



Nottingham School of Economics

# Media experts



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# The Nottingham School of Economics

The Nottingham School of Economics is one of the leading teaching and research departments in the UK.

The School has earned a world-class reputation for its research on a broad range of economic subjects, particularly globalisation, experimental economics and time series econometrics.

Its economists have advised the Treasury, the Bank of England, the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the IMF and the Department for Work and Pensions.

The School has almost 50 full-time academic staff and 800 undergraduate, 135 Masters and 80 full-time PhD students.

Its standing among the elite economics departments in the UK was reinforced by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, which ranked its “research power” among the top three in the country.

The measurement of “research power” takes into account not only the quality of research but, crucially, the number of staff put forward for inclusion in the RAE. To underline the strength and depth of its work, the School put forward *every member* of its staff.

All its research was classed as of international quality, and 85 per cent was defined as “world-leading” or “internationally excellent” – the top two possible ratings.

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# Introduction

The seismic events that have shaken the financial world have placed economics in the spotlight as never before. With the effects of the credit crunch proving so devastatingly wide-ranging, it is little wonder the subject is attracting more and more attention.

Nobody would have wished for such a spectacular spark, but the fact is that the very image of economics has been transformed almost overnight. The stereotype of a deadly-dull academic manipulating complex equations has been blown apart by the all-enveloping drama of the crisis.

As an unprecedented surge in undergraduate applications to our School shows, people are appreciating economics can be fascinating – even, dare I say it, exciting – and that the stakes are sometimes incredibly high. After all, there is nothing boring about trying to save the world from financial meltdown.

As recently appointed Head, I am enormously proud of the Nottingham School of Economics' reputation. In a world in which knowledge transfer and user engagement are more important than ever to the continued success and growth of institutions like ours, we are now looking to be more proactive in delivering our ideas.

We are extremely keen to share the expertise of our staff and to communicate our research not just to the academic community but to policymakers, the media and a wider audience. The purpose of this guide is to help journalists find the right person for comment on stories, so feel free to call us.

We also work closely with the team at Bulletin PR, who are all experienced journalists. If you get in touch with them as a first point of contact they will do everything they can to assist.

We cannot promise to be able to help in every instance, but we can assure you we will try.

**Professor Alan Duncan**

Head of School

## Professor Alan Duncan

**Head of School and Professor of  
Microeconometrics**



Alan was appointed Head of School in 2008. He previously held positions at the University of York and London's Institute for Fiscal Studies, where he is a Research Associate. He has advised organisations including the World Bank, the OECD, the Bank of England, the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Treasury. In 2000 Alan was awarded the Frisch Medal of the Econometric Society.

Alan has considerable experience of working in both print and broadcast media and is a respected commentator on a variety of economic matters, particularly policy-related issues.

**Keywords:** labour markets, employment, unemployment, pensions, welfare systems, econometrics, statistics, households, economics of the family, income and consumption patterns, tax policy and government expenditure

“The central motivation of my work is to provide proper evidence that can be a basis for or influence policy. It might be very technical, but it has a public policy bent. Academia isn't all about textbooks – you have to try to have an impact.”

Areas of specialisation include tax policy and welfare programme evaluation; work, employment and unemployment; impact of childcare policies; poverty and poverty alleviation; economics of the family.

## Dr Johannes Abeler

### Postdoctoral Research Fellow



Johannes joined the School as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in 2008 after completing his PhD at the University of Bonn. His main research interests are in the areas of behavioural, experimental, labour and public economics. He previously studied engineering and now tries to bring an engineering perspective to the discipline of economics: understanding people's behaviour to help design institutions that work more effectively. He is a member of the School's Centre for Decision Research and Experimental Economics (CeDEx) and is affiliated with the Institute for the Study of Labour, Bonn.

Johannes' work has featured in publications across Europe, Asia and the US. He has considerable experience of both print and broadcast media, including live-on-air interviews.

