

Mary Morgan
2013 History of Economics Society Distinguished Scholar Citation

Mary Morgan has risen to prominence by embodying a model of superb, creative scholarship. Her writings have been recognized by a variety of awards including the highly prestigious Wolfson Prize of the British Academy, which she won for a project on the forms and uses of cases across the social sciences, one she has made into a collaborative as well as a personal project. That collaboration was not the first or most renowned; that honorific belongs to her role as co-editor of one of the volumes from the interdisciplinary Bielefeld project, *The Probabilistic Revolution* (1987). That project elevated the history of probability as one of the more important topics in the modern history of science. The related trope of statistical empiricism and model validation has marked much of her career. Her first book, a classic, was *The History of Econometric Ideas* (1990). In it, she mapped out a conceptual trajectory of problems and techniques that formed econometrics as a statistical and economic specialty. She was there concerned especially with the ascription of causes, which ranged from not-quite-astrological influences to mechanical models to inference from graphical forms. This portrait was about economics as a quantitative science, situated among other quantified fields, yet bound up in policy discussions regarding, especially, financial panics and business cycles. Many of her subsequent works have examined the self-image of modern economists as proponents of models as the central defining technique of science.

With the appearance of her recent book *The World in the Model: How Economists Work and Think* (2012), she consolidates her standing as a premier philosopher and historian of economics among the sciences. Professor Morgan has co-organized four of the Duke HOPE conferences, including the definitive *From Interwar Pluralism to Postwar Neoclassicism* (1998), which changed the way the modern history of economics has been taught. She has participated in many cross-disciplinary projects linking the philosophy of science and history of economics at the LSE, and mentored some of the most interesting historians of the next generation in the field of the history of economics. Her contributions to this organization have been invaluable. For all these reasons, the committee is pleased to name her a Distinguished Fellow.