



Paul Romer

Senior Fellow, Stanford Center for International Development and Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Stanford University

Paul Romer is building an “economics of ideas” that extends and brings new optimism to the traditional economics of scarce objects. He is best known as the lead developer of New Growth Theory, which shows how societies can speed up the discovery and implementation of new technologies —essentially, ideas about how objects interact. However, to address the big problems we’ll face this century — violence and insecurity, harm to the environment, and global poverty— new technologies will not be enough. His current focus is on mechanisms that can speed up the discovery and implementation of new rules, norms, and laws —ideas about how people interact.

For his work on the economics of ideas, Mr. Romer was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2000), and awarded the Horst Claus Recktenwald Prize in Economics (2002). He is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Fellow of the Econometric Society. Prior to his current position as a Senior Fellow in the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), he taught in the university’s Graduate School of Business and was honored with the Distinguished Teaching Award (1999). Before moving to Stanford, Paul taught Economics at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Chicago, and the University of Rochester. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago.

In addition to his career in teaching and research, Paul founded Aplia, Inc., which develops and applies technologies to improve student learning. Aplia, which is now part of Cengage Learning, grew out of Paul’s conviction that it is possible to use our understanding of the economics of ideas to raise productivity in education.

Paul is the father of two children, Geoffrey and Amy, and has one grandchild, Kaelin. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.