



ROYAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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ROYAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY

Market failure and public services

Since the election of the first Thatcher government in the UK in 1979, governments (Labour no less than Conservative) have looked to the introduction of 'market forces' to improve the provision of what were hitherto regarded as public services, delivered free at the point of consumption. The ability of a competitive environment to raise the level of efficiency is well-known but that, interestingly, is not the basis on which an increased role for the market has been promoted. Rather, it is (said) a question of 'choice'. But there can be few services which embody the textbook conditions for market failure than health care and education. The services are 'life-time' purchases with no opportunity for consumers to learn about quality differentials through repeat purchases. For the same reason, suppliers have little to gain from trying to build up a reputation for quality. The quality of the goods is not directly observable since consumers do not have the specialist knowledge to understand fully what is on offer. And so on... In his latest 'Letter from America', Angus Deaton reveals from personal experience as vividly as one could ask for, the problems of seeking out good value healthcare in a market-based system.

The other major item in this issue is the article summarising by Jonathan Burton and Jane Humphries, summarising the 'gender' findings from the 2004 survey of gender and ethnic balance in UK academic economics carried out by the Society's Women's Committee. It reveals painfully slow progress towards a more equal gender balance overall, offset to some degree by a diminishing role for women in senior posts.

This issue also has the customary obituaries. We have commented before that these are increasingly numerous since we are now some fifty plus years on from the period of massive expansion of academic economics after the Second World War. It will also have struck readers that many of the economists recently deceased were born, and in a few cases studied, in Central Europe before the War. We hope, very shortly, to include an essay on the diaspora of European economists in the 1930s.

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Next issue

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Articles, features, news items, letters, reports etc. should be sent to the Editor by:

15 June 2006

Items concerning conferences, visiting scholars and appointments should be sent to the Information Secretary by:

16 June 2006

Contributions from readers

The *Newsletter* is first and foremost a vehicle for the dissemination of news and comment of interest to its readers. Contributions from readers are always warmly welcomed. We are particularly interested to receive **letters** for our correspondence page, **reports of conferences and meetings**, and news of **major research projects** as well as **comment on recent events**.

Readers might also consider the *Newsletter* a timely outlet for comments upon issues raised in the *Features* section of *The Economic Journal*. We can normally get them into print within three months of receipt.

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Letter from America

Trying to be a good hip op consumer

In his latest letter from America, Angus Deaton highlights graphically the problems of asymmetric information in the US market for healthcare.

Although I read and write about health, I have been fortunate to have had little direct experience of the American healthcare system. So when I was advised last June that I needed a hip replacement, a routine procedure, but one that is classified as medium risk, I was apprehensive on both financial and medical grounds. The mortality rate is about half of one percent, half of which is associated with unpredictable post-surgical deep vein thrombosis, recently familiar to long-haul airline passengers as ‘economy-class syndrome’. But there was also a modest opportunity to do empirical research on a topic that, once again, has become central in American policy discussions. The Bush administration has embraced the idea of consumer-directed healthcare, and put in place schemes that give people incentives to seek out good value in healthcare. Saving a few dollars was hardly my main consideration, but I was happy

enough to try to be a good consumer, subject to an appropriate quality constraint. And hip replacements are big business in the US; more than 150,000 hips are replaced each year, at an average cost (hospital charges only) of around \$50,000 each, which is \$7.5 billion in total. But to make good choices, I needed good information, and information on either quality or price was remarkably hard to come by.

Checking on quality

Although *US News and World Report* ranks hospitals along various dimensions (as it does universities and university departments), there are no such reports on orthopaedic surgeons. Although individual surgeons advertise and promote themselves, and although there is lots of gossip (‘he’s the guy who did the Pope, but he’s past it’) the medical profession has successfully resisted

the publication of any official guide. It might be reasonable to suppose that, just as it is possible to find out from colleagues who are the top people in, say, game theory, or industrial organization, one could talk to one orthopaedic surgeon about the others. But this is simply not the case, and while I eventually found a senior night nurse who, when sufficiently bored at 2.30 a.m., was prepared to tell me which of the surgeons in my hospital knew what they were doing, that conversation was during my recovery, and so of limited use for decision making (unless I need another replacement). Of the several surgeons I talked to in advance, I could tell whether I liked or felt comfortable with each, but that seemed of limited relevance, and neither they, nor my primary care physician, nor friends and acquaintances, could tell me more. Indeed, the only useful information that I had before the surgery (and the validity of which was strongly confirmed by my

own experience) is the well-known rule to go to a hospital and a surgeon who do the procedure frequently. So I lined up a surgeon who had done 10,000 previous hip replacements, and who works in a hospital that is highly ranked by *US News and World Report*, and where nearly a hundred other hips were being replaced on the same morning as my own.

...and on price

Information on price, surely, would be simpler to find. Not so. The surgeons were forthcoming with their fees, between \$7,000 and \$8,000, although, from the first, it was clear that these were somehow negotiable, if not with me, then at least with my insurers. Much less straightforward was the price list for the other associated services, anaesthetists, physical therapists, pain management specialists, and what turned out to be the largest

item of all, 'board and lodging' in a semi-private room (shared with one other person) which, incredibly, cost more than \$10,000 per day, although it should be admitted that my room was a large one, with private bath, and a splendid view of one of New York's rivers, with its constantly moving shipping that provided fine entertainment, though perhaps enhanced by the morphine pump. Telephone and television were extra. But none of these prices are what they seem. Each insurance company negotiates its own prices with each of the hospitals and physicians with which it deals, and these prices are closely-guarded secrets. Of course, the insurance company tells its customers what it will and will not pay for, but that contract, like the hospital's price list, is much less useful than it appears. If the 'provider' is 'in-network', the company will reimburse a large fraction of the charges. For 'out of network' providers, the reimbursement is a smaller fraction, although still usually 80 percent or more. So it would appear that my personal liability was fairly limited. Not so, because my insurance company pays 90 percent of the 'secret' price, not of the full price. So if, for example, the anaesthetist (who seems like the wrong person to antagonize, and who, in my case, asked me to sign an 'informed consent' form for an experimental procedure immediately before rendering me unconscious) bills me for \$6,000, and the insurance company believes that the appropriate price is \$4,500, the reimbursement is 90 percent of the latter, not the former, so that my exposure is not \$600 (10 percent of \$6,000), but more than three times as much, \$1,950 (the uncovered \$1,500 plus 10 percent of the covered amount.) If there is a way of knowing these amounts in advance, I could not discover it. Nor, at any stage before, during, or after my hospital stay did anyone ask me whether or not I wanted any of the many procedures and services that I 'purchased'.

So much for informed choice based on price. This situation has been compared by my Princeton colleague Uwe Reinhardt to shopping blindfold in a department store, and then months later being presented with a bill on which some items are charged at full price, and some at some fraction of full price, but with no advance knowledge of either what one has bought or what it will cost. And this is for those who are fortunate enough to have insurance. The more than sixteen percent of the American population that has no insurance is charged the list price, known as the 'chargemaster' price, and Reinhardt gives the example of someone who spends many years paying off a debt of \$30,000 for a procedure that would have cost Medicare (the government insurance scheme for the elderly) \$6,000. Hospital debt recovery procedures involve relentless persecution by collection agencies, something that is threatened on almost every one of the blizzard of bills that come to (even insured) patients for many months once the surgery is over.

Controlling the health bill

The favoured instrument of the Bush administration for controlling the rapid increase in health spending is the health saving account. Consumers (and their employers) are permitted to make annual contributions of untaxed dollars into these accounts provided they purchase a health insurance policy with high deductibles. Health expenses can be paid from the accounts and any unspent balance is rolled forward, ultimately providing a retirement nest egg from any unspent balances. Because people are spending their own money, they have an incentive to find out about prices, and to pick providers who offer the best value. The hope among the proponents of the scheme is that the very existence of the accounts will put pressure on providers to give the sort of information that will permit comparison shopping. Certainly, that information is not available now, as my own experience showed. Opponents of the scheme point out that a large fraction of health expenditures are incurred by a small fraction of people whose expenditures are so large that they could not conceivably be covered by such a scheme. So even if people were to shop around more effectively, total savings are likely to be small. The accounts also reward good health and penalize the sick. Glenn Hubbard, a distinguished economist, and George W. Bush's first chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, argues that health saving accounts 'are probably the best thing to happen to healthcare in a generation', and that they would 'give people a way to profit financially from their own good health'. None of the proponents has explained how this is consistent with one of the administration's other avowed aims, which is to reduce the gap in health status between the rich and the poor. Indeed, health saving accounts would seem to be uniquely well-designed to generate a correlation between health and wealth, even if none previously existed.

And how is my hip? Just fine. And, like almost everyone else who has had the procedure, I would be happy to recommend my surgeon and my hospital, for all that that is worth. How is my wallet? Although it will take many months before the final accounts are settled, something like \$7,000 lighter, some of which probably reflects a quality premium for the providers I selected. There was no wait, and I could schedule the surgery at my convenience; for comparison, the OECD says that in 2000, the average wait in England was 250 days. Because my employer offers a modified version of a health savings account (but with no rollover of unspent funds,) most will come out of pre-tax earnings, though that worked only because I knew well in advance when I was going to have the surgery. If I were poor, unemployed, or uninsured, I would be bankrupt or, more likely, still hobbling around on an arthritic and increasingly painful hip.

Royal Economic Society Survey on the Gender Balance of Academic Economics 2004

In our last issue, Jane Humphries, Chair of the RES Women's Committee, reported some preliminary results from the 2004 survey of gender and ethnic balance in UK academic economics. This article, prepared by Jonathan Burton and Jane Humphries, reports more fully on the findings on gender balance.

Towards the end of 2004 the Royal Economic Society (RES) conducted a survey of the gender balance in academic employment in economics in Britain. This was the fifth survey in a series started in 1996, and repeated bi-annually thereafter (Mumford 1997; Booth and Burton 2000; Burton, Joshi and Rowlatt, 2002; Burton and Joshi, 2004). In 1998, the RES also undertook a survey into the ethnic composition of academic employment in economics (Blackaby and Frank, 2000), and since 2000 these surveys have been combined. These excerpts from the full report on the survey's findings concentrate on gender balance. The full report is available on the RES website at: www.res.org.uk.

The Gender and Ethnic Balance questionnaire was sent out to around 168 institutions.¹ These included departments of economics (52), business schools (75) and management centres (26). In the last survey (2002), the decline in the proportion of departments describing themselves as departments of 'Economics' and the growth of departments, centres or schools of 'Business and Management' was noted. This shift has been consolidated. Departments calling themselves 'Economics' fell from two-thirds of the sample in 2000 to just over one-third in 2002 (36 per cent) and 2004 (34 per cent), while those identified as business schools increased from 30 per cent in 2000 to 49 per cent in both 2002 and 2004, and as management centres from 5.5 per cent in 2000 to 15 per cent in 2002 and 17 per cent in 2004.

The survey aimed to collect information as of November 30th 2004 on academic staff (full-time and part-time) by grade of employment, promotions and new hires, research staff, and graduate students of economics by level of postgraduate degree (PhD and Masters degrees). Only basic information was sought: the numbers in each category broken down by gender and ethnic group.

By the end of August 2005, 79 completed questionnaires had been returned. This represents a decline from the 88 received in 2002. In 1998 we finished with a total of 82

completed questionnaires and in 2000 the total was 79. However as fewer questionnaires were issued in 2004, the response-rate (at 47 per cent of eligible institutions) was higher than in 2002 (when it was 46 per cent), both figures representing a decline from the 60 per cent response rate obtained in 2000. The best response was from economics departments (72 per cent). The response from business schools (44 per cent) was low but not as low as from management centres (22.7 per cent).²

Institutions that received a higher RAE grade in the 2001 assessment were slightly more likely to respond. Almost two-thirds (62.5 per cent) of departments with a 5* rating participated in the survey compared to just over half of those rated 4 or under (55.5 per cent).³

In the analyses which follow we make use of both the sample of all responding departments and for comparative purposes balanced panels made up of departments responding to several surveys, particularly to the balanced panel of those 53 departments that responded in both 2002 and 2004. When making comparisons over time it makes more sense to use a balanced panel made up of the same departments. Otherwise, it is difficult to disentangle the effect of change over time and the changing composition of the samples. To ensure that response, and particularly multiple response, has not selected an unrepresentative sample, the balanced panel was compared with the sample of all responding departments and where possible both were compared with data on all eligible departments from other sources. The balanced panel is similar in terms of size, RAE rating and RAE unit of assessment to the sample of responding departments. Both the balanced panel and the sample of responding departments are similar to the population in terms of RAE score, but over-represent those departments assessed in the RAE unit 'Economics and Econometrics' and so may under-report the true proportion of women post-holders in academic economics.⁴

Overview⁵

According to Table 1, below, as at November 30th 2004, there were 1398.5 full-time economists working in academia in the 79 departments that participated in the survey (around 100 fewer than reported at work in the 88 departments responding in 2002). Just over one-fifth (20.5 per cent) of all these staff were women, a slight increase on the 19 per cent reported in 2002. In the balanced panel there was an increase in standard academic staff numbers from 830 in 2002 to 928 in 2004. The proportion of staff in these departments who were female also increased from 14 per cent to 17 per cent.

