

in brief...

Europe's top prize for economic research

John Van Reenen, CEP director and LSE professor, has been jointly awarded the Yrjö Jahnsson Award in Economics 2009, Europe's most prestigious prize for economic researchers.

In 1993, the Finnish Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation established the Yrjö Jahnsson Award in Economics, for a young (under 45) European economist who has made a contribution in theoretical and applied research that is significant to economics in Europe.

The Award is given every two years in cooperation with the European Economic Association (EEA) and previous winners include Tim Besley, Richard Blundell and Jean Tirole (see: http://www.yjs.fi/index_eng.cfm?rID=2&lgID=2&tID=33). This year the recipients were announced at a ceremony at the annual congress of the EEA in Barcelona in late August.

The citation from the Board of the Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation, which nominated John Van Reenen and former CEP researcher Fabrizio Zilibotti (now at the University of Zurich) as recipients of the 2009 award, said:

'John Van Reenen and Fabrizio Zilibotti, both on their own and in joint work, have made several important contributions to the analysis of technological innovation and its link with economic growth and labour market phenomena'.

'The work of Van Reenen and Zilibotti addresses very relevant questions, with rich policy implications, using a diversity of research styles and methods, but always with the highest standards of rigour and excellence.'

The Award recognises the broad scope and impact of Professor Van Reenen's research on the world of work and business (detailed on his home page here: http://cep.lse.ac.uk/_new/staff/person.asp?id=1358):

'John Van Reenen has made several contributions to the empirical analysis of labour markets, competition policy and industrial economics, especially in areas relating to productivity growth, management practices, R&D, intellectual property, and investment decisions.'

'He has also done pioneering work on the organizational structure of the firm and its relation to innovation, contributing both with empirical evidence and measurement tools.'

Professor Van Reenen's research on management practices is discussed in the 'Bossonomics' article starting on page 10 of this issue of *CentrePiece* and in Bloom and Van Reenen (2007). Some of his research on productivity in both the private and public sectors is written up in Faggio et al (2007) and Hall et al (2008). And work on technology and the organisational structure of the firm is described in Acemoglu et al (2007) and Bloom et al (2009).

Professor Van Reenen said: 'I am deeply honoured to receive this award. It belongs more to the wonderful colleagues and students I have been so lucky to have worked with over the years.'

Further reading

Daron Acemoglu, Philippe Aghion, Claire Lelarge, John Van Reenen and Fabrizio Zilibotti (2007) 'Technology, Information and the Decentralization of the Firm', *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122(4): 1759-99.

Nick Bloom, Luis Garicano, Raffaella Sadun and John Van Reenen (2009) 'The Distinct Effects of Information Technology and Communication Technology on Firm Organization', CEP Discussion Paper No. 927.

Nick Bloom and John Van Reenen (2007) 'Measuring and Explaining Management Practices Across Firms and Nations', *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122(4): 1351-1408.

Giulia Faggio, Kjell Salvanes and John Van Reenen (2007) 'The Evolution of Inequality in Productivity and Wages: Panel Data Evidence', CEP Discussion Paper No. 821.

Emma Hall, Carol Propper and John Van Reenen (2008) 'Can Pay Regulation Kill? The Impact of Labour Markets and Skills on Hospital Productivity', CEP Discussion Paper No. 843.