

## **Quality Based Rankings of Irish Economists 1990-2000**

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*Abstract:* We use three different quality based rankings of the publishing record of Irish based economists in academic journals during the period 1990-2000 and 1995-2000. While individual rankings are sensitive to the range of journals sampled, the nature of the weights used in the ranking of the journals and the time span, a similar set of top economists are produced by the alternative rankings.

### I INTRODUCTION

In this note, we present three quality-adjusted rankings of the publishing record of the top 25 Irish based academic economists in economic journals over the period 1990-2000 and 1995-2000. The sample of individuals includes those *currently* based in the Republic of Ireland. This excludes economists based in Northern Ireland, those who have retired, and those who have had affiliations in the Republic in the past but now work outside of Ireland. The sample is not exclusive to Universities or Economic Departments. In addition, we only rank on the basis of published articles in Economic Journals. The focus on academic journals excludes important books, working papers and reports written by economists currently based in Ireland.

### II RANKING METHODOLOGY

In this note we take the relevant data and rankings from the worldwide rankings of economists undertaken by Coupé (2000). The main source of data

is the Econlit-database, a comprehensive bibliographic database of articles published in economics-related journals. About 650 journals are indexed to the Econlit database. One problem with Econlit is that it does not standardise the name of the author. If individuals use different versions of their name this can lead to rankings that underestimate the true performance of these individuals. As far as co-authors go, we follow the literature. Each co-author gets  $1/n$  of a publication, where  $n$  is the number of authors. Rankings of economists publishing record can be based on counts of articles. We do not report these indicators of performance as one should control for the *quality* of the journals in which the articles are published. In this note we rank individuals on the basis of published articles and try to allow for differences in journal quality.

When making rankings, a key issue is how to control for *quality* differences between journals. Several methods have been proposed each with specific advantages and disadvantages.<sup>1</sup> Rankings of journals are based on information from the Social Science Citation index, an index that gives information on how many times an article has been cited by other articles during a defined period of time. A core issue is that we only have information on citations for the top 233 journals. In this note we combine the Econlit-database with the Social Science Citation index to produce three different quality based rankings of the publishing record in academic journals of Irish based economists during the period 1990-2000 and 1995-2000.

*Indicator I:* Bauwens (1998) suggests creating an index that incorporates 600 journals giving a weight between 1 and 5 to every journal. He first ranks the top 233 journals by an impact factor, the number of citations on average per article that a journal accumulates over two year intervals averaged over the period. Based on impact factors each journal is assigned a weight from 5 to 1. Only 8 journals get a score of 5, 46 journals get a score of 4, 46 journals get a score of 3 and another 46 journals get a score of 2. If citations are low or not available for a journal covered by Econlit the weight is equal to 1, as is the case for 456 journals. This may not do justice to some revamped or up and coming journals. Compared to the gaps created by journal rankings that use

<sup>1</sup> One could rank individuals based solely on the number of citations to individual's articles. Coupé (2000) outlines the problems associated with such rankings. Other indicators can be constructed by doing weighted counts over page numbers allowing for co-authorship and the impact factor of the Journal. The problem with page rankings is that they are confined to a very narrow set of journals, for example 71 if one uses the Laband-Piette Index. Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos (1999) restrict their analysis of page numbers to the top ten Journals. If an individual publishes in the top journals, journal impact factors push them way up the league tables. This ensures that it is not necessary to restrict the analysis to only those who have published in the top journals. In this paper we rank individuals on the basis of published articles and try to allow for differences in journal quality.

impact factors as weights, the gap between good and bad journals is greatly reduced on this weighting scheme. On the plus side some credit is given for articles published outside the top 233 journals. In Table 1, column 1, over the ten-year period 1990-2000 and Table 2, column 1, over the five-year period 1995-2000, we rank the top 25 Irish based economists on the basis of publishing in the top 600 journals, allowing for co-authorship and weighting the contribution of the individual to the Journal by the Bauwens index.