But these small gains do not bring women's representation into line with the university sector as a whole, where about one third (35.1 per cent) of all full-time academic staff and about 13.1 per cent of professors are female (HESA figures for 2003/2004). A partial explanation for this gap must be that the study of economics is relatively unattractive to women. However, the proportion of women at the higher levels of the economic academic profession remains substantially below the proportion studying economics at a postgraduate level or the proportion in post at the entry level of an academic career.

Most academic jobs are full-time and remain so despite minor changes over time. Between the 1996 and 2000 surveys there was an increase in the proportion of academic economists who worked full-time (from 84.3 per cent to 92 per cent). In November 2002 this proportion had fallen to 87.6 per cent but by November 2004 it had increased again to 90.7 per cent. In the balanced panel the proportion of full-time academic posts fell very slightly from 89.7 per cent to 88.9 per cent.

In the responding sample, women held 17.7 per cent of full-time standard academic posts, up from just 13.5 per cent in 2002 and close to the 2000 proportion of 19 per cent. The proportion of full-time researchers who were women fell slightly to 39.4 per cent, down from 41.5 per cent measured in 2002 and closer to the 38.3 per cent of 2000.⁶ For all full-time academics (standard and research) women held just over one-fifth (20.5 per cent) of posts, up from 17.8 per cent in 2002 and, again, closer to the 19 per cent of 2000. In the balanced panel, 19 per cent of full-time workers were women compared with 17.8 per cent in those same departments 2 years earlier.

In the responding sample, the vast majority of women in academic economics, 87.2% worked full-time, close to the 91.6% of men who worked full-time. This represents a large increase in the proportion of women who are working full-time, up around 10% from 2002. The evidence of the balanced panel echoes this move towards more full-time employment for female academics. In 2002, 83.8 per cent of female academics were in full-time positions (compared to 91 per cent of men). Those same

Table 1: Primary employment function: All academic staff in economics departments and research institutes, (responding sample, 2004)

<i>Primary Employment Function</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>per cent Female</i>
<i>All Staff : full time</i>				
Professors	28	288	316	
Readers	17	84	101	8.9
Senior Lecturers	41	225	266	16.8
Lecturers - permanent	105.5	340	445.5	15.4
Lecturers - fixed term	24	66	90	23.7
Senior Researchers	12	23	35	26.7
Researchers - permanent	8	9	17	34.3
Researchers - fixed-term	51	77	128	47.1
<i>Totals</i>	286.5	1112	1398.5	39.8
				20.5
<i>All Staff : part time</i>				
Professors	1	24	25	
Readers	1	1	2	4.0
Senior Lecturers	4	14	18	50.0
Lecturers - permanent	23	22	45	22.2
Lecturers - fixed-term	13	41	54	51.1
				24.1
<i>Totals</i>	42	102	144	
				29.2
<i>Grand Total</i>	328.5	1214	1542.5	

departments two years later reported 87.8 per cent of women in full-time positions, with the proportion of men (90.9 per cent) unchanged.

The survey distinguishes among standard academic positions (professor, reader, senior lecturer, lecturer) and between these posts and research-only positions. Most of the jobs in academic economics are standard, 88.3 per cent in 2004, and this proportion has changed only slightly over time, falling from 92.5 per cent in 2002 but closer in line to the 87.5 per cent recorded in 2000, 86 per cent in 1998 and 85.7 per cent in 1996. Minor variation in the structure of employment may reflect the composition of the responding samples in the different years. For the set of institutions responding in both 2002 and 2004 there was almost no change in the dominance of standard academic jobs (87.7 per cent and 87.6 per cent respectively).

As in previous years, the representation of women varied sharply with seniority, a pattern that remained marked even though women appear to have increased their share of posts at all grades compared with the responding sample in 2002. Despite these gains, while 23.7 per cent of permanent lecturers were women, this figure fell to 15.4 per cent for senior lecturers, 16.8 per cent for readers, and 8.9 per cent for professors. In the balanced panel, trends appear more complicated with a greater proportion of the more senior academic positions being taken by women, but the proportions at grades lower down the career ladder either staying stable or even falling slightly. These trends are explored in more detail below.

Also in common with previous years, in the responding sample, proportionately fewer women than men held standard academic jobs (78.4 per cent compared with 91 per cent). The balanced panel shows that, within the same departments, proportionately more women than in 2002 were in academic positions (76 per cent compared to 73 per cent).

Full-time standard academic positions

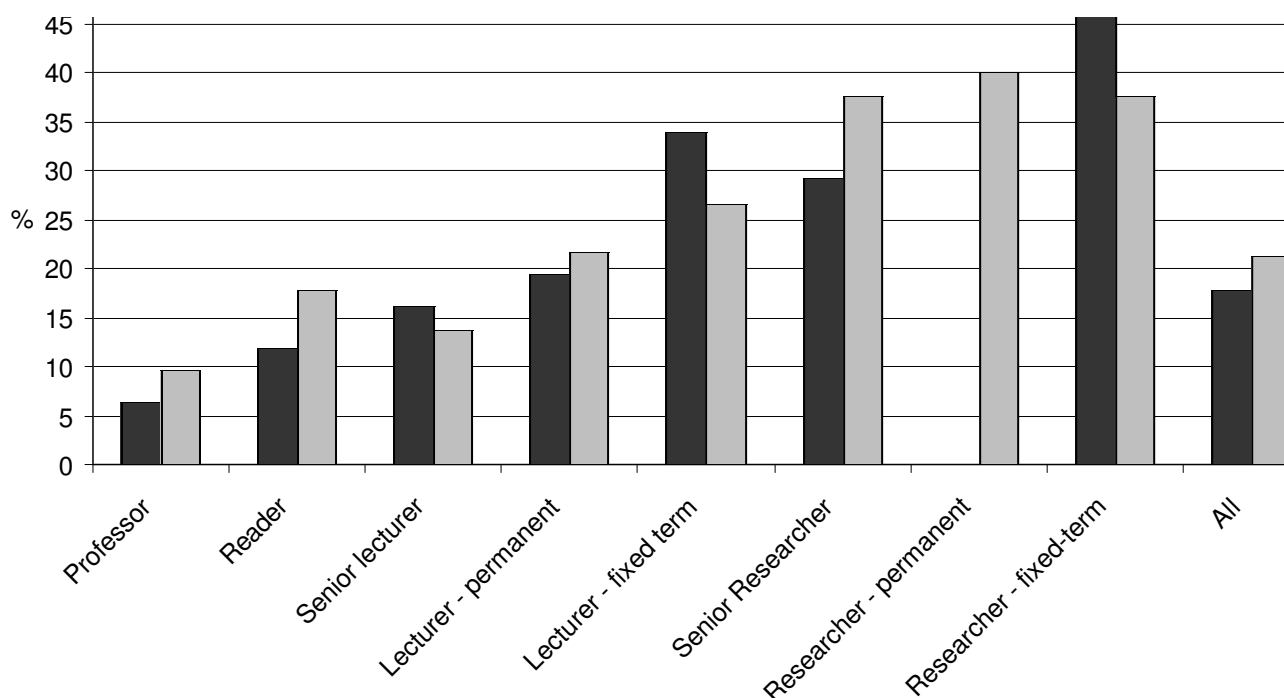
A closer look at the position of women in full-time academic economics confirms an increase in the proportions of women at higher grades. Using the balanced panel — comparing like with like — in 2002 women held just 6.4 per cent of all professorships while in 2004 this had risen to 9.6 per cent. Women readers also increased from 11.8 per cent of all readers to 17.7 per cent. On the other hand the proportion of female senior lecturers fell slightly from 16.1 per cent to 13.7 per cent while the proportion of female permanent lecturers stayed around the same, 19.4

per cent in 2002 and 21.7 per cent in 2004. More worrying perhaps, especially as there was no corresponding increase in women holding permanent posts, the proportion of female fixed-term lecturers fell from just over one-third (33.9 per cent) in 2002 to just over one-quarter (26.5 per cent) in 2004.

Figure 1 shows changes in the proportions of women by grade in academic economics between 2002 and 2004, for the balanced panel, highlighting both the gains made at senior grades and the persisting pattern of lower representation with higher seniority and status. The bar chart also illustrates the greater proportions of women in 2004 than in 2002 among permanent lecturers, senior researchers and permanent researchers; in 2002 there were no female permanent researchers within these departments. Overall, women represent a larger proportion of all staff in 2004. However, these gains must be set against decreasing proportions of female senior lecturers, fixed-term lecturers and fixed-term researchers. While the fall in the proportion of women among fixed-term staff (lecturers and researchers) may be a positive development, reflecting a move into permanent positions, the decline in the relative numbers of women senior lecturers may be of some concern since a senior lectureship constitutes an important milestone in an academic career, leading onto the grades of reader and professor.

Figure 2 (next page), shifts the focus from gender proportions within sub-sets of academic employment to consider the distribution of female and male academics across grades while still concentrating on the balanced panel and full-time standard academic jobs. The first pie chart shows the distribution of all women academics in 2004.

Figure 1: Academic grade by gender - full-time academic, balanced panel, 2002-2004.



Some 15 per cent of all women were professors (up from 13 per cent in the same departments in 2002), 9 per cent were readers (up from 5 per cent) and 17 per cent were senior lecturers (down from 25 per cent). The largest proportion of women in full-time standard academic posts were permanent lecturers, 45 per cent, up from 40.5 per cent in 2002. The proportion of all women occupying the lowest rung on the career ladder, fixed-term lecturerships, has fallen slightly from 16 per cent to 14 per cent. This finding has both an optimistic or pessimistic interpretation. Either there has been a move from senior lecturer upwards to higher ranks, and from fixed-term lecturers up to permanent lecturers; or there has been a failure to maintain the proportion of women among female recruits: both possibilities are explored below.

Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of male academics clearly showing their greater likelihood of attaining professorships. More than one in four male academics (28 per cent) were professors. Thus men were almost twice as likely as women to be professors, but this is a lower lead than in the same departments two years earlier when they were around 2.4 times as likely to be professors. Men were also more likely to hold a senior lectureship (1.3) but less likely to be a reader (0.95), a permanent lecturer (0.74) or a fixed-term lecturer (0.57). Although the proportion of men holding professorships has fallen slightly since 2002, when, in the same departments, 31 per cent of men were professors, there has been little change elsewhere in the male employment structure. A similar proportion of men were readers and senior lecturer, 30.5 per cent in 2004 and 31.1 per cent in 2002 and around one man in three was a permanent lecturer in both years, while just 8 per cent of men were fixed-term lecturers (up from 5.2 per cent). Thus although women have made some limited progress towards more senior grades, men remain more likely to be at a higher rank.

The 'role model effect'

In Table 2, below, we update an investigation begun in 2002 into the possibility that some departments experience a 'role model effect' The hypothesis is that departments with female professors find it easier to recruit and promote other women.

Table 2, below, looks at the proportion of female readers, senior lecturers and lecturers in departments with and without a female professor. The first two columns of Table 2 show the percentages of staff below the professorial grade that were female. The first column relates to departments with at least one female professor, the second column to those with no female professors.

