

Wednesday 15 March 2023



Role of Further Education Colleges - report & podcast

The next *Productivity Puzzles* episode delves into a new report commissioned by The Productivity Institute about how business and government can help Further Education Colleges (FECs) boost their skills delivery. Co-authors Jen Nelles and Ben Verinder join Bart van Ark to discuss their research and recommendations from interviews with 16 FECs in England. The podcast, report and summary will be released on **Thursday, 16 March**. [Subscribe to *Productivity Puzzles*](#) and follow us on Twitter or LinkedIn to be notified of the report.



Gender and productivity

Raising productivity growth among women is key to greater equity in the UK and has a major role to play in the Levelling Up agenda, according to new TPI research from Jill Rubery, Isabelle Bi and Anthony Rafferty. Their [Gender and Productivity](#) paper is also available as an executive summary and is part of a [wider TPI project](#).



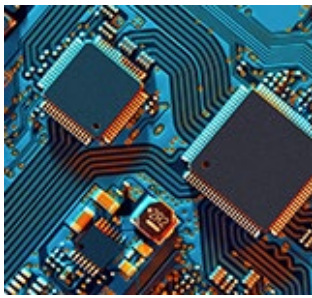
TPI funding call for research into productivity in business

We're seeking research proposals to better understand business leader decision making around productivity, pairing researchers with business to look at productivity from the perspective of Marketing, Operations, HR, Finance and IT leaders within firms. More detail on the call and the application process can be found on the [TPI website](#). Applications close on **Monday, 10 April**.



TPI experts contribute to Nurse Review of R&D and innovation

The [final report and recommendations](#) of the *Independent Review of the UK's Research, Development and Innovation Organisational Landscape* involved the input of several TPI academics. Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, who is a member of the Productivity Commission, was on the scoping and advisory group, and Professors Kieron Flanagan, Philip McCann, Richard Jones, and Stephen Roper were all involved during the review process. The review was part of the government's new Science and Technology [framework](#).



Semiconductors and the UK

Professor Richard Jones explores the UK's place in the semiconductor world in a blog series [on his website](#). It covers the global environment, the history and future of semiconductors and where this leaves the UK. Richard was also a guest on Episode 2 of this season's Productivity Puzzles discussing UK science and innovation. [Listen to the episode](#) or catch up via the [episode blog](#).



Productivity Commission – call for written evidence

The Productivity Commission is calling for evidence on topics relating to business investment, public investment and foreign direct investment and their connection to productivity at all levels. Further details and terms of reference can be found on [NIESR's website](#). Please send your submission to productivity@niesr.ac.uk by **Monday, 24 April**.



Fellowship conferred

Congratulations to Professor Raquel Ortega-Argiles who was conferred Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences. Raquel is the head of the Productivity Lab and Chair of Regional Economic Development at Alliance Manchester Business School. Fellows are recognised for excellence in their fields and wider contributions to social sciences for public benefit.

Politicising Levelling Up



Regional policy is suffering from the process of allocating Levelling Up funding, write Patrick Diamond, Jack Newman, David Richards and Andy Westwood [in a blog](#) for the London School of Economics. Work from their TPI research project was also recently published in [Political Quarterly](#) and the researchers also provided written evidence to the House of Commons Levelling Up [select committee](#).



InterAct sandpit funding event

Are you interested in collaborating with other academics to come up with innovative projects which address urgent contemporary issues around manufacturing and industrial digital technology? The InterAct research network, which addresses the human issues resulting from the diffusion of new technologies in industry, is hosting a sandpit funding event in May and [expressions of interest](#) close **Friday, 17 March**.



Productivity revolutions: past and future - call for papers

The Productivity Institute, Arthur Lewis Lab for Comparative Development and The Manchester School are co-hosting a conference on Friday, 16 June at Alliance Manchester Business School. Michela Giorcelli and John Van Reenan are the keynote speakers. [Proposals for presentations](#) close on **Friday, 31 March**. For more information visit the [conference website](#).



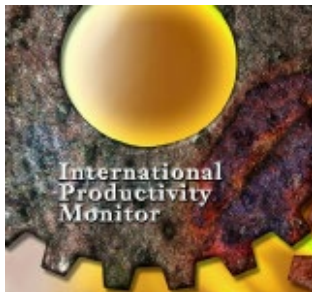
TPI expertise

- Work by [Peter Goodridge and Jonathan Haskel](#) and supported by the Productivity Lab was cited by Chris Giles in [The Financial Times article](#) *The UK economy has a London problem - but it's not what you think*.
- How much promise do large language models like ChatGPT hold for increasing whole-economy productivity? Read [Lucy Hampton's blog](#) for the Bennett Institute for Public Policy.

TPI Opportunities



- The Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge is seeking to appoint a [Research Associate or Research Assistant](#) to support the Productivity Institute's Regional Productivity Forum (RPF) in [East Anglia](#). **Closes 21 March.**
- Warwick Business School is seeking to appoint a [Research Fellow](#) and [Research Assistant](#) to work on a project on productivity across supply chains. **Closes 21 March.**
- The University of Manchester is seeking to appoint a [Research Associate](#) to assist on a TPI project about the [UK Productivity-Governance Puzzle](#). **Closes 17 March.**



International Productivity Monitor

The latest International Productivity Monitor edition features research on [Indian manufacturing productivity in the 1990s](#). Read all the articles from the IPM [on the TPI website](#).

Upcoming Events

21 March Bart van Ark and David Jordan speaking at ESRI event on productivity in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Book on [ESRI's website](#).

19 April Brown Bag (Jen Nelles) TPI academics only.

3-5 April Royal Economic Society Annual Conference. [Book online](#).

14 April The Bennett Institute's Annual Conference. [Book your place](#).

19 April Brown Bag (Anna Stansbury) TPI academics only.

3 May Brown Bag (Frank Geels) TPI academics only.

17-19 May ESCoE conference on Economic Measurement at King's College London.

More information on [ESCoE's website](#).

18 May Productivity Commission evidence session. [Watch online](#). Written evidence deadline 24 April.

16 June Productivity Revolutions: Past & Future Conference - [University of Manchester](#).

TPI Publications

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

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