

Wednesday 17 May 2023



TPI productivity and gender research highlighted

Research by Jill Rubery into the role of gender in productivity has been [highlighted in The Times](#). In an article about the latest ONS productivity figures published today, the article cites Jill's research which finds that a failure to provide women with opportunities to progress their careers is contributing to the UK's meagre productivity growth over the past decade. Read a summary and the full research from Jill [on our website](#).



ESCoE Conference on Economic Measurement 2023

Today marks the start of the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence's Conference on Economic Measurement 2023 and you can [sign up to the live-stream](#) of the sessions in the Auditorium. The Productivity Institute has a stand at the three-day event, so please come and say hello if you're attending in person! A number of TPI colleagues will be presenting at the conference, including [Rebecca Riley](#), [Josh Martin](#) and [Diane Coyle](#). Use [#econstats2023](#) on Twitter to follow along.



University-led investment zones and productivity

How can the UK maximise the benefits from new investment zones? [Nigel Driffield](#) and [Sam Roseveare](#) have written [a blog](#) for TPI about the role of productivity in the initiative. Nigel is the academic lead on our

Organisational capital research theme.



Productivity and the four-day week

South Cambridgeshire District Council has voted to extend its [four-day week trial](#), about which [Nina Jörden](#) from the University of Cambridge is conducting an independent analysis. Nina is a guest on our latest podcast, alongside Joe Ryle from the 4 Day Week Campaign and Jonathan Boys from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. Listen to *Can We Make the Four-Day Week Work?* on [our website](#), or [subscribe](#) wherever you get your podcasts.



Lessons for the UK from turnaround cities

What can the UK learn from post-industrial cities that have transformed their economies? Professor [Philip McCann](#) spoke at the launch of a report he co-authored, *Lessons from successful 'turnaround' cities for the UK*, for The Resolution Foundation. You can [watch his presentation on YouTube](#) and [read the report](#), which references numerous research papers from The Productivity Institute. The report examines how eight post-industrial cities have transformed their economies over the space of the past 20-30 years.



Raquel Ortega-Argilés' inaugural lecture

[Raquel Ortega-Argilés](#) will be giving her inaugural Alliance Manchester Business School Lecture from 16:30-17:30 on 24 May, titled *Data-driven academic research for supporting Smart Specialisation, Industrial Policy, and Levelling-Up*. The Original Thinking lecture will be available both in person and online. Book your place on the [AMBS website](#).

Relative price effects and the UK labour productivity growth

The role played by relative price changes in the well-documented slowdown in labour productivity growth in the UK is explored by a [working paper](#) from the Bennett



Institute for Public Policy. The paper is written by [Diane Coyle](#), [Jen-Chung Mei](#) and [Lucy Hampton](#).



Where next for Levelling Up?

TPI's [Andy Westwood](#) recently took part in an Institute for Government (IfG) event assessing what should come next for Levelling Up. Andy was joined on the panel by Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, Debbie Abrahams MP, Financial Times northern correspondent Jennifer Williams and IfG's Thomas Pope. You can re-watch the discussion on the [IfG YouTube channel](#).



Productivity in Practice Fellowship

We are seeking to appoint 2 Fellows (0.6 FTE – full-time) for 3-6 months under our Productivity in Practice Fellowship Programme. The roles will work on developing firm level productivity research by working with [Be The Business](#) – an organisation focused on helping UK SME businesses with their productivity. Apply for the positions on [The University of Manchester jobs site](#). **Closes 12 June.**



Devolution and accountability

The role of local democracy in effective decentralisation in England is examined in a [blog for LSE](#). The authors - [Jack Newman](#), [Dave Richards](#), [Andy Westwood](#), and [Patrick Diamond](#) - are working together on a [TPI project](#) for the Institutions and Governance research theme.



TPI expertise

- Andy Westwood is quoted in an [article for the Mill](#), which looks at the [Oldham Economic Review](#), on which he is a main author. “You need places to *feel* like they’re going in the right direction” Andy says when discussing the Government’s Levelling Up

strategy.

- [Mark Hart](#) is quoted in a [piece for The Times](#) (paywall) about the struggles of the Help to Grow training scheme, which Mark describes as “the UK’s best kept secret”.
- Our MD [Bart van Ark](#) features in the Financial Times article [Will anything revive UK productivity?](#) (paywall), talking about how the COVID-19 pandemic led many businesses to adopt digital technologies, which boosted their productivity.



International Productivity Monitor

The latest International Productivity Monitor edition features the second part of the Symposium on Well-being and Productivity. Read all the articles from the IPM [on the TPI website](#).

Upcoming Events

17-19 May ESCoE conference on Economic Measurement at King's College London. More information on [ESCoE's website](#).

24 May Original Thinking Lecture with Raquel Ortega-Argilés. Book on [AMBS's LinkedIn](#).

25 May Productivity Commission evidence session. [Register online](#).

5-10 June Adam Smith Tercentenary week at the University of Glasgow. [Register online](#).

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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