The table shows that just over one-tenth of all departments with a female professor had no female readers, senior lecturers or lecturers compared to just over one-fifth of those departments without a female professor. Over two-fifths (42.1 per cent) of departments with a female professor had 30 per cent or more of standard academic positions below professor, filled by women, while only 17.2 per cent of departments without a female professor had 30 per cent or more of standard posts below professorships filled by women. Just 18 departments had more than 30 per cent of their

reader, senior lecturer and lecturer posts taken by women. Of these departments, ten had a female professor and eight did not. These differences might suggest that the presence of one senior woman in a department enhances the representation of women more generally in that department, but they are not statistically significant. Moreover there is an alternative explanation. Departments with a female professor had an average of 16.1 members of staff below the professorial level, while those without a female professor had only 10.3.⁷ The larger size of the 'role model departments' might have raised the chances of hiring 'minority' candidates. Size not a female presence and influence might explain their greater feminization.

The average proportion of female staff below the level of professor was higher in departments where there was at least one female professor (24.8 per cent female staff

Figure 2: Women by grade — full-time standard academic, balanced panel 2004.

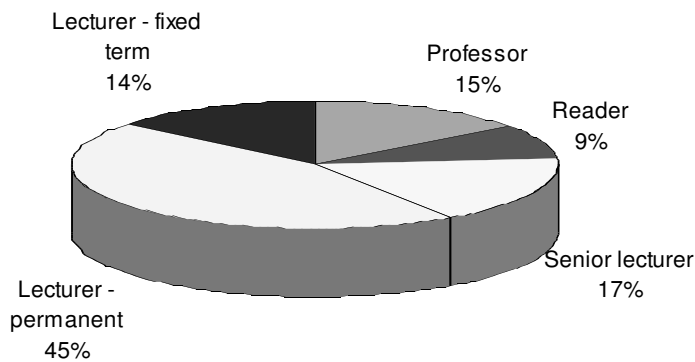
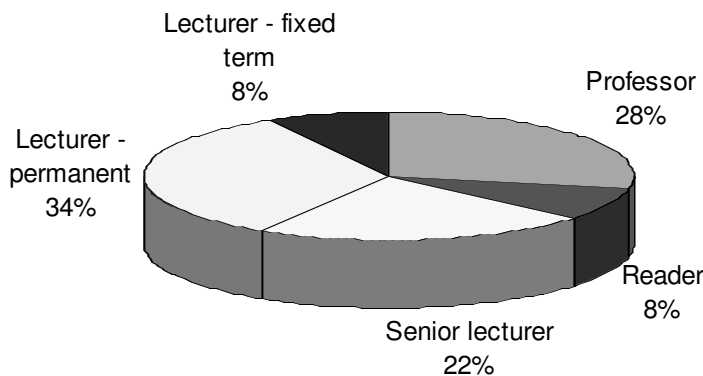


Figure 3: Men by grade — full-time standard academic, balanced panel 2004



below professor compared to 18.5 per cent). But again this difference is not statistically significant. Moreover it is smaller than in previous surveys which may suggest that other factors such as the size of the department affected both the number of female professors and the proportion of female staff below professorial grade

the 2001 RAE. There were 35 departments in the 1-3 category and 38 in the 4+ category. Previous surveys found that higher-rated departments tended to have a higher proportion of female staff in the higher academic grades. In 2004 the situation was more mixed. On average, departments rated 1-3 in the 2001 RAE had relatively

Table 2: Proportion of female academic staff below professor, (responding sample, 2004)

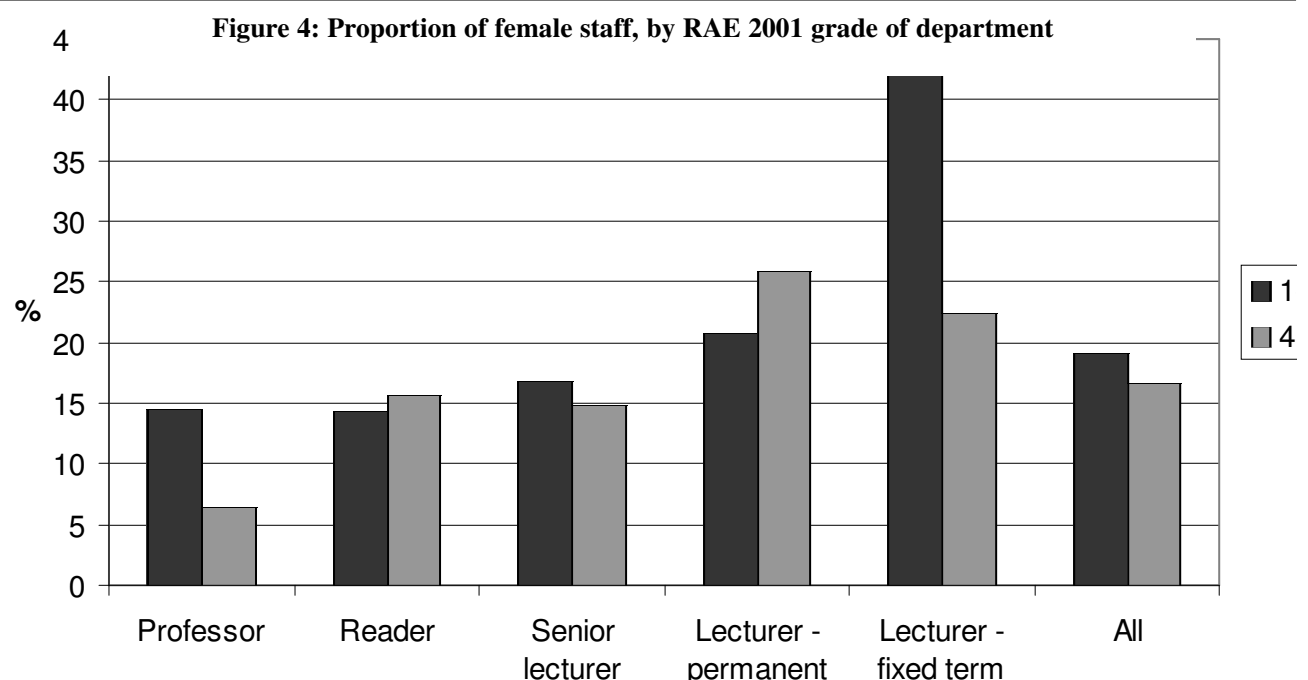
	<i>Female professor</i>	<i>No female professor</i>	<i>n</i>
0	10.5	22.4	15
1%-9%	15.8	6.9	7
10%-19%	10.5	22.4	15
20%-29%	21.1	31.0	22
30%+	42.1	17.2	18
average number of staff below professor	16.1	10.3	
average proportion of female staff below professor	24.8	18.5	
	<i>n=19</i>	<i>n=57</i>	<i>77</i>

more posts held by women than those rated 4+ (19.2 per cent compared to 16.6 per cent respectively). Departments that were rated 1-3 had a much higher proportion of female professors than did departments rated 4+ (14.5 per cent compared with 6.4 per cent). The same was true for fixed-term lecturers where departments rated 1-3 had 42.1 per cent of posts filled by women whereas departments rated 4+ had 22.5 per cent filled by women. Although the gap was smaller, the lower-rated departments also had a higher proportion of female staff at the senior lecturer grade than did the 4+ departments (16.8 per cent compared to 14.9 per cent). Only in terms of readerships and permanent lectureships was this relationship reversed with departments rated 4, 5 or 5* containing slightly higher proportions of female readers and permanent lecturers

Analysis by RAE grade

The responses were analysed to see whether there were differences in gender balance by type of department. If, for example, there were differences between those departments with a higher RAE score and those with a lower score it might reflect some RAE-related hiring behaviour. Figure 4, below, shows the proportion of female staff (full-time academic) by the RAE grade of the department. The departments were divided into those which scored a 1, 2, 3a or 3b and those which scored a 4, 5 or 5* grade in

the 2001 RAE. As new hires are more likely to be female than are staff already in post, the proportion of female staff would then increase in lower-rated departments. Perhaps as a result, women get stuck as professors in departments that are rated lower in the RAE and have difficulty getting a similar position at higher-rated institutions.



During the 2001 RAE departments could be rated under different units of assessment. The data were analysed to see if there were any differences between departments rated in the 'Economics and Econometrics unit and those rated in the 'Business and Management' unit. Twenty-eight of the departments that responded to the survey were assessed as economics and econometrics departments and forty as business and management departments. Departments in older universities have tended to be assessed as economics departments whilst those in newer universities (and former polytechnics) have opted for assessment under the business unit. Figure 5, below, shows the proportion of female staff (full-time academic) under each unit of assessment. Again the results are mixed. Overall those departments rated in the business and management unit had a slightly higher proportion of female staff compared with those departments rated in the economics and econometrics unit (18.2 per cent compared to 16 per cent). There were higher proportions of female readers and female permanent lecturers in the economics units and higher proportions of female professors, senior lecturers and fixed-term lecturers in the business units.

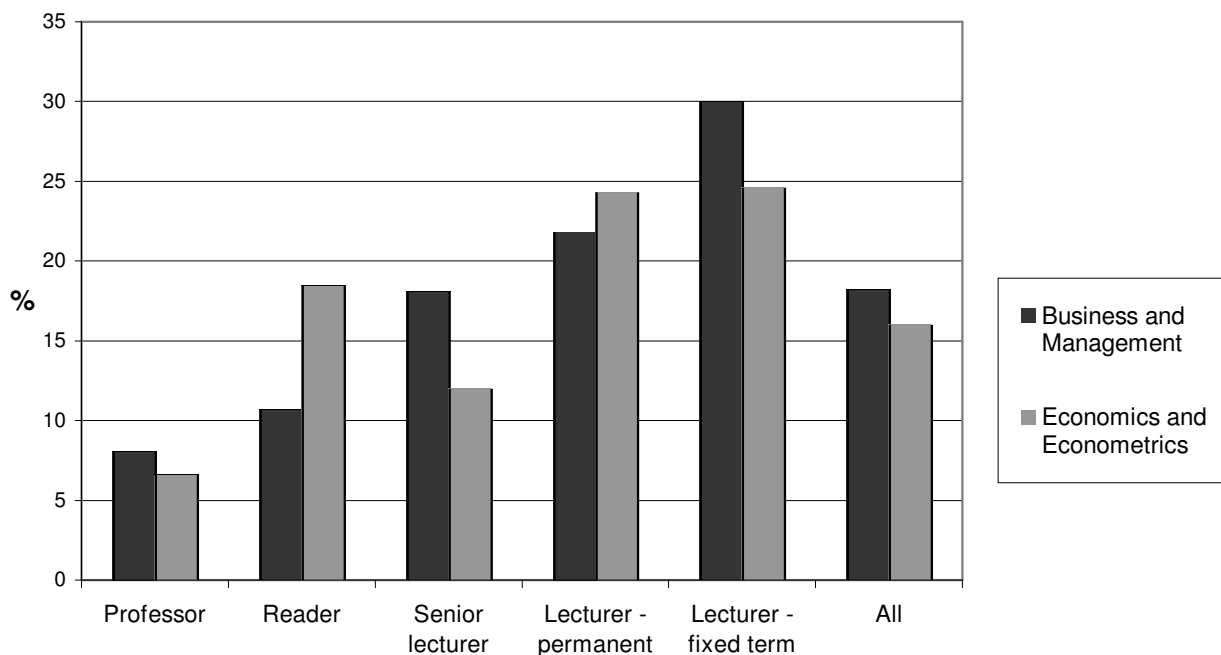
declined from 16.2 per cent in 2002 to 12.2 per cent in the same departments in 2004.

Research grades

According to the balanced panel, in 2004 there were 135 research-only jobs, up slightly from 2002 when the same departments reported 132 research jobs. Women held 37.8 per cent of these jobs (down from 41.7 per cent in 2002). As in previous surveys, most research-only jobs were fixed-term, however the composition has shifted slightly in the last two years, possibly in response to the legislation on fixed-term employment, with relatively more of these jobs becoming permanent. Thus 71.1 per cent of full-time research-only jobs were fixed-term according to the 2004 survey compared with 79.5 per cent in 2002.

Of all women in research-only jobs, 16.9 per cent were senior researchers. This is a large increase from the 2002 survey where only 8.8 per cent of female researchers held senior posts. The gain is discernible too in the balanced panel, where the proportion of female researchers at senior level has increased from 12.7 per cent to 17.6 per cent.

