

## Six really smart economists you've probably never heard of...

*Is this the only six? No way; but it's all the room we had this time around. None of these economists' economists have won a Nobel (yet). Stay tuned.*

**Orley Ashenfelter.** Heads the Industrial Relations Section at Princeton. A remarkably creative empirical economist who has investigated everything from the returns to education (using identical twins), to the impact of unemployment insurance, to the determinants of wine quality. On the side, he teaches economics to federal judges. His Web site: [www.irs.princeton.edu/faculty/ashenfelter/](http://www.irs.princeton.edu/faculty/ashenfelter/).

**Paul David.** Emeritus at Stanford. Began his career analyzing the sources of productivity growth in the 19th-century United States, but has ranged widely ever since. Stirred an intellectual hornet's nest with his work on what economists call "path dependence." Has more recently explored the economics of technology – notably of "open science" (as in open source software). Check him out at [www.econ.stanford.edu/faculty/david.html](http://www.econ.stanford.edu/faculty/david.html).

**Peter Diamond.** Teaches at MIT. He's a pioneer in the theory of taxation. But Diamond probably knows as much as anybody alive about social welfare programs – Social Security in particular. Many think he deserved a piece of the Nobel given to James Mirrlees in 1996. His Web site: [econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/pdiamond](http://econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/pdiamond).

**Claudia Goldin.** Teaches at Harvard. Another economic historian too intellectually curious to stick to her knitting. Has written about subjects ranging from the cost of the American Civil War to child labor to the impact of the birth control pill. For more: [www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/goldin](http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/goldin).

**Dale Jorgenson.** Teaches at Harvard. A hustler in the best sense of the word; started as a theorist, but is better known for his pioneering empirical work on technology, economic development and growth. Recent focus: the economic impact of information technology. Much of his research can be downloaded from [www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/jorgenson/bio](http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/jorgenson/bio).

**William Nordhaus.** Teaches at Yale. Protégé of James Tobin; did the heavy lifting for Paul Samuelson in the later editions of the textbook *Economics*. He's emerged as one of America's foremost policy economists, with seminal contributions in growth accounting and climate change. And wait 'til you see his stuff from the G-Econ project, an ambitious effort to map economic activity worldwide. Start at [nordhaus.econ.yale.edu/](http://nordhaus.econ.yale.edu/). **M**

