



# Meet the man behind the webinars: Prof. Francesco Paolucci



Lucy Egan  
Communications Assistant

Recently, [Professor Francesco Paolucci](#) jetted off to Azerbaijan and Singapore to host discussions and workshops around public healthcare, in particular, the economic policies that relate to it.

You may also know him from [VheP](#) webinars series for online audiences in Australia and internationally and participants from around the world, on a varying range of topics that centre on VheP focus areas, including his commitment in making healthcare affordable and accessible for people globally.

As part of Newcastle Business School, he convenes the suite of [health economics management and policy programs](#) and supervises domestic and international HDR students.

So, who is the man behind the webinars? We sat down to chat about his recent trips.



Prof. Paolucci (seated) on his recent visit to Azerbaijan

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## ***How was your recent trip to Azerbaijan? What topics did you cover in your three-day workshop with the Azerbaijani Health Minister?***

That's a nice story to tell. The Azerbaijani Health Minister was an excellent student I taught in an executive education programme many years ago in Europe and since then has been appointed recently Health Minister due to his innovative vision and strategy.

He invited me to participate and help him and his team but also other healthcare agencies in government and industry to work together and focus on key challenges in the health systems. Across the three-day workshop I ran healthcare system transformations, utilising systems thinking, data analytics and comparative health policy as means to device practical pathways to bring about improvements in the system that can ultimately improve outcomes.

The feedback afterwards and the degree of communication and the desire to continue and collaborate has been very positive.

## ***Any comments about your recent webinar conducted in Singapore in September?***

The trip to Singapore was very much to connect with our local campus and to meet with potential partners and collaborators on research, but also in our teaching programs, as well as the presentation. We matched with many industry leaders locally and fostered good collaborations with them and research groups.

***What do you see is the importance of working both nationally and on an international scale in your area of research?***

The themes that I'm passionate about inherently have national as well as local relevance, but definitely have also an international dimension. So, they are fundamentally questions that are asked by researchers, practitioners, governments and industry in almost in every country in the world now, which are in need of answers.

I do a bit more [and go] the extra mile with international work. Because personally I find that working collaboratively, not only with the economists in other countries that, for example, look at our health insurance, these organised or subsidised, or look at vaccine hesitancy, but also physicians' behaviour and response to payment models. All these issues, they are topical everywhere; but there are a lot of the variations in different contexts and countries that do depend on the settings in that specific context.

So that is what drives me; learning to work together and understand how to tackle certain issues and problems with the international collaborative experience of others.

***Have you found that working this area during a global pandemic has created greater awareness around public health economics and policy?***

Partly, it has something to do with Covid because what we want from healthcare systems is not only one thing anymore. We want to be efficient. We want it to be accountable. We want it to deliver quality of care for everyone, everywhere!

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***"It's always been clear to me, but it's now more and more clear that health and healthcare are global issues."***

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**So, what's next for Prof. Paolucci?**

Professor Francesco Paolucci and Associate Professor Brendan Boyle, are delighted to invite you to the [symposium](#) *Engage in Impactful Research with the Newcastle Business School*.

The [Health Policy and Health Services Management](#) cluster is closing the two-day symposium running on Friday 4 November from 1-4pm. This part of the symposium will feature speakers and panelists based nationally and internationally.

The Newcastle Business School Health Policy and Health Services Management cluster harnesses long-standing research strengths of two complementary research groups - Value in Health Economics and Policy ([VHeP](#)) and Health Services Research and Innovation Centre ([HSRIC](#)). The VHeP group aims to identify inefficiencies within the current healthcare system and engage with healthcare stakeholders to provide sustainable, value-based assessments of health interventions and policies. The HSRIC aims to improve the design and management of health services with particular emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to addressing critical health challenges.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

**Where:** Room X101 | NUspace | University of Newcastle, Hunter St & Auckland St, Newcastle

**When:** Friday 4th November | 1-4PM



Some of the distinguished guests and speakers at the symposium