Figure 5: Proportion of female staff, by RAE unit of assessment



Part-time employment

According to the balanced panel, part-time working in academic economics has declined since 2002. Only 105 posts were reported as part-time in 2004 down from 111 in the same departments in 2002. Thus the proportion of academic economists working part-time has declined from 10.3 per cent in 2002 to 9 per cent in 2004. Women's share of all part-time standard academic posts has also fallen from 29.7 per cent in 2002 to 24.8 per cent in the same departments in 2004. Simultaneously the proportion of all women who work part-time has also

Just over one-tenth of female researchers were classified as permanent researchers (11.3 per cent), another increase from 2002. In the balanced panel there were no female permanent researchers in 2002, while two years later there were six (11.8 per cent of all female researchers and 40 per cent of all permanent researchers). The terms and conditions of researchers' employment did not vary obviously by gender with roughly the same proportions of female and male researchers on fixed-term contracts (70.6 per cent and 71.4 per cent respectively). But in research grades too despite women's progress up the academic hierarchy men remain more likely to occupy senior positions, 1.3 times as likely given that 21.1 per cent of

male researchers hold senior posts compared with 16.9 per cent of female researchers as cited above. Unequal as this looks it represents an improvement compared with previous years. In the balanced panel there has been an even greater move to equality. In 2002, 22.1 per cent of male researchers held senior posts compared to 12.7 per cent of female researchers. In the same departments two years later these proportions had moved to 17.9 per cent of male and 17.6 per cent of female researchers. Male researchers have gone from being 1.7 times as likely to just about as likely to occupy a senior post.

Promotions

The survey also collected information on promotions, which were distinguished from new hires. Promotions were assumed to be internal to the department while new hires were assumed to be brought in from outside. Responding institutions recorded 173 promotions over the two years, 2002-2004. There was a similar number of promotions to professor (41) and to reader (43), more to senior lecturer (60) and fewer to permanent lecturer (29). Almost a quarter (23.1 per cent) of promotions were won by women; however this is an average over all grades. The proportion of promotions that was obtained by women varied inversely with seniority and status. Of promotions to professor, only 4, (9.8 per cent) went to women. Just under a quarter (23.3 per cent) of promotions to reader were of women, while just over a quarter (26.7 per cent) of promotions to senior lecturer were of women. The highest share of promotions going to women were at permanent lecturer grade where over a third (34.5 per cent) were achieved by women.

Table 3, below, looks at women's share of promotions between 2002 and 2004 by grade and compares these with the proportions of women already in post at these grades in 2004 (all staff, minus promotions) and the proportion of women in the grade below, which can be thought of as 'the feeder grade'. Women constituted a higher proportion among those advanced at each grade than they did among staff already at that grade. So, promotions increased the representation of women at every level.

Table 3: The proportion of promotions awarded to female economists, (responding sample, 2004)

	<i>% female promotions</i>	<i>% female in grade</i>	<i>% female in grade below</i>	<i>Number of female promotions</i>
Professor	9.8	8.7	12.1	4
Reader	23.3	12.1	12.1	10
Senior Lecturer	26.7	12.1	22.9	16
Permanent Lecturer	34.5	22.9	26.7	10

Other than for professorships, women also represented a higher proportion among those advanced than they did among staff in the feeder grade, that is the grade below. So, 23.3 per cent of promotions to reader were of women, who had made up just 12.1 per cent of staff at that grade before promotions and only 12.1 per cent of senior lecturers, the grade below reader and assumed to source promotions to readerships. In this case, women were promoted at a higher rate than their relative frequency in the feeder grade would have suggested. This does not hold true of promotions to professor, however. Almost 10 per cent of promotions to professor were of female academics, which exceeds the pre-promotions proportion of female professors (8.7 per cent) but was lower than the proportion of women in the feeder grade of reader (12.1 per cent).

New staff

Reported new staff, that is staff taken on since November 2002 not including internal promotions, were identified and the proportion female in each grade computed before and after hiring. For all standard academic ranks the effect of new hires was to increase the proportion of staff made up by women. At each grade women made up a bigger proportion of new staff than they did in the grade originally. The effect is not large - for the more senior positions the proportion occupied by women increased by less than one percent (0.3 per cent for professors, 0.5 per cent for senior lecturers, but 1.1 per cent for readers) as a result of new hires. At the more junior positions, the proportion of female permanent lecturers increased by 2.3 per cent and the proportion of fixed-term lecturers increased by 1.7 per cent. The same process was at work in research grades. Women represented a bigger proportion of new researchers than their weight in the category originally. The effect of the new hires was to increase the proportion of women by 2.3 per cent among senior researchers, 1.5 per cent for fixed-term researchers and by 17.1 per cent for permanent researchers. There are however very few permanent researchers, just 17 in the whole sample.

Table 4, below, uses the balanced panel to compare new staff in 2004 and 2002. Reported new hires declined for most categories of full-time staff except readers where there was a slight absolute increase and permanent lecturers where there was a much larger absolute increase. Women represented larger proportions of new full-time staff at the highest levels (professors and readers) and among permanent lecturers in 2004 compared with 2002.

Table 4: New staff , (balanced panel, 2002-2004)

<i>New Staff</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>2004 Total</i>	<i>2004 % Female</i>	<i>2002 total</i>	<i>2002 % Female</i>
Professors	4	19	23	17.4	27	7.4
Readers	2	7	9	22.2	7	0
Senior Lecturers	1	15	16	6.3	20	10.0
Lecturers - permanent	25	74.7	99.7	25.1	66	21.2
Lecturers - fixed-term	7	16	27	25.9	41	39.0
Totals	39	135.7	174.7	22.3	161	21.1

Table 5, below, tracks new staff to highlight their role in the improving gender balance. The first column shows the proportion of women in the staff at each grade as at November 2004, excluding academics hired between 30 November 2002 and 30 November 2004 ('original staff'). The next column shows the proportion of women in the staff hired between those dates. This highlights the position of women in the departments before the new staff were included, and the effect that hiring had on the gender balance. For all grades, standard academic and research, women made up a larger proportion of new hires than they did of original staff. In this sense new hires, along with promotions, both contributed to improved gender balance. However, the third column casts a shadow over these progressive developments by recollecting the proportions of women in the 'feeder grades', transposed from column 1. This makes it clear that although new hires represented relative gains for women these were not always greater than might be expected from the female proportions in the feeder grades. Thus while for professors and senior lecturers, the proportions of women among new staff exceeded the proportions of women among original staff, they fell short of the proportions of women in the feeder grades.

Change over time: balanced panel

When the comparison is done for the balanced panel, outflows as well as inflows can be identified. Table 6 shows the change in the number of men and women at each grade computed across the two surveys. The numbers of new staff in these grades plus the numbers of promoted staff to each grade have already been identified. The outflows can then be inferred as the residuals. It is impossible to say whether these outflows represent promotions, retirements, other employment, departures from the labour force, or departures from the UK. Looking back to

figure 1 and consistent with our analysis of new staff and promotions it is apparent that the proportion of women in the inflows is higher than in the stocks at all grades except for fixed-term lecturers. More surprising, the proportion of women in the outflows from senior lectureships and fixed term lectureships are both higher than in the inflows and stocks at these grades. While the RES survey cannot uncover the reasons for women's exodus from the profession at these levels, it appears of some importance in understanding the evolution of gender balance.

Table 5: Proportion of women in new staff, compared with original staff and feeder grades, (responding sample, 2004)

	<i>% female in original staff</i>	<i>% female in new staff</i>	<i>% female in 'feeder' grade</i>
Professors	8.6	10.8	15.7
Readers	15.7	25.0	14.9
Senior Lecturers	14.9	20.0	21.4
Lecturers - permanent	21.4	29.0	25.0
Lecturers - fixed-term	25.0	30.0	—
Senior Researchers	32.0	40.0	30.0
Researchers - permanent	30.0	71.4	38.4
Researchers - fixed-term	38.4	41.8	—

A longer view: 1996-2004

The 2004 survey was the fifth survey of the gender balance of academic economics. The questionnaire has changed slightly over time limiting possible comparisons between the earliest survey (1996) and the more recent surveys. The earliest survey did not cover ethnic minorities and some of the standard academic positions were amalgamated. There are other reasons for caution in interpretation. The pace of structural and administrative change in academia over the eight years of surveys has been rapid: departments merging, splitting, closing and opening. This brief section looks at the change between 1996 and 2004 for another balanced panel, that is those 56 departments responding in both these years. The departments in this eight year balanced panel cannot be taken as

Table 6: The assumed outflows for each standard academic grade, (balanced panel, 2002-2004)

Grade	Change in no.s of men	Change in no.s of women	New entrants- male	New entrants - female	% female in inflow	Outflow males	Outflow females	% female in outflow
Professor	-5	8	47	9	13.0	52	1	1.9
Reader	9	8	30	9	23.1	21	1	4.5
Senior Lecturer	4	-2	39	7	15.2	35	9	20.5
Permanent Lecturer	24	25	92	32	25.8	68	7	9.3
Fixed term Lecturer	24	3	36	8	18.6	12	5	29.4

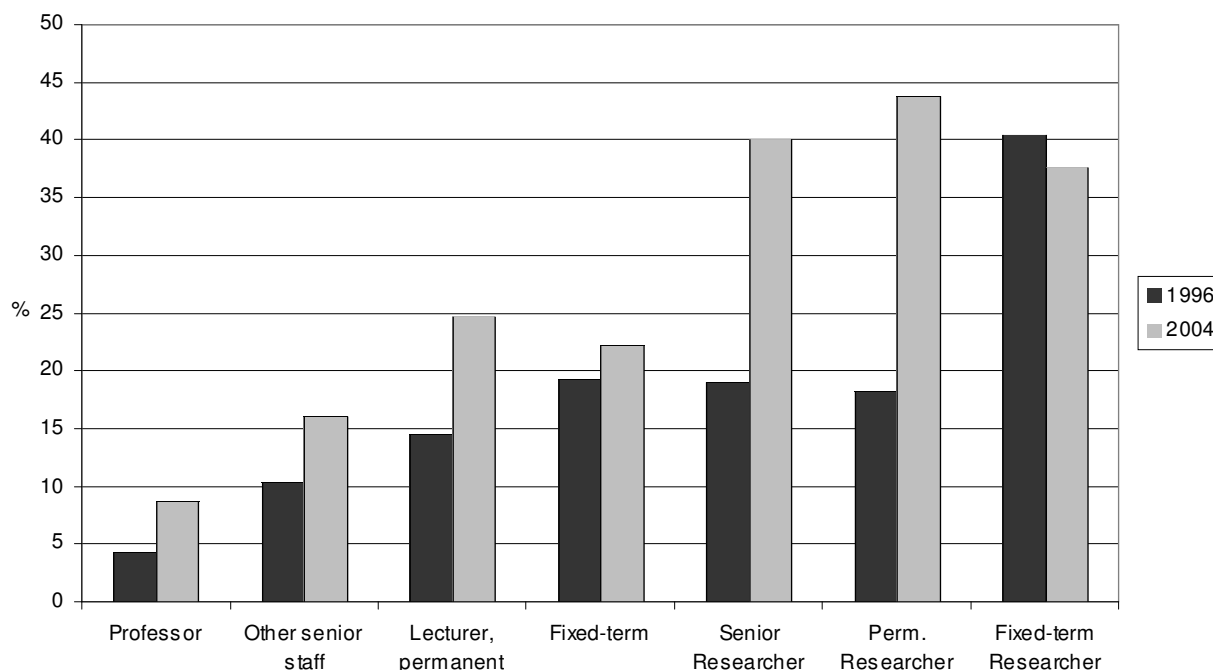
representative of all the economics departments in the country but do provide some insight into longer term changes.

Within these departments the number of full-time standard academic staff fell- down from 1,006 in 1996 to 963 in 2004. The proportion of staff who were female however increased from 11.7 per cent to 17.4 per cent. Gains were greater at higher levels, with the proportion of female professors doubling, from 4.3 per cent to 8.7 per cent over the eight years. In the category of 'other senior staff', which includes readers and senior lecturers, the proportion of women increased from 10.5 per cent to 16.1 per cent. Both grades of lecturer saw an increase in the proportion of women, from 14.6 per cent to 24.7 per cent of permanent lecturers and from 19.3 per cent to 22.2 per cent of fixed-term lecturers.

respectively), whilst the proportion of female fixed-term researchers fell very slightly (by 2.7 per cent). The bar chart, below, illustrates the changes in the proportions of women in these academic positions over the eight years for this extended balanced panel.

