

Riandy Laksono, Ph.D. | Senior Economist | Trade, Industrial, and Development Policy

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Professional Profile

Trade and development economist with 15 years of policy and research experience across ASEAN and East Asia. Former Research Associate at ERIA and current postdoctoral researcher at VU Amsterdam, with a track record of policy engagement for ministries, regional institutions, and development partners. Research focus: international trade, industrial policy, labour markets, and green transition strategy.

Core Expertise

Policy areas: International trade; industrial and investment policy; regional integration; labour market policy; macroeconomic policy; geoeconomics

Regional focus: ASEAN and East Asia, with deep country expertise in Indonesia

Methods: Microeconometrics; impact evaluation; firm-level and labour-market analysis; applied policy analytics

Tools: Stata (advanced), R (working proficiency), MS Office (advanced), L^AT_EX/Overleaf

Education

Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (ANU)

Ph.D. in Economics

Department: Arndt–Corden Department of Economics

Thesis: Essays on international trade and development: evidence from Indonesian microdata

Supervisors: Arianto Patunru (Chair), Prema-chandra Athukorala, Yixiao Zhou

Universitas Indonesia

Master of Science in Economics

Grade: 3.86/4.00

IPB University

Bachelor of Science in Economics

GPA: 3.65/4.00

Canberra, Australia

Feb 2020 – Jun 2025

Depok, Indonesia

Jan 2013

Bogor, Indonesia

Jul 2010

Professional Experience

Department of Spatial Economics, VU Amsterdam

Postdoctoral Researcher

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Oct 2025 – Sep 2026 (expected)

- Researching the political economy and environmental implications of critical minerals export restrictions, especially nickel, in Indonesia.
- Assessing whether export bans improve domestic value capture in clean technology supply chains (including batteries and electric vehicles).

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Indonesia

Researcher (On Leave)

Jakarta, Indonesia

Jan 2025 – Present

- Lead researcher on international trade, geoeconomics, industrial policy, labour policy, and macroeconomic issues.
- Led development of a green trade roadmap for the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia.
- Produced policy commentary and research for public and policy audiences.
- Represented CSIS in public policy forums and stakeholder dialogues.

Australia Indonesia Partnership for Economic Development (Prospera)

Remote

Trade and Investment Economist (Part-time Consultant)

Jun 2024 – Feb 2025

- Led strategy advice on climate-related trade policy developments in Indonesia's partner countries.
- Supported Government of Indonesia counterparts on implementation planning for the RCEP agreement.

IA-CEPA Katalis

Remote

Trade and Investment Economist (Part-time Consultant)

Apr 2021 – Dec 2024

- Produced sectoral studies to identify growth opportunities and policy barriers in IA-CEPA priority sectors.
- Identified regulatory reforms to align domestic regulations with IA-CEPA commitments.
- Assessed implications of investment restrictions, including minimum paid-up capital requirements.

Australia Indonesia Partnership for Economic Development (Prospera)

Jakarta, Indonesia

Trade and Investment Economist

Jul 2015 – Dec 2019

- Advised Indonesian ministries on trade and investment reforms to improve competitiveness.
- Supported technical work underpinning ASEAN+1 implementation, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, RCEP, and CPTPP readiness discussions.
- Presented policy analysis at senior government meetings and multi-stakeholder consultations.
- Designed and delivered capacity-building initiatives on trade policy formulation and implementation.

Employers' Association of Indonesia (APINDO)

Jakarta, Indonesia

Lead Economist

Nov 2013 – Dec 2014

- Led APINDO's economic policy white paper for the incoming administration (2014–2019).
- Supported business representation in trade negotiations (including Indonesia–EU CEPA and Indonesia–Korea CEPA).
- Led labour policy analysis and advisory work on labour market flexibility and competitiveness.

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

Jakarta, Indonesia

Research Associate

Aug 2011 – Nov 2013

- Conducted policy research on ASEAN economic integration, trade, and investment.
- Coordinated multi-country research activities with government, academic, and policy stakeholders.

Demography Institute, Universitas Indonesia

Depok, Indonesia

Research Assistant

Dec 2010 – Jul 2011

- Supported survey implementation, data quality assurance, and applied economic analysis.

Selected Publications

Working Papers and Research Manuscripts

2026: Laksono, R. and Azlia, V. **Green Industrial Policies in a Fragmented World: A View from the Global South.** CSIS Working Paper

2024: Laksono, R., et al. **Labor Market Impact of Export in a Commodity-Dependent Nation: The Case of Indonesia.** ADBI Working Paper Series, No. 1481.

2024: Laksono, R. and Patunru, A. **The dynamics of labor share decline in manufacturing: Evidence from Indonesia.** ACDE Working Papers in Trade and Development, No. 2024/03. *Revise and Resubmit at The World Economy.*

2024: Laksono, R. **Trade Liberalization as Market Discipline: Evidence from Indonesia.** *Revise and Resubmit at International Economics.*

Policy Commentaries

2026: **Nickel nationalism holds back Indonesia's clean tech ambitions.** *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, 18(1), 32–34 (January–March). Issue DOI: doi: 10.22459/EAFQ.18.01.2026.

2025: **Recalibrating Southeast Asian trade policy in a world of economic fragmentation** (with D. Rafitrandi). *East Asia Forum*. doi: 10.59425/eabc.1758373200.

