

2018 Elinor Ostrom Prize Announcement

The annual Elinor Ostrom Prize competition of £1000 is awarded to the best paper published in the *Journal of Institutional Economics* in the preceding year. The prize is financed by Millennium Economics Ltd, the owner of the journal.

The jury for the 2018 Elinor Ostrom Prize competition was Christopher Coyne, David Dequech, Thrainn Eggertsson and Will Milberg.

The following articles were shortlisted for the Prize, from articles appearing in the 2017 volume of the *Journal of Institutional Economics*:

1. Avner Greif and Joel Mokyr, "Cognitive rules, institutions and economic growth: Douglass North and beyond", *JOIE* 13(1): 25-52.
2. Michael Bleaney and Arcangelo Dimico, "Ethnic diversity and conflict" *JOIE* 13(2): 357-378.
3. Hilton Root, "Network assemblage of regime stability and resilience: comparing Europe and China", *JOIE* 13(3): 523-548.
4. Benito Arruñada, "Property as sequential exchange: The forgotten limits of private contract", *JOIE* 13(4): 753-783.
5. Daniel Cole, "Law, norms, and the 'Institutions Analysis and Development' framework", *JOIE* 13(4): 829-847.

The winner of the 2018 Elinor Ostrom Prize is:

Avner Greif and Joel Mokyr (2017) "Cognitive rules, institutions and economic growth: Douglass North and beyond" *JOIE* 13(1): 25-52.

The award was made on 15 December 2018 at the Fifth WINIR Conference in Hong Kong. Professors Greif and Mokyr were unable to attend the award ceremony, but wrote the following statement after being informed that they had won the prize. The statement was read at the award ceremony:

"We are honored and delighted to accept the Ostrom prize. Our article was written for a special memorial issue of the *Journal of Institutional Economics* dedicated to Douglass C. North.

Neither of us ever studied formally with Doug North, nor were we his colleagues, nor did we co-author with him. Yet there are few scholars working in economic history today, as well as in political economy or in institutional economics who would deny being inspired by North's work and teaching. We cannot imagine what our work would have looked like without his influence, support, and encouragement, whether through his writings or through our conversations with him.

North was a scholar like no other: he was never bothered by the standard methods and conventional wisdoms of economics and never hesitated to take his colleagues to

task if he felt they were missing something important -- which was most of the time. He blissfully ignored the traditional boundaries between the various social sciences, and his thinking influenced and stimulated many diverse scholars across social and historical disciplines.

Doug was also unusual in that he was rarely locked into a position on anything: as his thinking evolved, he readily abandoned positions he had taken in the past and continuously revised and updated his positions. He was a scholar like no other, and a decent and fun person to be with to boot. The article we wrote in his memorial issue was truly a labor of love.”

Avner Greif and Joel Mokyr

The winning article can be read free of charge [here](#).

More information about the Elinor Ostrom Prize can be found [here](#).