Conclusion

The proportion of full-time academic jobs held by women has increased slightly from 19 per cent in 2002 to 20.5 per cent in 2004. This is not just an artefact of the responding samples. In the balanced panel too, women's share of jobs has increased from 14 per cent to 17 per cent over the two years. However gains have not been uniform across all grades. Indeed in the balanced panel, women's relative share of senior lectureships and fixed-term lectureships actually declined.

Figure 6: Change in the proportion of women in full-time academic and research grades, balanced panel, 1996-2004.

These departments also experienced a decline in the numbers of researchers, from 172 in 1996 to 129 in 2004. Women held increasing proportion of senior and permanent researcher jobs (by 21.1 per cent and 25.7 per cent

The proportion of female academics at the fixed-term lecturer grade, which usually forms a port of entry to an academic career, fell from 33.9 per cent to 26.5 per cent. While this appears to be a dramatic decline, the actual

numbers involved are relatively small, and as these are staff on fixed-term contracts, churn from year to year might be expected.

New recruits to academic staff and promoted staff were both more likely to be female than staff already in post. But in the balanced panel, where outflows as well as inflows of staff by grade can be inferred, at both senior lecturer and fixed-term lecturer grades, the proportions of women among those leaving academic economics exceeded the proportions of women in post. Moreover, at key grades in the academic hierarchy, (professor and senior lecturer), women's relative frequency in the grade below was higher than in new staff. If the grade below is taken as an indicator of the expected gender proportions of recruitment into a grade, women continue by and large to be underrepresented in new staff. Similarly women's proportion of promotions to professor was lower than their relative frequency in the feeder grade of reader.

It was worrying that the 2002 survey had documented stasis or even decline in the proportion of jobs held by female academic economists, suggesting that the underlying trend of increasing representation of women and minorities found in every previous RES survey had been halted or reversed. The findings from 2004 suggest that this was temporary and, in general, the trend of increasing female and ethnic minority participation in academic economics has continued. Moreover as comparisons between 1996 and 2004 show, the blip in 2002 was not sufficiently adverse to reverse longer term gains.

However the 2004 survey has pointed up several developments that may well impact on gender and ethnic balance in the future as well as some that have wider implications. First, the trend of economics departments to be incorporated or repackaged within business schools has been consolidated. Reclassification may well have implications for hiring and promotion strategies, with knock-on effects on the representation of women and minorities. Second, while the latest survey of departments has moderated anxieties about the interruptions to gains by women and minorities registered in 2002, the picture it paints of academic economics is no cause for complacency. The gender balance in academic employment in economics remains out of line with the university sector as a whole and with the proportion of female students in economics. The gains made by women in the last two years have been small and in no way close these gaps. Moreover they have not been uniform. Indeed in the balanced panel, preferred here for tracking trends over time, some grades have seen a fall in women's representation. The decrease in the proportion of women at the entry-level grade (fixed-term lecturer) and a key senior grade (senior lecturer) may not bode well for future progress, reducing women's access to the higher levels of academic employment. The Women's Committee of the Royal Economic Society remains committed to monitoring the situation and encouraging equality of opportunity.

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Notes:

1. The institutions were identified from CHUDE documentation of departments of economics, departments teaching economics in a business or management school, and research centres employing economists. There are major difficulties in covering economists working outside conventional economics or business departments. The failure to identify economists working in policy studies or inter-disciplinary settings in the surveys is of concern to the Royal Economic Society's Women's Committee.
2. These differences in response rates are statistically significant.
3. This difference in response rates is not statistically significant and has become less pronounced over the last four years.
4. For detail on these points see the full report available at www.res.org.uk
5. The findings in this section are based on the returns from the 2004 survey ($n = 79$) with some reference to the balanced panel of departments responding in both the 2002 and 2004 ($n = 53$).
6. Permanent full-time research posts are obviously very rare but the apparent absence of part-time fixed-term researchers seems puzzling.
7. This difference in size is statistically significant.

ESRC Research Methods Festival

Booking is now open for the second Research Methods Festival, organised by the ESRC Research Methods Programme in collaboration with the National Centre for Research Methods.

The Festival is being held at St Catherine's College, Oxford from

17 - 20 July 2006

The programme includes sessions on the limitations of evidence based policy; measuring individual expectations in surveys; issues of endogeneity in analyzing 'place'; advances in multilevel modeling; data linkage, including the role of the grid and e-social science; a half-day workshop on propensity score matching.

Contributors include: Charles Manski, Northwestern University; Richard Blundell and James Banks, IFS; Paul Johnson, HM Treasury; Simon Burgess, University of Bristol; Martin Sefton, University of Nottingham.

For further information, including programme and online booking form, visit the Festival website at:

www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/festival/

Correspondence

RAE criteria

Sir,

As part of the preparation for the RAE, our department submitted a list of publications to be informally rated by an economist, who has previously served on two RAE panels. I have fifteen refereed and non-refereed publications available for the present exercise, including the *American Economic Review*, *Economics Letters*, *Economica* and *Oxford Economic Papers*. My personal profile of the four papers I propose to submit is exactly 1.5. I am solidly in the also ran category. This is personally disappointing, but that is life. More talented people, from more prestigious institutions than my own, can be reassured by this outcome.

My problem, however, is this. A colleague submitted a paper for profiling that I co-wrote. This paper was rejected by one of the above list of journals and other journals. Eventually it appeared in a non-refereed book publication. I sort of assumed that it was not very good, as one tends to do in the face of overwhelming rejection at the hands of merciless referees. But whilst there is an RAE, there is apparently hope for the erstwhile damned. This paper was profiled as 2* — far better than my own miserable profile. I humbly look up and admire the brilliance of those more talented than myself.

So what are people such as me with more than four publications, some of which appear in good quality refereed journals and some of which appear in non-refereed books, to do? How are we supposed to second-guess the RAE panel that may, as an example, consider a publication in a quality journal less worthy than a paper, which was rejected by a number of quality journals and appears in a non-refereed book? I suggest a large number of economists are in my situation.

The whole thing is bizarre, ludicrous and pathetic. The RAE panel resembles a super Court of Appeal in which the previously innocent can be retrospectively pronounced guilty of being substandard and the previously guilty can be pronounced innocent of the charge.

This cynic's present view, after having endured the vicissitudes of every previous RAE, is to say 'stuff this for a game of soldiers' and retire early on exactly the 30th October 2007.

Name and address supplied.

The final RAE?

The following passage appeared in ch 3 of Chancellor Gordon Brown's Budget Report: 2006. The editor is grateful to Professor Fred Lee, University of Missouri-Kansas City, for drawing it to members' attention.

'3.76 In order to maintain the UK's world-class university system,the Government is strongly committed to the dual support system and to rewarding research excellence, but recognises some of the burdens imposed by the existing Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The Government's firm presumption is that after the 2008 RAE the system for assessing research quality and allocating 'quality-related' (QR) funding from the DfES will be mainly metrics-based. In May 2006, the Government will launch a consultation on its preferred option for a metrics-based system for assessing research quality and allocating QR funding, publishing results in time for the 2006 Pre-Budget Report. The Government is aware that preparations for the 2008 RAE are well underway. It is therefore the Government's presumption that the 2008 RAE should go ahead, incorporating a shadow metrics exercise alongside the traditional panel-based peer review system. However, if an alternative system is agreed and widely supported, and a clear majority of UK universities were to favour an earlier move to a simpler system, the Government would be willing to consider that.'

The full text of the chapter can be found at:
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/20E/EA/bud06_ch3_192.pdf

Announcement of a new journal

Economics of Peace and Security Journal

The first issue on Conflict and Development is available free of charge at www.epsjournal.org.uk.

The publication raises and debates all issues related to the political economy of personal, communal, national, international, and global peace and security. Special attention is paid to constructive proposals for conflict resolution and peacemaking. While open to non-economic approaches, most contributions emphasize economic analysis of causes, consequences, and possible solutions to mitigate and resolve conflict. Contributions are scholarly-based, but written in a general-interest style. Issues of the journal generally are theme-based and contributions are by invitation only; however, readers are invited to write to the editors with proposals for a theme or a specific contribution. Short letters of less than 500 words commenting on the published pieces are welcome. The site will also have a book review section comprising book notes and review articles. Please visit the web site and/or write us at editors@epsjournal.org.uk

Obituaries

Sir Hans Singer

Born on 29 November 1910 in Elberfeld, Germany, Hans Wolfgang Singer died on 26 February 2006.

Professor Sir Hans Singer had an extraordinarily productive career as a pioneer economist of development and as an international civil servant in the early years of the United Nations.¹ His professional life spanned nearly seventy years, over which his early analysis of British unemployment matured into a wide-ranging exploration of the international and national causes of persistent world poverty. For him, theory and practice were always linked, whether he was operating as a UN official or as an academic consultant. He created many new insights; and he helped to create a range of new UN economic agencies.

Born in the pre-First World War Rhineland into a middle class family of secular Jews, the young Hans was originally intended for his father's profession of medicine. He studied at the University of Bonn, where he was attracted into the discipline of economics by the engaging teaching style of Joseph Schumpeter, author of *The Theory of Economic Development* (1912). His first dissertation subject was the Kondratieff cycle. When Schumpeter left Bonn for Harvard in 1932, Singer began anew with a dissertation on urban economics under Arthur Spiethoff.

As a liberal activist in the student association — along with Wolfgang Stolper and August Lösch — Singer was attacked by pro-Nazi students. Since his father had already been murdered by the Nazis, he decided to leave Germany for Turkey. Then Schumpeter wrote to Keynes, recommending Singer for one of two refugee scholarships at Cambridge. There, accompanied by his young bride Ilse whom he'd married in 1933, he completed a PhD on urban land values under the supervision of Colin Clark. Singer thus combined his interest in the economics of the very long run with the analysis of urban rents. The key results were reported briefly in Colin Clark's *The Conditions of Economic Progress* (1940).

Clark's strongly empirical style of economics, and his aversion to unsupported theory, rubbed off on the young Singer, and was evident in his post-doctoral research. Keynes got him his first research job with the Pilgrim Trust, researching the conditions of the long term unemployed. Under the aegis of Archbishop William Temple, he, together with Walter Oakeshott and David Owen, produced *Men Without Work* (1938). They conducted sam-

ple surveys in unemployment black spots, and produced their statistics with the aid of punched cards. They also lived with some of the families in their samples — thus pioneering the method of mixing quantitative with qualitative research.

They stressed the moral and psychological losses inflicted by unemployment, as well as the purely economic waste. This finding has been strongly reiterated by current research on the economics of happiness. Oswald and others have found that lack of employment is one of the most important causes of the divergence between income level and reported levels of subjective happiness.²

Singer's first university appointment in 1938 was at Manchester. The Nazis had put Singer on a list of those to be arrested after the invasion of Britain. Ironically, it was the British Home Office that interned him briefly at Huyton in 1940! Keynes pleaded vigorously for his release, after which he produced a series of twelve consecutive articles on the state of the German war economy for the *Economic Journal*. He later worked for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, trying to remedy official ignorance of urban economics.

After the war he wanted to resume his academic career in Britain, but in 1947 his new employer (Glasgow University) agreed to second him to the fledgling United Nations, despite his reluctance to go. When he arrived in New York, he knew only Michal Kalecki, Sidney Dell and David Owen (who had become the first head of the UN Department of Economic Affairs). In the end, however, he served the UN for twenty-two years with deep energy and commitment and a cornucopia of policy ideas.

Singer stressed the accidental element in his transition to being a development economist. He claimed that he had been selected because David Weiraub, an American official of the UN, misunderstood the British term 'country planning', thinking that it meant 'national planning', when it actually meant 'countryside planning'. His delight in telling this story emphasises the fact that he never took himself over-seriously, and was one of the most modest of men.

He made his mark almost at once, with a study of the terms of trade of developing countries in 1948. Using British trade data, he pointed out that (contrary to the classical economists' view) the terms of trade for countries exporting primary commodities had been declining for a hundred years. His study was passed to Raúl

Prebisch, of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, who used it to assert that the metropolitan countries were retaining all the benefits of global productivity increases. The UN thereby became associated with unorthodox economics. Singer's sole authorship of the secular decline doctrine — usually known as the Prebisch-Singer thesis — has been recognised only recently.³

The doctrine drew swift attacks from Jacob Viner, Gottfried Haberler, Gerald Meier and others, but in the 1980s it held up well under a variety of heavy-duty statistical tests undertaken by John Spraos, David Sapsford, Tony Thirlwall and others. By the 1990s, it had become generally accepted.⁴ Even the IMF now advises developing countries to regard primary commodity booms as temporary, and price collapses as permanent.