**Keywords:** behaviour, incentives, fairness, truth-telling and lying, cognitive mistakes

“The surprising thing about human behaviour is that many people are much nicer than they're supposed to be: they voluntarily help others, they tell the truth – at least most of the time – and they usually refrain from doing bad things. But how can we design institutions that take advantage of this?”

Areas of specialisation include behavioural and experimental economics; labour economics; public economics.

## Professor Daniel Bernhofen

### Professor of International Economics



Daniel studied in Germany and the US and held various academic positions in both countries before joining the School. His main research interests are international trade and industrial organisation. Daniel's pioneering work on the "natural experiment of Japan" has been widely acclaimed for its relevance to present-day globalisation issues and is required reading in graduate programmes around the world.

Daniel's work has appeared in a range of respected publications, including the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Political Economy* and the *Journal of International Economics*. His trailblazing research into the history of globalisation makes him a valuable commentator in any medium.

**Keywords:** trade, globalisation, international industrial organisation, welfare gains from trade, history of trade theory, 19th-century globalisation, trade and income distribution

"Most economists agree there are gains if economies trade with each other, but what hard scientific evidence do we have on the size and causes of these gains? Not much. The lessons of the first wave of globalisation – the 19th century – are relevant to the present wave and tell us that the gains are significant and stem mainly from technological differences between countries."

Areas of specialisation include international trade; industrial organisation; applied microeconomics.

## Professor Robin Cubitt

Professor of Economics and Decision Research



Robin completed his Doctorate at the University of Oxford in 1990 before working as a Lecturer, a Reader and a Professor of Economics at the University of East Anglia. He joined the School as a Professor of Economics and Decision Research in 2004. His research uses experimental and other methods, especially in relation to individual decisions that involve either risk or time. Robin has previously worked on macroeconomic theory, focusing in particular on the relationship between monetary policy regimes and macroeconomic performance.

Robin is the co-author of a book on the methodology of experimental economics and has written for a number of respected publications, including *The Independent*.

**Keywords:** behavioural economics, experimental economics, decision-making, economic theory, methodology of economics

“My work covers a range of issues relating to economic policy and the foundations of economics and often draws on the interfaces between economics, psychology and philosophy.”

Areas of specialisation include economic theory; behavioural economics; experimental economics; decision theory; methodology and foundation of economics.

## Professor Richard Disney

**Professor of Labour Economics and Director of the Centre for Policy Evaluation (CPE)**



Richard was a Professor at Queen Mary College, London, and the University of Kent, Canterbury, before joining the School in 1998. He has been a consultant for organisations including the World Bank, the IMF, the OECD and the ILO. Richard is also a Research Fellow at London’s Institute for Fiscal Studies and Governor of the Pensions Policy Institute and has served as a member of the Council of the Royal Economic Society and the NHS Pay Review Body.

Richard has published extensively in the fields of labour economics, welfare policy and the economics of household behaviour and is a regular commentator in the media.

**Keywords:** labour markets, pensions, households

“The credit crunch has affected every household in the UK, which means our work – looking at household finance, credit, debt, the labour market and other issues that affect us all – has more relevance than ever.”

Areas of specialisation include labour markets; policy evaluation; pensions; household behaviour.

## Professor Simon Gächter

### Professor of the Psychology of Decision-Making



Simon joined the School in 2005, having previously worked at the Universities of Vienna, Linz, Zurich and St Gallen. He is also affiliated with the CESifo network, Munich; the Institute for the Study of Labour, Bonn; and the MacArthur Research Network on Norms and Preferences. Simon's research interests include voluntary co-operation in the presence of free-rider incentives and the interplay of material and psychological incentives.

Simon's work has featured in a range of journals, including *Econometrica* and *Science*, and he is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* and the *Journal of Economic Psychology*. His insights into the psychology of decision-making have been widely published in both the print and broadcast media.

**Keywords:** decision-making, game theory, incentives, behavioural, experimental and organisational economics

“I'm very interested in morale and incentives and how they affect how we work. Most people seem to be willing to pull their weight if others do, but there's still the question of the 'free-rider problem' – those who consume more than their fair share – and how to solve it.”

