John Van Reenen, director of the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) and Professor at the London School of Economics, today becomes joint recipient (with Fabrizio Zilibotti) of the Yrjö Jahnsson Award in Economics 2009, Europe’s most prestigious prize for economic researchers. The citation from the Board of the Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation, which nominated them as recipients, says:

‘John Van Reenen and Fabrizio Zilibotti, both on their own and in joint work, have made several important contributions to the analysis of technological innovation and its link with economic growth and labour market phenomena’.

‘The work of Van Reenen and Zilibotti addresses very relevant questions, with rich policy implications, using a diversity of research styles and methods, but always with the highest standards of rigour and excellence.’

The Award is given every two years in cooperation with the European Economic Association (EEA) to a European economist under the age of 45 who has made a contribution in theoretical and applied research that is significant to economics in Europe. This year, the recipients will be announced at a ceremony at the annual congress of the EEA in Barcelona on Thursday 27 August.

The Award recognises the broad scope and impact of Professor Van Reenen’s research on the world of work and business:

‘John Van Reenen has made several contributions to the empirical analysis of labour markets, competition policy and industrial economics, especially in areas relating to productivity growth, management practices, R&D, intellectual property, and investment decisions.’

‘He has also done pioneering work on the organizational structure of the firm and its relation to innovation, contributing both with empirical evidence and measurement tools.’

Professor Van Reenen said:

‘I am deeply honoured to receive this award. It belongs more to the wonderful colleagues and students I have been so lucky to have worked with over the years.’

The selection committee for this year’s Yrjö Jahnsson Award in Economics was chaired by Professor Guido Tabellini. It consisted of five members, four nominated by the EEA and one by the Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation. Early in the year the selection committee consulted all EEA Fellows individually and used their responses together with their own judgement to form a short list.

ENDS
Notes for editors: In 1993, the Finnish Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation established a biennial award, called the Yrjö Jahnsson award, for a young European economist who has made a contribution in theoretical and applied research that is significant to economics in Europe.

This year’s award will be presented before the Marshall Lecture at the European Economic Association’s annual congress in Barcelona on Thursday 27 August at 18.15 CEST: http://eea-esem2009.barcelonagse.eu/yrjo_award.php

Previous recipients of the award are listed here: http://www.yjs.fi/index_eng.cfm?rID=2&lgID=2&tID=33

John Van Reenen’s homepage is here: http://cep.lse.ac.uk/_new/staff/person.asp?id=1358

For further information: contact John Van Reenen on 07803-614137; Hannu Vartiainen at the Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation (+358 -40-720-6808); or Romesh Vaitilingam on 07768 -661095 (email: romesh@vaitilingam.com).

Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics & Political Science

Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE

Tel: +44(0)20-7955-7284  Fax:: +44(0)20-7955-7595

Web: http://cep.lse.ac.uk   Email: cep.info@lse.ac.uk