Singer campaigned for a soft loan facility to be established within the UN. This was a function given in 1960 to the World Bank rather than the UN, as he had advocated. For this advocacy he was abused by the right-wing US press, and for a time suffered from depression. When Kennedy became President, however, he strongly supported the US initiative for a UN International Decade of Development. He was also instrumental in preparing the ground for the launch of the World Food Program, and remained a life-long advocate of giving aid in the form of food.

The era of decolonisation altered the political balance of the UN, increasing demands from developing countries for UN assistance. Hans Singer was active in designing and advocating several new UN specialised agencies in the 1960s. These included the UN Special Fund for technical assistance, which was then absorbed into the UNDP; the UN Industrial Development Organisation; the UN Emergency Fund for Children and the UN Research Institute for Social Development.

Throughout his UN phase, Singer had maintained a copious flow of professional publications on all aspects of development, including technical assistance, human capital and the welfare of children. He favoured a planning approach to development, but was not an uncritical advocate of overseas aid. Rather, he showed that, because of the fungibility of funds, uncoordinated project aid was likely to be an ineffective form of development assistance.⁵

At a time of life when many would welcome retirement, Singer resumed his British academic career at the newly established Institute for Development Studies on the campus of Sussex University. In the 1970s, he led (jointly with Richard Jolly) the ILO Employment Mission to Kenya, which paved the way for further work on strategies of redistribution from growth. This idea was taken up by the World Bank, but abandoned in the 1980s when neo-liberal policy rhetoric dominated the Bank's agenda. In fact, it foreshadowed today's renewed development policy concern with the promotion of 'pro-poor growth'.⁶ The Kenya

Mission was innovative in that it stressed the potential of the informal sector of the economy, previously regarded as stagnant, to create employment and reduce poverty.

Publication continued apace while he was at IDS, his personal bibliography well exceeding four hundred items by 2002. Nevertheless, he always found time for the many students and overseas visitors who sought him out for discussion and guidance. His generosity in this respect was legendary, with the result that he was more widely renowned abroad than he was at home. His manner was ever humble and self-deprecating. He was blessed with a well developed sense of humour, often exercised at his own expense. Nevertheless, beneath the surface was a quiet firmness of conviction that did not easily yield. It was this combination of approachable gentleness and well-defended arguments that made him such a sought after interlocutor.

Perhaps because of his diffidence, honours were slow to come. He was eventually the recipient of five academic *festschriften*. Once he reached eighty, he received honorary doctorates from the universities of Glasgow, Kent, and Sussex in Britain, and from overseas universities in Argentina, Austria and Portugal. Cambridge, however, stood aloof, despite initiatives from below the level of the professoriate. In 1994, he was knighted by the Queen 'for services to economic issues'.

Although he never produced a single large systematic work, Hans Singer was a source of insight and inspiration to all who knew him. The breadth of his vision, the sharpness of his intuition and the craftsmanship of his arguments were all outstanding. Fortunately, like Austin Robinson, he was spared the intellectual decline that usually comes with great age. Again like Austin, he attained his 95th birthday before he passed peacefully away. He is survived by his wife, Ilse, and one (of two) sons.

John Toye
University of Oxford

Notes:

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3. John Toye and Richard Toye (2003) 'The Origins and Interpretation of the Prebisch-Singer Thesis', *History of Political Economy*, 35 (3), 437-67.
4. See, for example, P G Ardeni and B Wright, (1992) 'The Prebisch-Singer Hypothesis: A Reappraisal Independent of Stationarity Hypotheses', *Economic Journal*, 102 (413), 803-812
5. H W Singer, (1965) 'External Aid: For Plans or Projects?', *Economic Journal*, 75 (299), 539-45.
6. World Bank, (2005) *Pro-Poor Growth in the 1990s. Lessons and Insights from 14 Countries*, (Washington DC).

Michael Posner

Michael Posner was born on 25 August 1931 and died in Oxford on 14 February 2006 at the age of 73. He was another economist, of whom many (including Sir Hans Singer) have been mentioned in these pages, whose presence in the UK owed much to oppressive regimes in Europe. His father was a refugee from Russian pogroms and his maternal grandparents had also come to the UK to avoid persecution in Eastern Europe.

He spent his early years in Ilford but after the war the family settled in Croydon and he attended Whitgift School. From there he won a scholarship to study history at Balliol College, Oxford. His formal education was briefly suspended by a period of National Service (in the RAF) but resumed immediately afterwards. His tutor, to begin with, was Christopher Hill but Posner switched from history to a study of philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) at an early stage. He graduated with first class honours in 1953 and immediately embarked upon a career as an academic economist taking a post as Research Officer at the Oxford Institute of Statistics where he remained until 1957.

After a very brief spell in the USA he moved to Cambridge where he stayed until 1979. He held the posts successively of assistant lecturer, lecturer and reader. He was elected a fellow of Pembroke College in 1960 and served as secretary of the faculty board of economics for and later its chairman in 1974-75. In 1966, he co-authored *Italian Public Enterprise* and in so doing gave notice of his developing interest in public policy. While teaching at Cambridge he held a series of part-time governmental advisory posts, primarily in the policy areas of energy and macroeconomics, starting as director of economics at the Ministry of Power (1966-67) and culminating as deputy chief economic adviser to the Treasury (1975-76).

Thereafter he joined the boards of British Railways (1976-84) and the Post Office (1978-79). It was while he was at the BRB that he had his first negative encounter with the Thatcher government which initially rejected the Board's plans for mainline electrification on which he had worked extensively. After leaving the BRB he served as a trustee of the railways pension fund (1986-98) and was one of the first to warn that the fund was headed for financial difficulties.

The second encounter with the Thatcher government, and more especially her Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph, was much more bruising but it earned Posner a reputation as a skilled political operator. More importantly, although there were some criticisms to begin with, once the scale and importance of his achievement became apparent, it earned him the undying gratitude of all UK social science researchers.

Although the crisis erupted in 1982, its roots can be traced back to the beginning of 1979 when Posner was appoint-

ed as Chairman of what was then called the Social Science Research Council. The appointment was made by a Labour government which was shortly afterwards (in May 1979) replaced by the Conservative government led by Margaret Thatcher. Instinctively suspicious of any intellectual activity, she was particularly suspicious of social scientists who she saw as tending to complicate the analysis of economic and social issues and acting as a barrier to her essentially simplistic, black and white, judgements and the remedies that she felt followed therefrom. The fact that so much social science research seemed also to lead to 'leftish' policy prescriptions (or at least to the spending of public money) only made matters worse.

In September 1981, Sir Keith Joseph moved to the Department of Education and promptly set out about questioning the credentials of the SSRC. For Joseph, 'science' meant hard science and it was carried out, for the most part, in laboratories. To him, the fact that social research could dignify itself in this way was anathema (and an illustration of the arrogance to which left-wing academics were prone). His answer was to invite Lord Rothschild (an earlier Chairman of the Central Policy Review Staff and an acquaintance of Posner) to conduct a one-man inquiry into the SSRC before taking action (to close it). The inquiry began in February 1982 and the Report was to be delivered in May. For a period of three months, Posner worked heroically to convince Rothschild of the value of the research that the SSRC was funding. In this, he proved very skilful at persuading leading figures in the other research councils (some of whom at least might have been expected to share Thatcher's prejudices against social science) to support the public funding of *all* research. No doubt many rallied to the flag because they could see that an attack on the public funding of one area of research would establish a precedent for querying the merits of all public funding. In the end, Rothschild's Report was more critical of any suggestion that the SSRC should be closed than the government could possibly have anticipated, referring to the possibility as an act of 'intellectual vandalism' which would cause immense damage to the country. Joseph and Thatcher won a minor battle in that the name of the SSRC was changed to the Economic and Social Research Council (with no mention of science). But Posner's view was that this was conceding a battle to win the war, a judgement which virtually all social researchers came subsequently to accept.

In 1986 he was appointed General Secretary of the European Science Foundation (ESF) in Strasbourg, a post he held for seven years. During that period, he worked hard to persuade national research councils to increase their contributions to the ESF which he saw as an essential counterweight to the power of the European Commission to fund (and influence) social science research.

He is survived by his wife Rebecca (née Reynolds) whom he married in 1953, and by a son and daughter.

Paolo Sylos Labini

Paolo Sylos Labini was born in Rome in 1920 and died there on December 7th at the age of 85. After graduating from the University of Rome with a dissertation on the economic consequences of inventions, he studied at Harvard University with Schumpeter and later in Cambridge (UK) with Dennis Robertson. The decision to seek the guidance of Schumpeter originated with the thesis itself wherein he had become convinced that the traditional (marginalist) theory of value and distribution, has little useful to say on a number of issues that are important to modern economies. Amongst these is economic development (as distinct from purely quantitative growth) and technical change.

On his return to Italy, he began his academic career at the universities of Catania and Bologna, later moving to the 'la Sapienza' in Rome. After the war he played an active part in debates about the reconstruction of the Italian economy (and society) and was much preoccupied with the gap between the relatively wealthy northern region and the much poorer and traditional south. This concern stayed with him throughout his life and published a book of essays shortly before his death (*Scritti sul Mezzogiorno*, 2004).

Amongst English-speaking economists he is probably best known for his work on oligopoly. This began with the publication, in 1956 of *Oligopolio e Poggio Tecnico* (trans. *Oligopoly and Technical Progress*, Harvard U P, 1962). The book was published more or less simultaneously with J Bain's *Barriers to New Competition* (1956). The two works were then grouped together Franco Modigliani in a widely read article 'New developments on the oligopoly front', which appeared in the 1958 *Journal of Political Economy*. It was in this version that they came to be accepted as part of the mainstream theory of non-competitive market forms. However, with his model, Modigliani (a friend of Sylos-Labini since the late forties) deprived Sylos' theory of its original Classical context, devising a 'neoclassical synthesis' analogous to the one he had provided for Keynesian theory with his 1944 and 1963 articles. In doing so he left aside its dynamic aspects which were worked out in the second part of the 1956 book.

Sylos Labini's notion of oligopoly was based on the Classical economists' notion of competition, as freedom of entry into a sector of economic activity. When there are barriers to entry, there is oligopoly. Thus oligopoly becomes the general case, while competition (absence of any barrier to entry) and monopoly (insurmountable barriers) are but limit cases, quite rare in practice. Explaining the barriers to entry — their nature and size — thus becomes the central object of the theory of market forms. While Bain focused on 'differentiated oligopoly', where the product is perceived as different according to the firm producing it and investment in advertising generates a barrier to entry, Sylos Labini focused on 'concentrated oligopoly', where it is the large efficient scale of plants which represents barriers to entry for new producers.

The most widely known of Sylos Labini's books, among the Italian public at large, is his 1974 bestseller, *Saggio Sulle Classi Sociali* (trans. *Essay on the Social Classes*). This was subsequently translated into many languages but, curiously, not English. It crosses the boundaries between economics, politics and sociology. In it Sylos-Labini criticises the Marxian dichotomy between capitalists and proletariat, and stresses the central role of the 'middle classes'. The book gave rise to a lively political debate, contributing to the dramatic change of attitude of the strongest party of the Italian left, the Communist Party.

His writings reflect his personality, in which intelligence and passion, culture and morality were combined in a unique and fascinating way. He preferred research and teaching to a political career, but considered political involvement as a duty for every citizen. Many Italian and non-Italian economists have been his pupils, and many more have been influenced by his views; with his example, he set an extraordinarily high standard of seriousness and moral rigour in research, in teaching and in lifestyle, coupled with a warm interest in others. His humanity will be missed by all those who had the fortune to know him.

This obituary draws on, inter alia, the appreciation of Paolo Sylos Labini written by Alessandro Roncaglia, available at: <http://151.100.71.71/sylosPersonal/ricordo/ObituaryTransf.pdf>

Journals for disposal

Offers are invited (from any individual or institution) for the following journals::

Econometrica (mid-1968-2000, few early numbers missing)

The Economic Journal (Sept. 1968 - 2000)

The European Economic Review (Sept. 1978 - 2000)

All proceeds from the sale of the journals will be donated to either International Red Cross or to Disaster and Emergencies Committee.

