

The FUE-Diversity Prize Committee is happy to announce its decision to award the Fourth Diversity Prize to Professor **Paul Seabright**



Professor **Seabright** was chosen as the recipient of the 2013 FUE Diversity Prize to acknowledge the wide range of interests, the broad views and the quality of his research, as well as the variety of his contributions. His work covers many fields from microeconomic theory, industrial organization and competition policy to intellectual property and the digital society as well as development economics, economics and human evolution and the economics of gender.

He is also directly involved in policy work and was a co-author of a report to the European Commission on Bailing out Banks.

In the case of professor **Paul Seabright** it is also worth mentioning the periodical regular columns in different newspapers where he contributes actively to the economic debate on the effects of economic policy, emphasizing the key role of the effectiveness in the performance of social institutions to achieve better direct forms of cooperation to reduce the fragility of the modern society. This effectiveness ought to be based on an education that enables people to evaluate the performance of the institutions and thus helps them to take rational decisions. He has, for example, examined how the establishment of cooperatives and appropriate levels of punishment are more effective in controlling water theft in arid countries than simple pricing mechanisms.

One of most attractive lines of his current research focuses on economics and human evolution. He shows that the concerns of economics overlap substantially with those of historians, biologists, anthropologists, novelists and other observers of human behavior. He argues in *Company of Strangers* that humans are unique in their ability to cooperate with members of their species to whom they are not related.

He has not hesitated to take controversial positions arguing for example that in some centrally planned countries the heavy emphasis on investment in physical investments produced long term benefits which more than offset the inefficiencies of the non-market allocation of goods.

One of the main goals of this research line is to explain and understand the paradox that a society whose members are interconnected as never before can nevertheless exclude some of its most vulnerable members.

For all of this, we are proud to announce the concession award of this 4th diversity prize to **Paul Seabright**.