

Lectures for the Young Economist

A course by Prof. William Thomson (University of Rochester)

Dates: May 14-18, 2018

Location: HSE St.Petersburg, 3A Kantemirovskaya st., (rooms: 246, 247, 272, 346, 436)

Target audience: lecturers, researchers, and doctoral students

Total workload: 20 hours plus individual meetings

Language of instruction: English

Costs: free

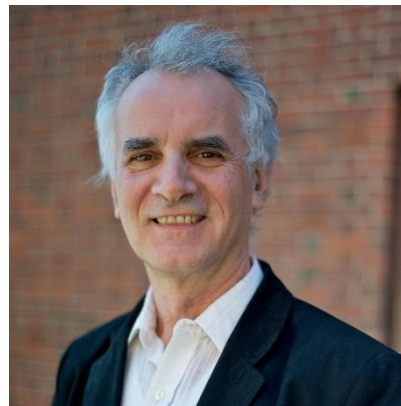
Description

This workshop offers an invaluable guidance in developing academic soft skills for economic lecturers, as well as for the young researchers themselves, who are preparing a class, supervising students in working on their theses and dissertations, preparing their articles for submission to professional journals, getting ready for their presentations at conferences, or undertaking their first refereeing assignments.

The workshop can also be helpful for lecturers of other disciplines, for specialists in English academic writing and presentation, for student placement specialists.

About William Thomson

Besides being a distinguished researcher in microeconomic theory, William Thomson has been often praised for his remarkable record of teaching and for sharing tremendous time and energy with his students, including more than 50 former and current doctoral students. Many of these students have gone on to make major contributions in economics and to serve on the faculty of top institutions, including Harvard, Columbia, Northwestern, Caltech, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Michigan, and universities in Japan, Korea, and Turkey.



A graduate of the École Polytechnique, Thomson received his doctorate in economics from Stanford University. He joined the University of Rochester in 1983 and has taught at the University of Minnesota, Harvard University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Université de Caen, and the Université de Rennes, among others.

Thomson is the author or coauthor of more than 100 research papers and eight books. His book *A Guide for the Young Economist* has been translated into four languages. From 2003 to 2008, he was editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Game Theory*, and from 2004 to 2006 he was president of the Society for Social Choice and Welfare. He serves on the board of editors of numerous international scientific journals.

Syllabus

The lectures will be based on the book, *A Guide for the Young Economist*, MIT Press, 2nd edition, 2011. An updated version based on the 2013 translation into Spanish will be made available to participants. Prof. Thomson will also provide a draft chapter for the last lecture.

The lectures will be complemented with informal sessions in which participants will be invited to raise problems they have experienced in writing papers, presenting them, in writing referee reports, and in teaching economics, and to which we will discuss possible solutions. There will also be sufficient time for individual meetings to discuss teaching and research.

Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10-12	Individual meetings (room 272)				
13-17	Teaching a class (room 247)	Teaching how to write Economics (room 346)	Teaching how to give talks (room 346)	Refereeing as teaching and assessment method (room 346)	Mentoring and supervision (room 246)
17.15				Supervising brilliant minds of	

				Economic Theory (room 436)	
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Lectures

1. Teaching a class
 - Planning a lecture course
 - Selecting reading materials
 - Interacting with students
 - Assignments: homework, class presentations, paper assignments

2. Teaching how to write economics
 - General principles of good writing
 - Notation: choosing it; using it
 - Definitions: formatting and naming
 - Models: describing them
 - Theorems and proofs
 - Empirical and experimental work

3. Teaching how to give talks
 - What is the difference between paper and talk
 - Preparing yourself
 - Facing the audience
 - Interacting with the audience
 - Writing on the board
 - Using the screen
 - Proofs?

4. Refereeing as a teaching and assessment method
 - What is expected of you; what's not expected
 - Components of a report
 - Length and style of a report
 - General recommendations
 - Benefits for you from your refereeing work

5. Mentoring and supervision; advising future PhD-student
 - Applying to a graduate program
 - Obtaining financial support
 - Doing research: choosing topics, working on papers, dissertation
 - Your advisor: mutual selection and mutual expectations

- Job market: when to enter; how to prepare for it
- Dissertation defense: when and how to select committee and prepare for defense

Individual meetings

Each participant has a chance to discuss issues related to teaching and research during the individual meetings. The meetings will take place every day between 10 and 12 am. You can reserve a 1 hour slot on the Doodle page <https://doodle.com/poll/uucmpqm2mwig2vtbz> (please sign up with your full name and your email address).

If you would like to discuss your work, please send the materials that you want to discuss (papers, lecture slides, etc.) to William Thomson before the meetings at hse.economist@gmail.com (the earlier you send your materials – the better as there will be more time to review them).

Participants' input

Participants are invited to contribute to lectures (e.g. by giving short talks in the beginning of the class or providing excerpts from their manuscripts to be discussed in class). Such contributions will be followed by a discussion and feedback from Prof. Thomson.

Costs and funding

The course is free for all participants. There is no funding for travel or accommodation; coffee breaks and meals are not provided.