Email: dilip_bhattacharyya@hotmail.com

Tel: +44 (0)116 2714094

Another member of the Society has back numbers of economic and financial periodicals going back to the early or middle 1990s, up to 2004. He wishes to donate them as a collection or individually to anyone prepared to bear transport costs from Highgate, London, N6.

Economic Journal; National Institute Economic Review; Fiscal Studies; Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin (and Inflation Report); HM Treasury Financial Statement and Budget Report, various; Treasury Committee reports, OECD Economic Outlook, Employment Outlook; Financial Market Trends and country surveys, IMF World Economic Outlook; BIS International Banking Quarterly and Annual Report, ECB Monthly Bulletin and Annual Report.

Contact Christopher Johnson
johnson.c@blueyonder.co.uk
or +44 (0) 208 340 4970

The Economics Network of the Higher Education Academy

The Economics Network provides a range of free services that support university teachers of economics in the UK, including:

- practical and time-saving resources
- national and departmental workshops - please contact us
- publications including the peer-reviewed journal *International Review of Economics Education* (IREE), available in paper or online

Online resources can be accessed from the Economics Network website and include:

- Economics Book Guide: a comprehensive, searchable list of over 4,000 economics books available in the UK
- Online Learning and teaching Materials: over 600 sources of online text, exam papers, glossaries, interactive tutorials and more
- Resources for Graduate teaching Assistants: dedicated page of learning and teaching resources to assist economics GTAs
- Good Practice Showcase: Examples of learning and teaching practice in economics

Economics Network Mini Projects 2006

Proposals are invited from the UK Economics community for small projects to be funded by the Economics Network of the Higher Education Academy. Projects will address the development, implementation and evaluation of innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment in Economics Higher Education. The scheme is aimed at academics wanting to develop and evaluate new approaches to their teaching practices. Funding is for up to £5000 per project.

Proposals should be received no later than

Friday 26 May 2006

Further information, including application forms from: www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/mini2006.htm

Details of conferences hosted by the Network in the near future are listed in the Conference Diary, below.

Further details about the activities of the Network can be found on its website:

www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk

New research by Professor Richard Berthoud of the

More research from ISER

New Evidence on the Job Prospects of Disabled People

Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) finds that there is no clear dividing line between disabled people who can work and those who cannot. This highlights the difficulty of finding a fair and effective way of dividing disabled benefit claimants into two streams. The study also reveals that disabled people's job prospects are strongly influenced by the detailed characteristics of their impairments. But they are much less disadvantaged by their impairments if they had a good education and live in a prosperous area. The study makes use of a unique survey, which describes the details of people's medical conditions and the type and severity of their impairments.

Disability characteristics: The single most important influence on the employment of disabled people is their disability. Three sets of disability characteristics are important: condition; type of impairment; and severity.

These three packages of characteristics make a significant contribution to the probability of being employed across the working-age population as a whole, and especially to an explanation of variations within the disabled group. What the research does not show is whether impairments reduce people's capacity to work, or whether they increase employers' (potentially discriminatory) reluctance to hire them.

Economic influences: The fact that disability characteristics affect variations in employment rates among disabled people does not mean that other characteristics are irrelevant. The analysis shows that economic characteristics — especially education — affect disabled and non-disabled people alike. Indeed, economic influences seem to be *more* relevant to severely disabled people than to the rest of the population. They are much less disadvantaged by their impairments if they had a good education and live in a prosperous area.

Employment disadvantage: There is a wide gap between disabled people's employment experience and what they might have expected if disability had not been such a disadvantage. But it is very difficult to reach conclusions about the experience of 'most' claimants of incapacity benefit.

....continued on p. 22

Centre for Economic Performance

Amongst the recent findings by CfEP researchers, readers may be interested in the following.

Mama's boys

Italian men — and Italian women too — tend to live much longer with their parents than adult children anywhere else in the West. In Britain, roughly five out of every ten men aged between 18 and 30 live with their parents. In the United States, the proportion is four out of ten. But in Italy, it is eight out of ten.

New research by Marco Manacorda and Enrico Moretti investigates why. It finds that Italian parents love having their adult children around so much that are willing to 'bribe' them to stay at home. Indeed, a 10 per cent rise in Italian parents' income leads to a 10 per cent rise in the proportion of children living at home.

Full details can be found in 'Intergenerational Transfers and Household Structure: Why do Most Italian Young Men Live with their Parents?' by Marco Manacorda and Enrico Moretti, CEP Discussion Paper No. 536 (www.cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/DP0536.pdf) and forthcoming in the Journal of the European Economic Association.

The part-time pay penalty

Women working part-time in the UK have hourly earnings that are on average 26 per cent less than women working full-time. What is more, this gap has widened while the overall gap between male and female workers has fallen.

New research by Alan Manning and Barbara Petrongolo investigates what's behind this part-time pay penalty and finds that differences in the occupations of full- and part-time women explain most of the pay differentials between them. What's more, many women working part-time are not making full use of their skills and experience.

'Skills for all': improving vocational education

Our efforts to improve post-16 education and training, including apprenticeships, are seriously weakened by what happens pre-16. That is one of the central conclusions of CEP's 'Skills for All' research programme, which has been looking at the life choices and life chances of the many young people in the UK who do not go to university, and the implications for recent government initiatives to upgrade the nation's skills base.

Hilary Steedman argues that vocational courses for 14-16 year olds can have a highly motivating effect on students' performance, and that we need to develop substantial national vocational programmes, each culminating in an award at level 3 (A level equivalent). She also notes that in much of continental Europe, apprenticeships tend to be 'demand-led' whereas in the UK, they are 'supply-led'.

Further details on these and other areas of CEP research can be found at <http://cep.lse.ac.uk/centrepiece>

Money, Macro and Finance Research Group

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 38th Annual Conference will be held on September 13-15 2006 at Langwith College, University of York.

Keynote speakers will include:

Matthew Canzoneri (Georgetown)

Deborah Lucas (Northwestern)

Salih Neftci (New York)

Special sessions will include those organised by GdR Monnaie et Financement Research Group and the ESRC World Economy and Finance programme.

The MMF 2006 Programme Committee invites submissions of papers from academic, government, and business economists in any area of Monetary, Macro and Financial Economics.

Papers should be submitted through the Conference Maker website for our conference:

https://gemini.econ.umd.edu/cgi-bin/conference/conference.cgi?action=login&db_name=MMF2006

You will need to set up an account and follow the instructions on this site. Submitting authors should not act as a corresponding author for more than one paper. At the Conference, no author should present more than one paper.

The first deadline for submissions is **22nd April 2006**.

Notification of acceptance will be sent before the end of May 2006.

Programme chair and local organiser is Peter N Smith (York)

Conference website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/res/mmf/>

The conference organisers can be contacted at mmf@events.york.ac.uk

WIDER Conference

World Institute for Development Economics Research
of the United Nations University

CALL FOR PAPERS

Advancing Health Equity
Helsinki, Finland, 29-30 September 2006

This conference will bring together researchers and practitioners, from both developed and developing countries, to analyse the causes and consequences of health deprivation and inequality, to examine patterns and trends in these outcomes, to evaluate alternative policy options, and to identify future research directions.

Conference topics will include:

- concepts and measures of health status
- trends in health deprivation and inequality
- causes of health deprivation and inequality
- link between health and income deprivations
- labour market outcomes and health status
- nutrition and health
- intra-household issues in health
- evaluating alternative health policies

Those wishing to present a paper should send a detailed abstract or a full draft of the paper (strongly preferred). Others wishing to attend, but not present a paper, should briefly explain their reason for interest in the conference topics. All applicants should submit a short CV, including their full contact address, institutional affiliation, relevant publications and professional experience, nationality, age and gender.

All applications must be received by **15 May 2006** by email to health06@wider.unu.edu or by fax to +358-9-615-99-333.

More ESRC support for economics

Members will recall concerns expressed in these pages over a number of years about the difficulty of attracting and retaining good research students in economics. A recent demographic review, carried out by the ESRC's Training and Development Board has confirmed these fears. The result is a recent announcement from the ESRC that it intends to increase the number of research studentships (and the associated stipends) as well as doubling the length of fellowships and raising postdoctoral salaries in the hope that this will improve recruitment and retention. There is also to be an enhancement of incentives for researchers with advanced quantitative skills.

The ESRC has stressed that these are only first steps and that it will continue its discussions with the Royal Economic Society about further developments.

British Academy - section F

The section F (Economics) meeting of the BAAS will take place during the Festival of Science at the University of East Anglia.

The date for the economics meeting will be

Wednesday 6 September.

This year's President, Partha Dasgupta, has decided that the theme of the meeting will be

Ecological Economics

He has invited a mix of economists and ecologists, including:

Kenneth Arrow
Paul Ehrlich
Gretchen Daily
Scott Barrett
Karl Goran Maler

There will be further speakers added to this list.

The event is scheduled from 9-12 and 2-5. Apart from individual presentations there will be a panel session towards the end of the day.

Anyone interested in the issue of sustainable development will find this event very interesting and the mix of economists and ecologists will ensure lively debate during the day. More details are available from the Recorder for the BAAS, Dr David Dickinson.

Email: D.G.Dickinson@Bham.ac.uk

Disabled People

....continued from p.20

There is no bulge in the distribution, which could be used to argue that 'most' disabled people are at the less-severe end of the spectrum; nor a bulge at the opposite end, which would suggest that 'most' of them are 'incapable of work'. Still less is there a pair of bulges, which could be used to distinguish easily between 'those who can work' and 'those who cannot'.

The government has recently proposed new policies to support disabled people back into work. One of the key plans is to distinguish between benefit claimants for whom a return to work is thought to be feasible and others with the most serious disabilities and health conditions. The former group will receive benefit only on condition that they take part in work-related activity. But this analysis shows a wide range of impairments among disabled people, with a gradual deterioration in job prospects across that range. It is by no means clear, from this study, where a dividing line could be drawn between those with realistic and unrealistic expectations. The full report can be read at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep298.pdf

Economics, Climate Change and Governments

Last year we published (Issues 128, 129 and 130) three pieces dealing with economic issues relating to climate change and the treatment of these issues by governments. In the note that follows David Henderson reports and comments on recent developments in this area.

Economic issues relating to climate change were highlighted in July last year by the publication of a report on 'The economics of climate change' from the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs. A notable feature of the report is that the Committee voiced concerns about the role and conduct of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC is the chosen instrument of governments in relation to all aspects of climate change, and its work is widely taken to be objective and authoritative. It is all the more striking that a group of eminent, experienced and responsible persons, drawn from a national legislative body and spanning the political spectrum, with the help of an internationally recognised expert adviser and after taking and weighing evidence, issued a considered and unanimous report in which the work and role of the Panel are put in question.

The British government's official response to the Select Committee report took almost five months to appear. It is largely dismissive, and in particular it rejects *in toto* the line taken by the Committee on the IPCC. In my view this response does little credit to the responsible department. It serves as a further illustration of precisely those aspects of the IPCC process and milieu which prompted the Committee's concerns.

Going beyond the response, the government has set up a full-scale official inquiry by the Cabinet Office and the Treasury into the economics of climate change, under the direction of Sir Nicholas Stern and due to be completed in the autumn of this year. The Stern Review's website is now well stocked. Recent additions to it are (i) three documents issued as the first fruits of the Review process, including a major lecture by Sir Nicholas, and (ii) various comments that have been made on these.

In the latter category, nine of us have sent in a collective radical critique of the three Review documents. We conclude by saying that 'If the Review exercise is to serve a useful purpose, its treatment of the issues has to be more inclusive, more informed, and less dominated and constrained by questionable or mistaken presumptions.' Among their omissions — as distinct from mistakes which are also to be found — these documents make no reference to the debates of recent years on the IPCC's treatment of economic issues, and do not mention the Select Committee report.

Recent contributions to the debate have served to bring out a basic difference of opinion among economists. One school of thought, as represented in a statement of last

December by 25 leading American economists including three Nobel prizewinners, as also in the Stern Review documents, holds that (to quote the latter) 'the overwhelming weight of scientific opinion supports the view that climate change represents a real and growing threat', so that 'strong action has to be taken quite soon' to limit greenhouse gas emissions. On this view, the role, procedures and conclusions of the IPCC, as also of environment departments and agencies across the world, are implicitly treated as beyond serious question: 'the science' is seen as providing a firm basis for far-reaching programmes of action.