Areas of specialisation include behavioural and experimental economics; organisational economics; labour economics; game theory.

## Dr John Gathergood

ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow



John joined the School as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in 2008. His main area of research is household finance, particularly in relation to housing wealth, participation in credit markets and self-employment. John spent a period on secondment to the Bank of England while studying for his Doctorate at the University of Nottingham. His fellowship is sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council.

John has extensive experience of both print and broadcast media. As well as being an expert in the field of household finance, he can also provide comment on issues including public finances, the regulation of consumer credit and regulatory policy towards the banking sector.

**Keywords:** households, debt, credit, mortgages, financial planning

“The remarkable thing about the financial behaviour of British households over the past decade is how little they have responded to massive increases in the value of their homes and the amount banks will lend them. The growth of household borrowing was modest, and consumer credit was actually falling before the credit crunch.”

Areas of specialisation include household finance; credit and debt; mortgage markets; consumer credit and consumer spending; financial planning.

## Dr Tim Lloyd

### Associate Professor of Economics



Tim has been a member of staff at the School since 1990. His research interests lie primarily in agricultural and food economics, particularly the analysis of commodity markets and market power. He has undertaken research for the Ford Foundation, the Treasury, DEFRA and the Meat and Livestock Commission. Tim is affiliated with a number of centres at the School: he is a member of the Centre for Policy Evaluation (CPE) and the Granger Centre for Time Series Econometrics and is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade (CREDIT).

Tim was formerly Managing Editor and is currently External Editor of the *Journal of Agricultural Economics*. His research has been published in a wide range of journals, and he has also been interviewed on TV and radio.

**Keywords:** food retailers, commodity markets, food demand

“Supermarkets have revolutionised the way we farm, shop and eat. The UK is in the vanguard of this quiet revolution, but the same factors are at play globally. Economic analysis of the food chain, particularly in relation to market power, has never been so relevant.”

Areas of specialisation include food retailing; commodities; land markets; agriculture; food “scares” (e.g. BSE).

## Professor Chris Milner

### Professor of International Economics



Chris joined the School as a Professor in 1995 and served as Head from 1995 to 2002 and from 2004 to 2008. He has acted as an adviser to international organisations including the World Bank, UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat, as well as several governments in Africa and the Caribbean. Chris is also a Research Fellow at the Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre.

Chris has published extensively in journals and books, including the *Economic Journal* and the *Journal of Development Economics*, and is a respected commentator whose “on the ground” experience is widely valued by the print media.

**Keywords:** national, regional and multilateral trade policies, WTO

“Over the years I’ve worked in Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius – all sorts of developing countries. It’s the operational experience, the being on the ground, that gives you a proper insight into what’s happening in these nations and what can be done to help them.”

Areas of specialisation include trade and trade policy, particularly in developing countries.

## Professor Paul Mizen

**Professor of Monetary Economics and  
Director of the Centre for Finance and Credit  
Markets (CFCM)**



Paul joined the School in 1992. His research includes an examination of the effects of monetary policy on firms' access to credit and the consequences for households of increased borrowing and debt. He has held research positions at the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, the Deutsche Bundesbank, the IMF and a number of universities, including the European University Institute, Florence and Princeton. He is Director of the School's Centre for Finance and Credit Markets, which has extensive contacts within the financial sector, central banks and government.

Paul is a widely-published media commentator who has written for the likes of the *Financial Times* and the *Washington Post*. He is also the co-author of *Monetary Economics*.

**Keywords:** monetary policy, corporate finance, interest rates, credit access, banking

“At CFCM we’re looking at a lot of extremely topical issues right now. The financial crisis, the monetary policy response to it, the banks’ reaction in terms of credit provision, household spending – these are matters that affect everyone.”

Areas of specialisation include monetary policy transmission mechanisms; financial behaviour in UK corporate and household sectors.