2025: **Can Indonesia navigate global economic turbulence under Prabowo?** *Indonesia at Melbourne.*

- 2025: Indonesia should respond to Trump's tariffs with import deregulation.** *The Jakarta Post*.
- 2025: Restoring free meals program as a child nutrition initiative.** *The Jakarta Post*.
- 2025: Why Prabowo's misguided austerity is emblematic of his free-wheeling economic policy.** *Indonesia at Melbourne*.
- 2024: Prabowo's pursuit of 8 per cent growth won't be without problems.** *East Asia Forum*. doi:10.59425/eabc.1729591200.
- 2024: Return of the technocrats: Can Prabowo's economic team prove the doubters wrong?** *Indonesia at Melbourne*.
- 2024: How Prabowo's 8% growth target will shape Indonesia's fiscal policy.** *Indonesia at Melbourne*.
- Additional Academic Publications**.....
- 2021:** Laksono, R. **Creating decent jobs.** In *Sustainable and Golden Indonesia in 2045: a collection of thoughts from Indonesian students worldwide*, Series 1 Economy, LIPI Press ebooks, pp. 177–192.
- 2010:** Laksono, R. **An analysis of the impact of Economic and Political Freedom on Economic Growth in Eight ASEAN Countries (1997–2007).** *Jurnal Ekonomi Pembangunan Indonesia*, 11(1), 35–54.

Selected Projects

CSIS Indonesia

Jakarta, Indonesia

Green Trade Roadmap (Research Lead)

Jun 2025 – Jun 2028

- Leading development of Indonesia's green trade roadmap to strengthen low-carbon export competitiveness and align trade strategy with decarbonization goals.
- Managing analytical workstreams on sector prioritization and policy design, including trade, investment, fiscal, skills, standards, and regulatory instruments.
- Coordinating ministries, private sector, and policy stakeholders to convert roadmap recommendations into implementable actions with clear timelines and responsibilities.

PhD Project

Ph.D. Thesis Project (Australia Awards Scholarship)

Jun 2021 – Dec 2024

Title: Essays on International Trade and Development: Evidence from Indonesian Microdata

- Built and managed microdata workflows and econometric analysis across multiple papers.
- Generated policy-relevant evidence on trade, productivity, and labour market outcomes.

ADB and Templeton Foundation

Globalisation and Inequality in Asia (Research Lead)

Aug 2023 – May 2024

Title: Labour market impact of export in a commodity-dependent economy: evidence from Indonesia

ERIA and Ministry of Finance (Indonesia)

Revitalising Indonesian Manufacturing Sector

Aug 2022 – Jun 2023

- Assessed sectoral performance and global market opportunities for Indonesian manufacturing.
- Produced strategy recommendations to improve productivity and long-run growth.

Prospera

Implementing RCEP (Regulatory Review Lead)

Aug 2022 – Feb 2023

- Identified misaligned regulations and proposed reform pathways for stronger RCEP implementation.
- Mapped sectors likely to gain or face adjustment costs under deeper integration.

IA-CEPA Katalis

Implementing Indonesia–Australia CEPA (IA-CEPA)

Apr 2021 – Sep 2021

- Mapped domestic regulations against IA-CEPA commitments and identified priority reforms.

Academic Presentations (Selected)

- 2024:** DFAT Understanding Indonesia, National Security College, ANU, Canberra
- 2024:** 41st ANU Indonesia Update Conference, ANU, Canberra
- 2024:** 19th Indonesia Regional Science Association (IRSA) International Conference, Ambon

2024: 17th Australasian Trade Workshop (ATW), Christchurch
2024: ADBI Workshop “Globalization and Equality” (online)
2023: ERIA and Ministry of Finance Workshop on Manufacturing Revitalization, Bogor
2023: 18th Australasian Development Economics Workshop (ADEW), Sydney
2022: 17th East Asia Economic Association (EAEA) International Convention, Kuala Lumpur

Teaching Experience

Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU <i>Casual Academic Support Staff (AAS awardees)</i> ○ Supported teaching and mentoring in applied economics and public policy coursework.	Canberra, Australia <i>Sep 2021 – Sep 2024</i>
School of Business, University of New South Wales <i>Casual Academic Staff</i> Subject: Business Economics	Canberra, Australia <i>Jul 2022 – Dec 2022</i>
University of Multimedia Nusantara <i>Casual Lecturer</i> Subject: Microeconomics	South Tangerang, Indonesia <i>Jan 2015 – Jun 2015</i>
Universitas Indonesia <i>Casual Tutor</i> Subjects: Macroeconomics; Basic Statistics	Depok, Indonesia <i>Jan 2011 – Jun 2011</i>
IPB University <i>Casual Tutor</i> Subject: Introductory Economics	Bogor, Indonesia <i>Jan 2008 – Jun 2010</i>

Honors and Awards

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia) <i>Australia Awards Scholarship</i> Scholarship for Ph.D. studies at ANU.	<i>Aug 2019</i>
AIPEG (Prospera predecessor) <i>AIPEG Best Performers Award</i> Recognized among top-performing staff members.	<i>Dec 2016</i>

References

Prof. Steven Poelhekke Professor, Department of Spatial Economics, VU Amsterdam Work supervisor steven.poelhekke@vu.nl	yixiao.zhou@anu.edu.au
Dr. Arianto Patunru Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU Ph.D. supervisor ariantopatunru@anu.edu.au	Dr. Achmad Shauki Senior Economist (Trade and Investment), Prospera Work supervisor achmad.shauki@prospera.or.id
Prof. Prema-chandra Athukorala Emeritus Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU Ph.D. supervisor prema-chandra.athukorala@anu.edu.au	Dr. Fauziah Zen Senior Economist, ERIA Academic and professional reference fauziah.zen@eria.org
Dr. Yixiao Zhou Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU Ph.D. supervisor	Prof. Blane Lewis Emeritus Professor Arndt–Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU blane.lewis@gmail.com
	Prof. Nunung Nuryartono Professor, IPB University Bachelor thesis supervisor nuryartono@yahoo.com