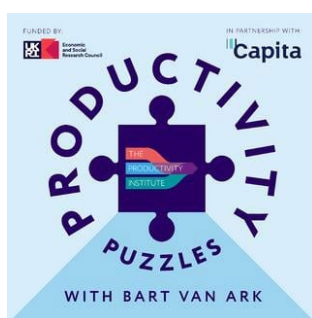


Wednesday, 27 April 2022



New podcast: Restarting the Future: How Intangibles Can Fuel Productivity

Why has economic growth slowed down? Have we already exhausted the benefits from the digital revolution? Are the trusted institutions of the 20th century now failing in the investments most needed for future growth in productivity? In our [latest podcast episode](#), Bart van Ark talks to Jonathan Haskel from Imperial College Business School, Stian Westlake of the Royal Statistical Society and Diane Coyle, who is Bennett Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge. Jonathan and Stian have written a book on the topic of intangibles, called *Restarting the Future: How to Fix the Intangible Economy*.

WONKHE

Andy Westwood blog for Wonkhe

[Andy Westwood](#) discusses the importance of human capital for productivity in a [blog](#) reacting to a report by the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change about expanding higher education in the UK. In *Targeting Blair: we ignore calls to address inequality and improve productivity at our peril* for higher education policy website [Wonkhe](#), he writes:

"Even though productivity has stagnated since the financial crisis, the little growth that has occurred has been driven by higher or graduate-level skills and increases in human capital"

Andy, who is co-lead for TPI's Institutions and Governance theme, was thanked by the Tony Blair Institute for his input on the [We Don't Need No Education?](#) report.

Bennett Institute for Public Policy: Annual Conference

Bart van Ark joined [Diane Coyle](#) for a session about why productivity matters at the Annual Conference of TPI partner organisation the [Bennett Institute for Public Policy in Cambridge](#) last week. Julia King, Baroness Brown of Cambridge, and Professor Meredith Crowley from the University of Cambridge were the other members on the panel. The discussion included:

- Stretching the scope of productivity past inputs and outputs to also factor in outcomes
- Whether the long-term productivity slowdown is a crisis or a natural evolution of capitalism
- How to combat regional disparities in productivity

Recordings of the conference will be available soon on the Bennett Institute website.



Productivity Commission's third evidence session

Catch up on the latest evidence session of the Productivity Commission on [What and How Can Productivity be Improved?](#), which has been published by our partner the [National Institute of Economic and Social Research](#) on YouTube. The session sees TPI members Jagjit Chadha, Adrian Pabst and Andy Westwood talking to the Institute of Directors' Chief Economist Kitty Ussher and Jesse Norman MP, ex-Financial Secretary at the Treasury.

Are digital-using UK firms more productive?

What are the links between digital inputs and investments and productivity? Diane Coyle, Kieran Lind, David Nguyen and Manuel Tong have published a new [Discussion Paper](#) on the topic for the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence. The findings confirm that large firms are more digital-intensive than small ones and that digital adopters have higher productivity. You can [read the blog](#) about the paper on the ESCoE website.



Explaining Northern Ireland's low productivity



Ahead of the NI Assembly elections, TPI affiliate [David Jordan](#) has written an [article](#) for [Economics Observatory](#) addressing NI's lagging productivity. It covers early explanations for the issue, such as geography and economic structure, as well as more contemporary theories like human capital, R&D investment and infrastructure and connectivity.

You can also [listen to the Productivity Puzzles episode](#) about creating sustained growth in Northern Ireland.

East Anglia's within-region economic inequality

Owen Garling talks about the big disparities in economic performance across East Anglia for [East Anglia in Business](#). He highlights the role of the East Anglia Regional Productivity Forum in understanding the area's productivity puzzle. Owen wrote the [TPI Insights Paper](#) and [Executive Summary](#) on East Anglia productivity.

