

**Title:** FDI and Investment Screening Mechanisms (with Phil McCalman)

**Abstract:** Efforts to restrict Inward FDI (IFDI) have traditionally been modest. Recently there has been a dramatic increase in the number of countries screening IFDI. The costs imposed by screening raise concerns about the consequences for IFDI. In this paper, we leverage a structural gravity framework to quantify the effect of screening on the level of FDI in a host country, and on the distribution of IFDI across countries. We address these issues from three perspectives. First, partial equilibrium estimates suggest that screening reduces IFDI by 35-37%, on average. Second, general equilibrium estimates reveal that the unilateral adoption of screening reduces the aggregate IFDI of a new screener by, on average, 10%, but the impact varies from -0.2% to -33%. Finally, we consider a world where all non-screening hosts adopt screening. We find that IFDI is reduced on average by 11.4% for new screening hosts but this effect differs across hosts ranging from -0.2% to -34%. The impact on bilateral IFDI from the adoption of screening is even more varied, with the largest increase recorded as 6% while the largest drop is 64%. Third-country effects are also pronounced, with bilateral IFDI changes for bystanders ranging from -50% to 7%.