



JAMES J. HECKMAN
Nobel Laureate, 2000

James J. Heckman was born in Chicago in 1944. He is the 2000 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Economics and an affiliated faculty member in the Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies; he directs the Harris School's Center for Social Program Evaluation. Heckman's work has been devoted to the development of a scientific basis for economic policy evaluation. In the course of this work he has made contributions to economic theory and to econometrics, with special emphasis on models of individuals (or disaggregated groups, such as organizations or firms) and to the problems, and possibilities created by heterogeneity, diversity and unobserved counterfactual states. His work uses data on individuals and firms to test economic theory and it uses economic theory to solve problems in micro data analysis. He has developed the economics and econometrics of lifecycle dynamic models to study unemployment, wage growth and skill formation over the lifecycle. He has developed new tools for analyzing microeconomic data on firms and families. His methods for correcting for biased samples and for constructing policy counterfactuals are widely used. They use economic theory to guide the construction of counterfactual states. He has applied these tools to analyze the impact of civil rights and social action on the economic status of African Americans; to analyze the role of regulation in affecting productivity and employment in many countries around the world; to analyze the determinants and consequences of labour incomes and income inequality, the consequences of tax policy and to develop methods for analyzing the pricing of labour services and the determinants of lifecycle skills.

Heckman's recent research deals with such issues as evaluation of social programs, econometric models of discrete choice and longitudinal data, the economics of the labour market, and alternative models of the distribution of income. Heckman is associate editor of *Econometric Reviews* and the *Review of Economics and Statistics*. He has served on the National Academy of Science and he is a fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Heckman has received numerous honours, including the John Bates Clark Medal from the American Economic Association. Heckman was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1992.