As against this, the view which I and others have come to hold is that governments are mishandling issues which remain subject to huge uncertainties. The IPCC process, to which they have assigned a virtual monopoly, is deeply and increasingly flawed, both in its treatment of economic aspects and more generally. Rather than pursuing as a matter of urgency ambitious targets for curbing emissions, governments should take steps, the sooner the better, to ensure that they are more fully and more objectively informed and advised in matters relating to climate change. This requires action on two fronts: first, to improve the IPCC process by making it more professionally watertight; and second, to bring to an end the IPCC's monopoly status by providing for other sources of information and ideas.

Notes:

1. The report, and the evidence submitted to the Committee have been issued in two volumes by The Stationery Office and are on the House of Lords website. The Special Adviser to the Committee was Professor David Pearce, who sadly died soon after the report came out.
2. The nine authors are Ian Byatt, Ian Castles, David Henderson, Nigel Lawson, Ross McKittrick, Julian Morris, Alan Peacock, Colin Robinson and Robert Skidelsky. Lord Lawson and Lord Skidelsky were signatories of the Select Committee report.
3. Specific proposals for action on these lines are set out in a note that four of us (Byatt, Henderson, Peacock and Robinson) sent to the Stern Review in December, at the time when the Review was just getting under way. The text is posted on the Review website.

Opportunity for PhD students

The University of Leicester's 3rd Annual PhD Conference on Economics is to be held on Thursday 18th May 2006. The Conference, which is organised by the Department of Economics' PhD students, aims to bring together research students in economics to communicate their research ideas and gain valuable feedback from established academics at this unique event.

More than 50 young researchers and 40 established academics participated in last year's event. Altogether, 25 papers are expected to be presented by young researchers from around the world. If you or your students would like to find out more or, alternatively, would like to attend this year's event, please visit

<http://www.le.ac.uk/ec/phdconf/>

RES News

items

Annual Conference 2007

The 2007 Annual Conference will be held at the University of Warwick.

Monday 11 April to Wednesday 13 April 2007

Further details will follow in the July issue of the Newsletter together with the Secretary-General's Annual Report and the report on this year's Annual Conference.

New President-elect and Council Members

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 18 April 2006, at the University of Nottingham, Sir John Vickers, University of Oxford, was confirmed as the President-elect of the Society. He will take office as President after the Annual General Meeting in 2007 for a period of three years.

The following were elected to hold office for five years from 2006-2011:

Dr Rachel Griffith, University College London
Mr Jim O'Neill, Goldman Sachs
Prof Avinash Persaud, Intelligence Capital Ltd
Prof Patricia Rice, University of Southampton
Dr Katharine Rockett, University of Essex
Prof Jonathan Temple, University of Bristol

Changing your address?

Newsletters and the *Economic Journal* continue to be returned by the postal authorities marked 'Gone away', 'not known at this address' etc. If you are going to change your address shortly, please remember to advise the Society. The information should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Katherine Crocker, Department of Economics and Related Studies, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD. E-mail: kc6@york.ac.uk

Charter and Bye-Laws of the Society

The Charter and Bye-Laws of the Royal Economic Society are available to members of the Society who would like a copy. Please contact Eleanor Burke, Royal Economic Society, London Business School, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA.

Support for small academic expenses

The Society is able to offer financial support to members who require small sums for unexpected expenditures. The type of expenditures which could qualify for support under this scheme include travel expenses in connection with independent research work, the purchase of a piece of software, expenses for a speaker at a conference being organised by the applicant's University or Institute, etc.

Applications, in the form of a letter and stating the purpose for which a small grant (maximum £600) is required, should be sent to: Professor Anton Muscatelli, Vice-Principal (Strategy and Budgeting), Daniel Jack Professor of Economics, Adam Smith Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8RT.

Please note that the closing dates for applications are **31 January, 31 May, and 30 September** each year and applications will *only* be considered at these times.

NOTE This scheme does NOT cover assistance to members who wish to go to a conference at which they will be presenting papers or acting as discussants. A separate fund — the Conference Grant Fund — has been set up for this purpose. See details below.

Conference grant fund

The Society's Conference Grant Fund is available to members who are presenting a paper, or acting as a principal discussant at a conference; support of up to £500 is available. Awards are made three times a year. The closing dates for applications are **31 January, 31 May, and 30 September** each year in respect of conferences which take place in the ensuing four months. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from: Professor Anton Muscatelli, Vice-Principal (Strategy and Budgeting), Daniel Jack Professor of Economics, Adam Smith Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8RT. Fax: +44 (0)141 330 3547

Publications

The Society offers to its members a number of scholarly publications at special prices. These include: *The Collected Writings of John Maynard Keynes*; *Keynes Lectures, 1932-35*; *Malthus' Principles of Political Economy* and *An Essay on the Principles of Population*; *Official Papers of Alfred Marshall* and *The Correspondence of Alfred Marshall, Economist*.

A full list with the special prices may be obtained from Ms Eleanor Burke, Department of Economics, London Business School, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA. E-mail: eburke@london.edu or via the Society's home page on the internet (www.res.org.uk). Enquiries about rights, permissions and initiatives relating to editions and other scholarly works should be addressed to The Publications Secretary, Professor Donald Winch, Arts E, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QN.

Conference diary

2006

april

24-26 April *Perth, Scotland*

Annual conference of the **Scottish Economic Society**.

Further information from:

<http://www.scotesoc.org/homepage.htm>

28 April *Waterloo, Canada*

First meeting of the European Union Studies Association Economics Interest Section on **Wither EU Integration and Cooperation** to be held at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Further information from: Patrick Crowley

E-mail: pcrowley@cob.tamucc.edu

28-30 April *Wexford, Ireland*

Annual conference of the **Irish Economic Association**.

Further information from: www.iea.ie

may

3 May *Bristol*

Workshop on **Teaching Heterodox Economics and Teaching Economics with a Heterodox Perspective** organised by The Economics Network.

Further information from:

www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/events/hetero0506.htm

17-19 May *Wageningen, Netherlands*

Conference on **Economics of Poverty, Environment and Natural Resource Use** organized by the Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group, Wageningen University.

Further information from: conference.enr@wur.nl

www.socialsciences.wur.nl/enr/

25-26 May

Bristol

Departmental contacts meeting of the **Economics Network**.

Further information from:

www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/events/contacts0506.htm

25-27 May

Valetta, Malta

International conference on **Sustainable Tourism** to be held at the University of Malta.

Further information from:

http://home.um.edu.mt/islands/sustainabletourism_may2006.pdf

26-28 May

Montreal, Quebec

CALL FOR PAPERS

Fortieth annual conference of the **Canadian Economics Association** jointly with **Canadian Agricultural Economics Society** to be held at Concordia University.

Further information from: <http://economics.ca/2006/en/>

31 May

Bristol

Workshop on **Teaching Energy Economics** organised by The Economics Network and the UK Energy Research Centre.

Further information from:

www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/events/energy0506.htm

june

5-8 June

Ascon, Switzerland

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference on **Sustainable Resource Use and Economic Dynamics** (SURED 2006). The aim of the conference is to compile innovative current research from resource, energy and environmental economics and dynamic economic theory.

Further information from: www.wif.ethz.ch/sured_2006

8 June

Bristol

Conference on **The Economics of School Choice** organised by the University of Bristol.

Further information from: Alison Taylor (Alison.taylor@bristol.ac.uk) Tel: 0117 928 9019 or www.bris.ac.uk/depts/cmpo/events/workshops/school/main.htm

11-14 June

Santander, Spain

Twenty-sixth annual International Symposium on Forecasting organised by the International Institute of Forecasters.

Further information from: www.isf2006.org/whoarewe.php

21-24 June

Nice, France

Eleventh annual international Joseph A Schumpeter conference.

Further information from: www.schumpeter2006.org/

22-24 June

Verona, Italy

Annual conference of the European Society for Population Economics.

Further information from: <http://dse.univr.it/espel>

23 June

London

Conference on **International Business and Competition Policy**. What the corporate world gets — and what it needs.

Further information from: dribeiro@chathamhouse.org.uk or www.chathamhouse.org.uk/Competition

23-26 June

Iowa, USA

Thirty-third annual conference of the History of Economics Society to be held at Grinnell College, Iowa.

Further information from: Bradley W Bateman at the above address. E-mail: hes2006@grinnell.edu Tel: 641 269 3145 Fax: 641 269 4284

july

4-7 July

Alice Springs, Australia

Annual Australasian meeting of the Econometric Society.

Further information from: <http://esam06.anu.edu.au/>

6-8 July

Cambridge

Fifth annual global conference on Business and Economics to be held at Cambridge University.

Further information from: www.facultyforum.com/gcbe/

6-9 July

Vienna, Austria

Fourteenth international conference of the Association for Cultural Economics International (ACEI) to be held at the University for Fine Arts. Keynote speaker: Professor Richard Swedburg, also panel discussions.

Further information from: www.acei.neu.edu or from E-mail: acei@neu.edu

7-8 July

Cambridge

Annual conference of the Association of Christian Economists to be held at Sidney Sussex College.

Further information from: Dr Michael Pollitt, m.pollitt@jbs.cam.ac.uk or www.christian-economists.org.uk

10-12 July

Kent

Annual conference of the Work Pensions and Labour Economic Group (WPEG) to be held at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

Further information from: www.york.ac.uk/res/wpeg/

13-15 July

Basque Country, Spain

CALL FOR PAPERS

Thirteenth conference of the International Association for the Economics of Participation to be held at the University of Mondragon. Abstracts should be submitted by **15 May 2006** to iafep@leeds.ac.uk.

Further information from: www.eteo.mondragon.edu/iafep/iafet_en.php

august

16-18 August

Jersey

Thirty-sixth annual conference of the Regional Science Association International (British and Irish Section).

Further information from: www.rsai-bis.org/

25-27 August Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Thirty-third annual conference of the **European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE)**.

Further information from: www.earie2006.org or E-mail: earie2006@uva.nl

29 August - 2 September Bologna, Italy

Conference on **Small Open Economies in a Globalized World** to be held at the University of Bologna.

Further information from: soegw@dse.unibo.it or www.dse.unibo.it/soegw/

september

7-9 September Brighton

Ninth bi-annual conference of the **European Association for Comparative Economic Studies (EACES)** on Development Strategies — a comparative view to be held at the University of Brighton.

Further information from: www.eaces.org

13-15 September York

Thirty-eight annual conference of the **Money Macro and Finance Research Group** to be held at the University of York.

Further information from: www.york.ac.uk/res/mmf/

14-15 September London

CALL FOR PAPERS

Fourth annual **Oxmetrics User Conference** to be held at Cass Business School. The conference aims to provide a forum for the presentation and exchange of research results and practical experiences within the fields of computational and financial econometrics, empirical economics, time-series and cross-section statistics and applied mathematics. Abstracts (100-200 word) should be sent by e-mail by **31 May 2006** to Giovanni Urga (g.urga@city.ac.uk).

Further information from: Giovanni Urga at the above e-mail address or <http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/conferences/oxmetrics2006/index.html>

22-23 September

Reading

Conference on **Institutions and Development** to be held at the University of Reading. Papers should be submitted by 28 February 2006.

Further information from: Marina Della Giusta at m.dellagiusta@rdg.ac.uk

29-30 September

Helsinki, Finland

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference on **Advancing Health Equity** organised by the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER). Those wishing to present a paper should send abstracts or full papers by **15 May 2006** to health06@wider.unu.edu or fax: +358 9 61599333

Further information from: health06@wider.unu.edu or www.wider.unu.edu

november

1-3 November

Nottingham

Fifth international conference on **Money, Investment and Risk** will take place in Nottingham, England between 1st and 3rd November 2006.

Further information and an application form are available at: <http://www.ntu.ac.uk/nbs/school/acad/afe/35535gp.html>

december

11-12 December

London

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference on **Breaks and Persistence in Econometrics** to be held at Cass Business School. Modelling and testing for structural changes and persistence in economics and finance has been an important research topic in time series econometrics, with noticeable recent developments in panel data. Submission of original papers are encouraged (both theoretical and empirical) which will help in the evaluation of recent controversies in detecting and modelling structural breaks and long memory processes. Extended abstracts or a full paper should be sent by e-mail by **30 September 2006** to Giovanni Urga (g.urga@city.ac.uk)

Further information from: Giovanni Urga at the above e-mail address or <http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/conferences/BreaksandPersistence/index.html>

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