Announcement Of The Winner Of The 2014 ‘Birgit Grodal Award’, Awarded To A European-Based Female Economist

The Council of the European Economic Association (EEA), in its annual meeting in 2010, agreed unanimously to institute a prize to a European-based female economist who has made a significant contribution to the Economics profession. The award is named after Birgit Grodal, who was the first female elected President of the EEA, but sadly passed away before she was due to take up her presidency. Since 2012, the Birgit Grodal Award is bestowed every even year and the first three editions are sponsored by Danmarks Nationalbank.

The 2014 Award Committee met over a period of months and asked EEA members to nominate European-based female economists worthy of the award. After the initial nomination process, the Award Committee made a short-list and contacted a number of leading Economists asking for assessment letters before reaching a unanimous decision on the candidate for the award.

The 2014 Birgit Grodal Award Winner

The EEA is delighted to announce that Rachel Griffith of University of Manchester and IFS has won the 2014 Birgit Grodal Award.

Rachel Griffith is a leading empirical researcher in studies of innovation and productivity. Her influential contributions have brought new data sets, particularly firm-level data, to bear in answering classic economic questions about what drives the process of innovation and what determines differences in productivity levels between firms. This has furthered our understanding of the determinants of R and D spending including responses to policy changes. Her research is invariably of a high standard using appropriate empirical methods and data to great effect. Her citizenship and service to the profession in Europe has been recognized by her election to President of the European Economic Association. She will be the first woman to hold that position when she takes office in 2015.

The EEA is pleased to be rewarding such a talented individual and the Association warmly congratulates the winner.

Rachel will be presented with her award during the annual EEA-ESEM Congress, which this year will be hosted by Toulouse School of Economics and held between Monday August 25 and Friday August 29 in Toulouse, France.

2014 Birgit Grodal Award Committee – Timothy Besley (Chair), Francine Blau, Penelopi Goldberg, Christian Schultz and Jean Tirole.