian Development Policy Report 2026”, Asian Development Bank: applied research and quantitative analysis.

“Rules of Origin in EU–UK Trade”, Best for Britain, through Frontier Economics: quantitative trade policy modeling.

“Services Primer”, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD): data, methods, and policy applications.

2025

“Cross-Border Provision of Services in the European Union”, European Parliament: co-authored policy research with Bernard Hoekman.

“Review of B-Ready Trade Pillar”, World Bank: methodological review.

2020–2026

Gravity and quantitative trade modeling training, UK Department for Business and Trade: practical capacity building for policy analysts.