

## **Andrew Chesher profile, June 2018**

Andrew Chesher is William Stanley Jevons Professor of Economics and Economic Measurement at University College London. Before that, till 1999, he was Professor of Econometrics at the University of Bristol and before that, till 1983, he was Lecturer at the University of Birmingham from which he graduated with a Bachelors degree in 1970. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa by the University of Birmingham in 2017. He is Honorary Professor at Beihang University in Beijing and Research Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Andrew Chesher is Fellow of the British Academy and chaired its Economics and Economic History Section 2009-12. He is Fellow of the Econometric Society and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Economic Association. From 2001 – 2005 he was Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council's Research Grants Board and a member of ESRC Council. In 2016-2018 he was President, then Past President, of the Royal Economic Society.

Andrew Chesher is the founding Director of the Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice, a joint venture by University College London and the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Started in 2000 this is now the world's leading centre for the development and application of methods to deliver understanding of the economic motivations and behaviours of people, households and firms.

Andrew Chesher has worked with many international agencies, applying economics to deliver answers to substantive real world problems. His research on the effects of highway conditions on vehicle operating costs in Brazil and India plays a critical role in the World Bank's Highway Design and Maintenance Models. His work for the United Nations Development Program, modelling the timing of marriage, fertility and labour force participation in Malaysia was influential in developing Malaysia's population policy in the 1990s. He has worked on competition and efficiency issues with many companies in the private sector including BT, EDF Energy, Northern Electric, and PricewaterhouseCoopers and with regulators such as Ofcom and Government Departments such as DEFRA, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Radiocommunications Agency.

Andrew Chesher's research in econometric theory and its applications has developed methods for: modelling, measuring and detecting heterogeneity in individual responses to changes in prices, income and other economic factors: extracting information on individual diet and nutrient intakes from household food diaries; understanding the impact of measurement error on the measurement of poverty and inequality; understanding the impact of across individual heterogeneity on the interpretation of labour market data recording unemployment and employment durations and transitions.

Since 2000 he has worked on the core econometric problem of identification, studying what can be known of an economic process from the data it produces under alternative restrictions on the structure of the process.

His recent paper in *Econometrica* 2017 generalizes the class of incomplete instrumental variable models used since the 1920s to a wide variety of cases studied in 21<sup>st</sup> century microeconometrics, enabling the use of weakly restrictive models in econometric analysis embodying only those restrictions that would be widely regarded as plausible.

Andrew Chesher has two adult sons, James and Thomas, and is married to economist Dr Valérie Lechene with whom he has 12 and 13 year old daughters, Joséphine and Jacqueline.