## Dr Wyn Morgan

### Associate Professor of Economics



Wyn is a graduate of both Exeter and Nottingham Universities and has been lecturing at Nottingham since 1990. His specific research interests include competition in the UK food chain, global commodity markets, commodity futures and the relationship between trade liberalisation and economic growth. Wyn was the recipient of a prestigious Lord Dearing Award for teaching in 1999.

As the University of Nottingham's Director of Teaching and Learning, Wyn is renowned as a consummate communicator. His work has been published in a wide range of respected journals, and he has considerable experience of both print and broadcast media.

**Keywords:** food retailers, commodity markets, agricultural policy

“At the moment I’m studying the global food commodities crisis. The man in the street might think it doesn’t affect him, but it does – it actually has a very real impact on the price of what’s in your shopping trolley. It’s also important to understand the extent to which government policies around the world have influenced the crisis.”

Areas of specialisation include commodity markets; food industry; agricultural policy.

## Professor Oliver Morrissey

### Professor of Development Economics



Oliver joined the School in 1989 and was promoted to Professor in 2004. His research concentrates on the fiscal impact of aid, the political economy of policy reform and trade policy, performance and poverty. His main research interests remain the economic effects of aid and trade policy reform, especially in Africa.

Oliver is a respected media commentator. He has extensive experience of the print media, having published many articles in international journals, and his expertise has also been regularly called upon in radio and TV interviews.

**Keywords:** aid, African economy, agriculture, trade, WTO

“If I work on a country, I’ve been there. I attach a lot of importance to that – and to the fact that I work with students from those countries. It’s all crucial to a serious understanding of how these nations operate and why they don’t necessarily match many people’s perceptions.”

Areas of specialisation include developing countries; trade performance and policy; aid and policy reform; agriculture.

## Professor Martin Sefton

### Professor of Economics



Martin received his undergraduate degree from Cambridge University and his PhD from the University of Iowa. He has since held various academic positions both in the US, including at Indiana and Penn State Universities, and the UK, including at Newcastle and Manchester Universities. Martin has been a member of staff at the School since 2000.

Martin's expertise in the field of behavioural economics has seen his work published in a number of leading journals. He is also on the editorial boards of *Experimental Economics* and the *BE Journal of Theoretical Economics*.

**Keywords:** behavioural economics, experimental economics, microeconomic theory, decision-making, industrial organisation

“There are a lot of useful messages to be found in strategic decision-making – how groups co-operate, what factors undermine co-operation, even why groups that ‘punish’ each other can work better together than those that don’t. Research like this tells us where human co-operation comes from.”

Area of specialisation include experimental economics; game theory; behavioural economics.

## Professor Chris Starmer

**Professor of Experimental Economics and  
Director of the Centre for Decision Research  
and Experimental Economics (CeDEx)**



Chris joined the School in 2000, having previously been a Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia. His work has been published in an extensive array of journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica* and the *Review of Economic Studies*. He is Director of the School's Centre for Decision Research and Experimental Economics (CeDEx).

Chris is co-author of a new book discussing the use of experiments as a tool of economic research and is an ideal source for comment on and insight into the human psychology of economics.

**Keywords:** behavioural economics, experimental economics, microeconomic theory, decision-making, prospect theory, risk

“Conventional economics assumes people are hyper-rational calculating machines. Behavioural economics explores how aspects of real human psychology might help understand surprising phenomena such as why taxi drivers work less on high-wage days or why our financial system is less stable than we expected.”

Areas of specialisation include individual and strategic decision-making, including risk; methodology of economics; experimental economics.

## Professor Robert Taylor

**Professor of Econometrics and Director of the Granger Centre for Time Series Econometrics**



Robert joined the School in 2006. His research interests are in the area of time series econometrics, with particular focus on unit root and stationarity tests, stochastic volatility, persistence change testing and structural breaks. He is Director of the School's Granger Centre for Time Series Econometrics and a Fellow of the *Journal of Econometrics*.