ESCoE Conference on Economic Measurement

Michael Pollitt, Chiara Criscuolo, Adrian Pabst, Diane Coyle, Tony Venables, Paul Mizen and Bart van Ark are some of The Productivity Institute members who will be speaking at the ESCoE conference on Economic Measurement on 25-27 May 2022, held at Strathclyde University in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics. Book to attend on [the ESCOE website](#), where you can also [download a conference programme](#).

TPI expertise

- Listen to TPI member [John Turner](#), Professor of Finance and Financial History at Queen's University Belfast, talking about Northern Ireland's lagging productivity on the [Pivotal Policy Podcast](#). If you would like a quick break, it's only 15 minutes.
- The Royal Society's report on [Regional absorptive capacity](#) features input from [Andy Westwood](#), while the TPI's [Richard Jones](#) was a member of the steering committee. The report discusses regional

inequality, skills and absorptive capacity, which are all key factors in productivity.



Job opportunities

Partners of The Productivity Institute are offering the following research job opportunities.

- **TPI - Institute Administrator:** we are seeking an Institute Administrator to help facilitate the smooth running of the institute, based at our headquarters at the Alliance Manchester Business School. Apply on [The University of Manchester jobs site](#) before **28 April**.
- **PhD scholarship** into all aspects of the productivity performance of firms, sectors, regions and countries at The University of Manchester. Closes 30 May. More information and how to apply on the [Alliance Manchester Business School website](#).
- **Research Associate** on SMEs and green business growth. This is a 12-month project based at King's Business School and funded by ESRC through The Productivity Institute. Apply [here](#) before the closure date on **27 April**.
- **Postdoctoral Research Associate** from the Economics Group at King's Business School. Professor Rebecca Riley is looking for two Research Associates to explore UK firm dynamics, productivity and linked firm data. Successful applicants will work alongside the TPI, the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence and the Office for National Statistics. Apply [here](#) before the closure date on 12 May.



Save the date: TPI conference

The Productivity Institute will be holding a one-day Research Conference on 22 June, which will be held in-person at Alliance Manchester Business School with hybrid option. More information to follow.

IPM No. 41 available online

The latest issue of the the [International Productivity Monitor](#), in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Living Standards, is out now. Three of the co-authors on its symposium on the links between productivity and pay



featured on [Episode 12 of our Productivity Puzzles podcast](#). If you do not yet have a free subscription to the IPM, please sign up [on our website](#).

Upcoming Events

- 4 May** Brown Bag seminar (TPI academics only). Jagjit Chadha and Issam Samiri.
- 5 May** ProPEL Hub / InterAct [research webinar](#) on maximising the potential of HR
- 18 May** Brown Bag seminar (TPI academics only). Oleksii Romanko - rescheduled.
- 22 April** Bennett Institute for Public Policy Annual Conference. [Book on their website](#).
- 25-27 May** ESCoE Conference on Economic Measurement. [Book on their website](#).
- 20 June** The Productivity Institute Research Conference. More information to follow.

TPI Publications

Our Working Papers and Productivity Insight Papers can be [found on our website](#).

- Is the productivity slowdown UK-specific? [Read](#)
- Do climate policies explain the productivity puzzle? [Read](#)
- Inward investment and UK productivity [Read](#)
- Understanding productivity: Organisational Capital perspectives [Read](#)
- Climate change and fiscal responsibility [Read](#)
- UK's Industrial Policy: Learning from the past? [Read](#).
- The idea of productivity [Read](#)
- Covid-19 business support and SME productivity in the UK [Read](#)
- Uber And Beyond: Policy Implications for the UK [Read](#)
- Public Investments in COVID-19 green packages [Read](#)
- Leveraging the benefits of location decision into performance [Read](#)
- Incentive regulation, productivity growth and environmental effects: the case of electricity networks in Great Britain [Read](#)
- Productivity in UK healthcare during and after the Covid-19 pandemic [Read](#)
- A concerted effort to tackle the productivity puzzle during the post-COVID era [Read](#)
- Human Capital & productivity [Read](#)
- Productivity & the Pandemic [Read](#)
- Productivity Growth and Capital Deepening in the Fourth Industrial Revolution [Read](#)

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