

Press release

Economist Prof. Gerard van den Berg, Ph.D. Elected as a Fellow of the Econometric Society

Prof. Gerard van den Berg, Ph.D. belongs to the worldwide leading economists in the fields of economics of job market and health. Since 2009 he has been conducting research within the context of an Alexander von Humboldt chair at the University of Mannheim. Now the 51-year old was elected fellow of the Econometric Society." I cordially congratulate Prof. van den Berg. It is a great honor that at this year's election he was admitted as the only professor of a German university to this society which is the internationally most important one in the whole field of economics", Prof. Dr. Eckhard Janeba, spokesperson of the department of economics of the University of Mannheim, explained.

Founded in 1930, the Econometric Society is an elite international society which unites researchers in order to make progress in theoretical economics in their relation to statistics and mathematics. Once a year, it elects new fellows from a small circle of nominated scientists. Among the total of 451 active fellows only eight more are working in Germany. Only three of them were elected in the last 30 years. Renowned scientists like Carl Christian Freiherr von Weizsäcker and Joseph E. Stiglitz as well as numerous other Nobel laureates in economics belong to the society.

Econometrics, Prof. van den Berg's core discipline, analyzes and explains economic connections with the help of statistical methods. For this, statistical data is investigated and relations between economic causes and their consequences and impacts are defined. Decisive for the appointment of Prof. van den Berg were, according to the vice chairman of the Econometric Society, Professor H.S. Shin (Princeton University), his highly respected econometric contributions, in particular concerning the analysis of unemployment durations and the economic determinants of human life expectancy.

In his research work, Prof. van den Berg investigates, for example, which effects unemployment benefit has, which impacts the duration of unemployment has and if offers of further education are useful. In the frame of a EU project, he is testing at the moment, together with French colleagues, a new concept with job search clubs, in which small groups of young unemployed people support each other in the search for a job.

"The appointment is a great honor for me because the current fellows who made the decision are a group of extraordinarily renowned scholars from the whole world", said Prof. van den Berg. "I hope moreover that the appointment contributes to increase the great reputation of the economics department of the University of Mannheim."

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