



ESCoE Spring 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to ESCoE's Spring 2021 Newsletter! Please read on for details about some of our key upcoming events and outputs since our last update in December.

EM2021 conference registration now open /



Registration is now open for the ESCoE Conference on Economic Measurement 2021. Organised in partnership with the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), this will be held 11-13 May 2021. We are again holding this as an online event. As in pre-pandemic years, our conference functions as a meeting place for discussing all the recent research advances in economic measurement and statistics.

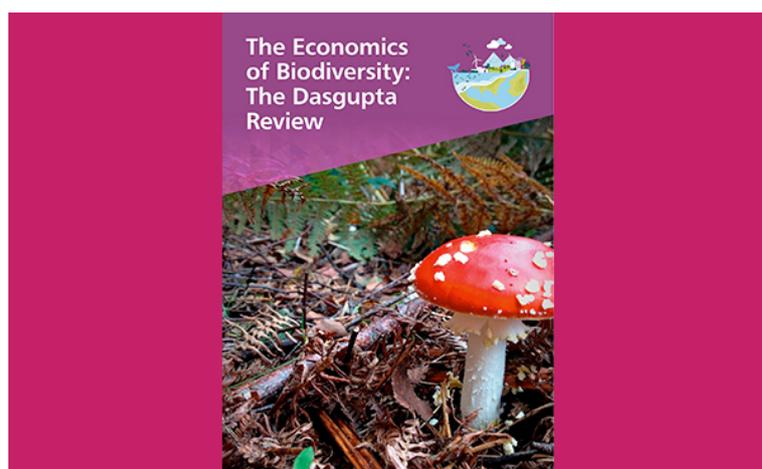
The programme, which we are excited to share with you [here](#), includes papers on many aspects of the measurement and use of economic statistics, focusing on:

- Measuring Productivity, Capital, Trade and the Labour Market
- Measuring Innovation, Inequality, Digital Economy and Welfare
- Measuring Output and Prices (including nowcasting models and use of alternative data sources)
- Methods (including data science and machine learning)
- Economic Statistics in Practice (aimed at the producers of statistics)

Our keynote speakers for 2021 include Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland), Richard Blundell (University College London and Institute for Fiscal Studies), and Paul Schreyer (OECD).

The conference is free to attend. Register [here](#) today to book your place. We look forward to welcoming you in May.

ESWG events /



The Economic Statistics Working Group (ESWG) is holding a number of events this Spring. The first of these is the 'Dasgupta Report: Recommendations for Revised Economic Accounting' seminar taking place on Tuesday 30 March, 2.30-4.30pm GMT. In this seminar, the first in a new series on 'missing capitals', Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta will speak about the recommendations of his landmark report on biodiversity. Professor Sir Dasgupta will be followed by a programme of distinguished speakers, and a panel discussion with Karen Ellis (Director of Sustainable Economy WWF-UK), Philip Aldrick (Economics Editor, The Times) and John Curnow (Chief Economist, Defra). For more

information, including registration links, please click [here](#).

The screenshot shows the CEMMAP website header with navigation links: About us, People, Courses, Masterclasses, Workshops, Seminars, Publications, Resources. Below the header, a workshop listing is displayed for 'Measuring prices and welfare conference'.

Date & Time	Type	Venue
From: 28 April 2021, 11:00 Until: 29 April 2021, 16:15	Workshop	Online only

[Book Your Place](#)

The ESWG's 'Measuring prices and welfare' conference, organised with the Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice (CeMMAP), will take place 28-29 April. Exploring the problems involved in producing measures of price change and quantity change, the conference will include a keynote lecture to be given by ESCoE Affiliate Kevin Fox on 'Price Index Measurement during Pandemics: What have we learnt from Covid-19?'. For more information, including registration and programme links, please click [here](#).

ESWG – the Economic Statistics Working Group – is a collaboration between the Royal Statistical

Society, the Royal Economic Society, the Society of Professional Economists, the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence and the Office for National Statistics. Its objects are to raise the profile of, and to stimulate debate about, issues in economic measurement.

Catch up with our Winter webinars /



Thursday 25 March saw the concluding webinar in our winter series of ESCoE Economic Measurement Webinars.

Alternately chaired by ESCoE Research Associate Charlotte Meng and ESCoE PhD student Paul Labonne, the series included discussions on: exploring how far it is possible to provide a theoretical framework for the Household Cost Indices; analysing the global distribution of profits declared by multinational enterprises operating in the UK using Orbis data; modelling and forecasting macroeconomic downside risk; using Google Trends data to test whether COVID-19 and the associated lockdowns

implemented in Europe and America led to changes in well-being; defining a system testing framework to

verify that trained machine learning models perform as intended; and lastly on developing methods for the production and evaluation of censored density forecasts.

Please click [here](#) to view abstracts of each webinar, and to access video recordings and presentation slides.

Estimating the UK population during the pandemic /



Recent research by ESCoE Research Associates Michael O'Connor and Jonathan Portes explored developments in the UK population and labour market (including the difficulties in measuring these) amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read about it here: '[Estimating the UK population during the pandemic](#)'. Their analysis provided illustrative estimates of a reduction in the UK population between 2019 and 2020, largest in London and driven by emigration. Research and debate around how we measure the UK population in these challenging times, initiated by this analysis, has attracted extensive national and

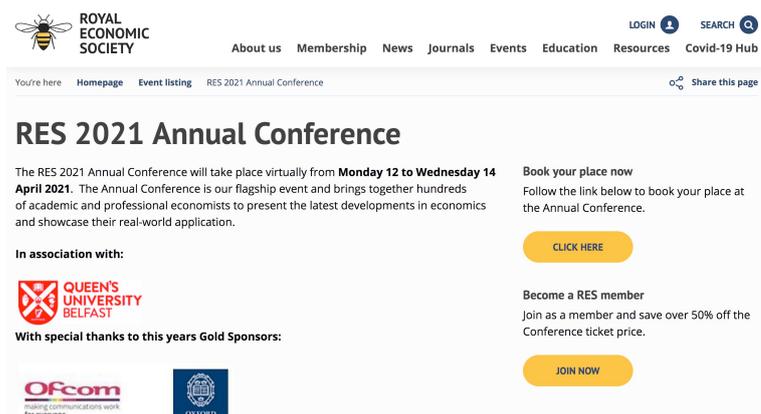
international media coverage.