*Indicator II:* One might prefer to only consider the top 233 Economic Journals and rank these journals by an impact factor, the number of citations, on average per article, that a Journal accumulates over two year intervals averaged over the 1990s. In Table 1, column 2, over the ten-year period 1990-2000 and Table 2, column 2, over the five-year period 1995-2000, we rank the top 25 Irish based economists on the basis of publishing in these 233 journals, allowing for co-authorship and the impact factor of the Journal.

*Indicator III:* Laband-Piette (1994), argue that one should use five years of citations rather than two. In addition, one should give a bigger weight to citations from higher quality journals. Laband-Piette Index only uses 121 top journals for article rankings. In Table 1, column 3, over the ten-year period 1990-2000 and Table 2, column 3, over the five-year period 1995-2000, we rank the top 25 Irish based economists on the basis of publishing in the top 121 journals, allowing for co-authorship and weighting the contribution of the individual to a journal by the Laband-Piette Index.

Individual rankings are sensitive to the range of journals sampled, the nature of the weights used in the ranking of the journals and the time period analysed. Yet an analysis of the rankings shows that all three indicators produce a broadly consistent set of top 25 Irish based economists.

### III CONCLUSION

We report three different quality based rankings of the publishing record in academic journals of the top 25 Irish based economists during the period 1990-2000 and 1995-2000. The rankings are clearly sensitive to the range of journals ranked, to the nature of the weights used in the ranking and the time period. Adjusting for journal quality is not an exact science. Yet, the rankings based on the Bauwens index using a full range of journals and simple weights does not produce a completely different set of top names when compared to those rankings that narrow the journal range and use more complicated and dispersed weights of journal rankings.

Table 1: 1990-2000

<i>Bauwens Index</i>	<i>Impact Factor</i>	<i>Laband-Piette Index</i>
1 O'Rourke, K. H. (TCD)	O'Rourke, K. H. (TCD)	Neary, J. P. (UCD)
2 Honohan, P. (TCD)	Neary, J. P. (UCD)	Kelly, M. (UCD)
3 Neary, J. P. (UCD)	Honohan, P. (TCD)	O'Rourke, K. H. (TCD)
4 Lane, P. R. (TCD)	Kelly, M. (UCD)	O'Neill, D. (Maynooth)
5 Kelly, M. (UCD)	Ó Gráda, C. (UCD)	Leahy, D. (UCD)
6 Ó Gráda, C. (UCD)	Lane, P. R. (TCD)	Lane, P. R. (TCD)
7 Barry, F. (UCD)	O'Neill, D. (Maynooth)	Ó Gráda, C. (UCD)
8 Madden, D. (UCD)	Barry, F. (UCD)	Harmon, C. (UCD)
9 Murphy, A. (UCD)	Leahy, D. (UCD)	Honohan, P. (TCD)
10 Walsh, B. (UCD)	Madden, D. (UCD)	Walsh, F. (UCD)
11 Fountas, S. (UCG)	Murphy, A. (UCD)	Murphy, A. (UCD)
12 Leahy, D. (UCD)	Nolan, B. (ESRI)	Madden, D. (UCD)
13 O'Neill, D. (Maynooth)	Walsh, B. (UCD)	Walsh, P. P. (TCD)
14 Conniffe, D. (ESRI)	Bradley, J. (ESRI)	Barry, F. (UCD)
15 Nolan, B. (ESRI)	Matthews, A. (TCD)	Fingleton, J. (TCD)
16 Bradley, J. (ESRI)	Conniffe, D. (ESRI)	Bradley, J. (ESRI)
17 Kearney, C. (TCD)	Walsh, P. P. (TCD)	Denny, K. (UCD)
18 Browne, F. (Central Bank)	Sjostrom, W. B. (UCC)	Walsh, B. (UCD)
19 Sjostrom, W. B. (UCC)	Harmon, C. (UCD)	Fountas, S. (UCG)
20 Walsh, P. P. (TCD)	Fountas, S. (UCG)	Barrett, A. (ESRI)
21 Matthews, A. (TCD)	Fingleton, J. (TCD)	Hurley, M. (Maynooth)
22 Callan, T. (ESRI)	Keane, M.J. (UCG)	Kearney, C. (TCD)
23 Keane, M.J. (UCG)	Walsh, F. (UCD)	Browne, F. (Central Bank)
24 Barrett, A. (ESRI)	Ruane, F. (TCD)	McCarthy, T. G. (Maynooth)
25 Denny, K. (UCD)	Barrett, A. (ESRI)	Murphy, A.E. (TCD)

