

## Economic Geography, Globalisation and New Zealand's Productivity Paradox

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**Wednesday 2 December, 12.30 - 2.00 pm**

Spectrum Presentation Theatre, BP House, 20 Customhouse Quay, Wellington

### Abstract

This presentation examines New Zealand's poor productivity performance from the reform period onwards from the perspective of economic geography. Rather than employing institutional or free-market versus interventionist arguments to explain New Zealand's low productivity, as is usually the case, the argument developed here is that the debate should be considered from a very different viewpoint. If we adopt an economic geography perspective, there is nothing really paradoxical about New Zealand's productivity performance. New Zealand's productivity performance is rather more of a conundrum, a riddle, with a fairly straightforward solution. Possible policy responses will also be discussed.

### Biography



Philip McCann is Professor of Economic Geography at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, and also Professor of Economics at the University of Waikato. He is one of the world's most highly cited spatial economists and economic geographers and has won various international awards and accolades for his research. He has published some one hundred books, journal articles and book chapters in a range of economics, regional science, and engineering journals. His book *Urban and Regional Economics, 2001*, Oxford University Press is the world's best-selling book in the field, is used in over twenty countries, and has already been translated into Greek, Korean, Japanese and Chinese.