CIRET Conference 2026
Keynote speakers

Dr Stan du Plessis

CEO STADIO Higher Education
Durbanville, South Africa

Dr Stan du Plessis is a leading South African macroeconomist with deep expertise in monetary policy, business cycles, and macroeconomic stability. He spent 19 years as Professor of Economics at Stellenbosch University, where he also served as Chief Operating Officer and Dean of Economic and Management Sciences. His research includes collaborations with the South African Reserve Bank and National Treasury, and key publications on stabilisation policy, fiscal and monetary cyclicality, and emerging-market business cycles. His latest book is *Reconsidering Central Bank Independence* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

Business Cycles in a Constrained World: Rethinking Stabilisation Policy for Emerging and Advanced Economies

This address would explore how traditional business cycle theory and stabilisation policy must evolve in an era of shrinking fiscal space and heightened global uncertainty. Drawing on insights from both emerging and advanced economies, it would examine the limits of conventional tools and propose frameworks for navigating cyclical volatility in a constrained policy environment.

Prof. Fabio Canova

Emeritus Professor at the Norwegian Business School and a CAMP & CEPR Research Associate

Prof. Canova has held senior roles across leading universities, central banks, and policy institutions, including Program Director at the Budapest School of Central Banking Studies and Director of Training at the Florence School of Banking and Finance. He has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles in leading economics journals, with influential work on monetary policy, business cycles, and macroeconomic methods. He has also served as journal editor, IMF consultant, and advisor to central banks worldwide. His graduate textbook *Methods for Applied Macroeconomic Research* (2007) remains influential.

The measurement of gaps and potentials

Measuring output gaps and economic potential is one of the most difficult challenges in applied macroeconomics. Drawing on decades of research, Professor Canova shows how different methods can lead to sharply different policy conclusions—and why this matters—offering practical guidance for building more reliable real-time indicators.

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