Changes to the IARIW-ESCoE conference /



The International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) and ESCoE special conference on intangible capital originally planned for 24-25 June 2021 will now take place 11-12 November 2021. This postponement was necessitated by the continuing uncertainty over restrictions on travel and gatherings in the late Spring. Please note that the venue for the conference has moved from Kings College London to RSA House in central London. Further details including a link to the preliminary programme is available [here](#).

ESCoE at the RES Annual Conference /

A screenshot of the Royal Economic Society (RES) website. The header includes the RES logo and navigation links: 'About us', 'Membership', 'News', 'Journals', 'Events', 'Education', 'Resources', 'Covid-19 Hub'. Below the header, there is a section for the 'RES 2021 Annual Conference'. The text reads: 'The RES 2021 Annual Conference will take place virtually from Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 April 2021. The Annual Conference is our flagship event and brings together hundreds of academic and professional economists to present the latest developments in economics and showcase their real-world application.' There are three call-to-action buttons: 'CLICK HERE', 'JOIN NOW', and 'JOIN NOW'. The 'JOIN NOW' button is highlighted in yellow. There are also logos for 'Queen's University Belfast' and 'Ofcom'.

ESCoE Research Associates will be present at the Royal Economic Society (RES) Annual Conference 2021, which is being held virtually from 12 - 14 April 2021. As part of this conference we have partnered with the RSS and ONS to organise a special session on Monday 12 April 15.30-17.00, 'Improving the communication of economics and economic statistics', at which Johnny Runge will present 'Public Understanding of Economics and Economic Statistics'. On Wednesday 14 April 15.30-17.00, in partnership with the Productivity Institute and ONS, we have organised a second special session on 'Finding

the Missing Capitals: sources of growth redefined', at which Mary O'Mahony will present her paper 'How does education contribute to productivity? An intangible infrastructure approach'.

Further to these sessions, Paul Mizen will present 'The Impact of Covid and Brexit Shocks on UK Employment, Investment and Productivity' on 14 April. Andrew Aitken is presenting 'Welfare Indicators for Lower Tier Local Authorities in England and Wales in 2016' on 14 April.

For more information please click [here](#).

Website award /



We're proud to share that our new ESCoE website, launched in Autumn 2020, has won a web design award. The ESCoE website picked up the Arcturus Winner award in the non-profit section of the Vega Digital Awards for '[forming a digital identity for ESCoE](#)'. We're delighted to see the efforts of the ESCoE Operations team and the designers at Contra Agency being recognised in this way for delivering the second generation of ESCoE's online presence.

ONS productivity stakeholder survey /



ONS have recently launched a stakeholder survey to gather feedback on how they can further develop and improve their productivity statistics. Anyone who uses ONS productivity statistics for analysis, research, policy-making or other purposes is invited to complete the survey. The survey can be found [here](#). It covers a range of ONS productivity statistics, including labour productivity, multi-factor productivity, public service productivity, industry, regional and sub-regional breakdowns, and more. The survey will remain open until Friday 30 April 2021, and it should take around 10 minutes to complete.

ONS Renaissance Prize and research funding grant /



Our partner the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) is now welcoming submissions for the ONS Renaissance Prize. This competition was launched to encourage and celebrate the development of economic thought and argument, using a statistical evidence base, among UK undergraduates.

This economics prize challenges applicants to reflect on the improved measurement of the modern economy. This competition is open to undergraduate students within the ONS and across all UK universities.

The winning candidate will receive a prize worth £1,000, publication of their entry on the ONS website, a slot for a poster at the ESCoE Conference on Economic Measurement 2021, and a question time session with a senior economist about what life is like at the ONS and opportunity to discuss career paths.

For the full details including how to enter please visit [here](#).

ONS are also accepting applications for their research funding grant. They are supporting applications for funding of up to £5,000 to enable research that supports the valuation of natural capital and how that is incorporated into the national accounts and the measurement of National Income. The scheme opened on 22 January and all applications need to be submitted for the deadline of 30 April.

Further information, including on eligibility and other application details please visit [here](#).

New ESCoE publications /

'[Measuring the Volume of Services Industries Output: An Audit of Services Producer Price Indices](#)' (ESCoE TR-10) by Mary O'Mahony and Lea Samek

'[Trade asymmetries: Research outputs from a model-based approach to reconciling asymmetries in UK trade in services data](#)' (ESCoE TR-09) by Marilyn Thomas and Luke Weston

'[The UK's Great Demand and Supply Recession](#)' (ESCoE DP 2021-04) by Nick Jacob and Giordano Mion

'[Incorporating Health Status into Human Capital Stocks: An Analysis for the UK](#)' (ESCoE DP 2021-03) by Mary O'Mahony and Lea Samek

'[Developing experimental estimates of regional skill demand](#)' (ESCoE DP 2021-02) by Stef Garasto, Jyldyz Djumalieva, Karlis Kandars, Rachel Wilcock and Cath Sleeman

'[Deflation of Distributional National Accounts](#)' (ESCoE DP 2021-01) by Martin Weale and Andrew Aitken

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