

Eli F. Heckscher Lecture

2011

*Institutions, Technology, and Culture:  
The Origins of Modern Economic  
Growth Reconsidered*

**Professor Joel Mokyr**

## INVITATION

Welcome to the Eli F. Heckscher lecture 2011!

Professor Joel Mokyr is a leading international scholar in several fields, with a special focus on the economic history of industrialization, population and technology. He is the Robert H. Strotz Professor of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Economics and History at Northwestern University since 1994. He is also a Sackler Professorial Fellow at the Eitan Berglas School of Economics, University of Tel Aviv.

Among his most notable works is the volume *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress* (1990) which gives a fascinating, concise history of technological progress and how technological creativity is the key to economic success.

Mokyr's work *The Gifts of Athena: Historical Origins of the Knowledge Economy* (2003) argues that the growth explosion in the modern West was driven not just by the appearance of new technological ideas, but also by improved access to these ideas in society. Last year (2010), Mokyr published *The Enlightened Economy: An Economic History of Britain 1700-1850*. It focuses mainly on the importance of ideological and institutional factors in the explanation of the rapid development of the British economy during that period.

The Heckscher lecture is held each year to honor Professor Eli F Heckscher and his work. Heckscher was active at the Stockholm School of Economics as an economist and economic-historian and he was a leading scholar in those subjects for half a century. His work was mainly focused on economic theory and methods, Swedish economic history and institutional economic analyses. His most famous achievement was the foundation of the Heckscher-Ohlin theorem in international economics.

The Heckscher Lecture 2011

**Professor Joel Mokyr**

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Stockholm School of Economics

Sveavägen 65, Room K.A.W.

Tuesday 6 September 2011 at 17.15-18.45



Nils Karlson  
Associate Professor  
President Ratio



Mats Larsson  
Professor



Hans Sjögren  
Professor



The Institute for Economic and Business History Research (EHFF) at the Stockholm School of Economics is a node in a domestic and international network of scholars and research institutes that, on the basis of the various social science disciplines, analyses the business environment in an ever-changing world, as well as the transformation of the economy and the individual's role in these developments.

## **RATIO**

The Ratio Institute is an independent research institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Our mission is to develop and distribute new knowledge about:

- The conditions for enterprise – laws, rules and values
- Entrepreneurship, the market economy and growth
- How political change can be achieved

The focus is on multidisciplinary research on the Swedish economy. Ratio emphasizes international publishing in peer-reviewed journals and takes an active part in the debate on issues related to our research.