• *Source:* Tom Coupé, "Revealed Performances! Worldwide Rankings of Economists and Economics Departments 2000", ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

• <http://server.core.ucl.ac.be/econometrics/Bauwens/rankings/rankings.htm>

Table 2: 1995-2000

<i>Bauwens Index</i>	<i>Impact Factor</i>	<i>Laband-Piette Index</i>
1 Lane, P. R. (TCD)	Kelly, M. (UCD)	Neary, J. P. (UCD)
2 Neary, J. P. (UCD)	Neary, J. P. (UCD)	Kelly, M. (UCD)
3 O'Rourke, K. H. (TCD)	Lane, P. R. (TCD)	O'Neill, D. (Maynooth)
4 Barry, F. (UCD)	O'Neill, D. (Maynooth)	Leahy, D. (UCD)
5 Kelly, M. (UCD)	Honohan, P. (TCD)	Lane, P. R. (TCD)
6 Honohan, P. (TCD)	O'Rourke, K. H. (TCD)	Ó Gráda, C. (UCD)
7 Madden, D. (UCD)	Barry, F. (UCD)	Harmon, C. (UCD)
8 Murphy, A. (UCD)	Madden, D. (UCD)	O'Rourke, K. H. (TCD)
9 Fountas, S. (UCG)	Leahy, D. (UCD)	Walsh, F. (UCD)
10 O'Neill, D. (Maynooth)	Murphy, A. (UCD)	Murphy, A. (UCD)
11 Leahy, D. (UCD)	Ó Gráda, C. (UCD)	Honohan, P. (TCD)
12 Walsh, B. (UCD)	Bradley, J. (ESRI)	Madden, D. (UCD)
13 Ó Gráda, C. (UCD)	Walsh, B. (UCD)	Barry, F. (UCD)
14 Barrett, A. (ESRI)	Fountas, S. (UCG)	Fingleton, J. (TCD)
15 O'Connell, J. (UCG)	Walsh, P. P. (TCD)	Bradley, J. (ESRI)
16 Bradley, J. (ESRI)	Harmon, C. (UCD)	Walsh, P. P. (TCD)
17 Reynolds, A. (UCD)	Walsh, F. (UCD)	Fountas, S. (UCG)
18 Conniffe, D. (ESRI)	Fingleton, J. (TCD)	Barrett, A. (ESRI)
19 Keane, M. J. (UCG)	Turner, T. (UCL)	Hurley, M. (Maynooth)
20 Roche, M. J. (Maynooth)	Barrett, A. (ESRI)	Kearney, C. (TCD)
21 Harmon, C. (UCD)	Matthews, A. (TCD)	McCarthy, T. G. (Maynooth)
22 Walsh, P. P. (TCD)	Reynolds, A. (UCD)	Gallagher, L. A. (UCC)
23 Kearney, C. (TCD)	O'Connell, J. (UCG)	Boyle, G. E. (Maynooth)
24 Fingleton, J. (TCD)	Keane, M. J. (UCG)	O'Connell, J. (UCG)
25 Walsh, F. (UCD)	Conniffe, D. (ESRI)	Roche, M. J. (Maynooth)

• *Source:* Tom Coupé, "Revealed Performances! Worldwide Rankings of Economists and Economics Departments 2000," ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

• <http://server.core.ucl.ac.be/econometrics/Bauwens/rankings/rankings.htm>

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