Robert is a Co-Editor of *Econometric Theory* and an Associate Editor of a number of other journals. He is also a trained statistician with an interest in opinion polls and is happy to pass on his expertise in any medium.

**Keywords:** time series econometrics, non-stationary time series, unit roots and co-integration, applied macroeconomics, structural breaks

“In my job I do a lot of modelling – but not the kind of modelling you might think. The models I develop and the manipulation of the variables within them help tell us why certain economic events happen. You should be able to look back and see whether something, such as the current financial crisis, really was an extraordinary event or not.”

Areas of specialisation include time series econometrics; non-stationary time series methods; distribution theory.

## Dr Richard Upward

### Associate Professor of Economics



Richard joined the School in 1998 as a Research Fellow, became a Lecturer in 2001 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2004. He previously worked as a Research Associate in the economics department at Manchester University, where he also completed his PhD. Richard is also a Research Fellow at the Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre, where his work includes studies of worker displacement and the effects of offshoring.

Richard's research has attracted considerable media interest, and his knowledge of the workings of data and statistics can shed valuable light on specialist areas such as the effects of globalisation.

**Keywords:** labour markets, trade, unemployment, econometrics, households, globalisation, FDI

“How does the government measure unemployment? Why don't we know how many migrants there are in the UK? Why has manufacturing's share of jobs in the UK fallen from 50% to 15% in the past 50 years? The answers often lie buried deep in data, waiting to be uncovered. The art is knowing how to uncover them.”

Areas of specialisation include labour economics; applied econometrics; globalisation; labour markets.

## Professor David Whynes

### Professor of Health Economics



David joined the School in 1976 as a Lecturer in Economics. He has researched a wide variety of health care fields – including the economic analysis of primary care, services for the deaf and maternity care – and for two decades has investigated the economic aspects of cancer screening. He is involved in TOMBOLA, the UK trial studying management options for abnormalities detected during routine cervical cancer screening.

David's work has been widely published in a variety of respected journals. He is one of the UK's few specialist health economists and is an informed and vibrant commentator who favours the print media.

**Keywords:** health care, cancer, screening, placebos

“I was trained as an economist, but over the years I've learnt more and more about medicine. Cancer screening in particular fascinates me, because it's a world that changes so regularly: what seemed right before doesn't necessarily seem right now.”

Areas of specialisation include the economics of health care.

## Dr Peter Wright

Associate Professor and Reader in Economics



Peter has been a member of staff at the University of Nottingham since 1993. His primary research interests are labour market adjustment (particularly in response to globalisation), the labour market impact of mergers and acquisitions and the market for executive labour. Peter is also co-ordinator of the *Globalisation and Labour Markets* programme at the Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre.

As co-ordinator of GEP's prolific GLM programme, Peter is accustomed to producing media-friendly research papers and is always keen to discuss his work in the print media.

**Keywords:** labour markets, unemployment, trade, globalisation, mergers, executive remuneration, unions

“Labour economics is about people. It’s about the sort of things we all might experience. It’s about unemployment and how issues like trade and migration might affect our job prospects and our wages.”

Areas of specialisation include labour economics.

## Dr Zhihong Yu

### RCUK Research Fellow



Zhihong joined the School in 2005 as an Economic and Social Research Council Fellow after completing his PhD in international economics at the University of Nottingham. He has held a Research Councils UK Fellowship since 2006. His research interests include China's role in the world economy. Zhihong is also a Research Fellow at the Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre.

Zhihong has considerable experience of the media, having written for various publications in both the UK and China, including a regular economics column in a leading Chinese newspaper. He has also done broadcast work and is the former Editor of GEP's quarterly *Newsletter*.

**Keywords:** trade, organisation, China, Chinese economy

“Firms are often the driving force of integration in this new era of globalisation, but they face both formidable challenges and great opportunities as a result of international exposure. Our work is to help explain how to make globalisation a helping hand rather than a destructive force.”

Areas of specialisation include international trade; industrial organisation; China's economy.

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