

2019 Distinguished Fellow Award

The HES Distinguished Fellow Committee, formed by Jeff Biddle, Robert Leonard and Mauro Boianovsky (chair), received a number of high quality nominations this year. We decided to recommend to the HES Exec that Susan Howson should be given the award. Our recommendation was based on her extensive and rich CV and the letters of nomination received, which all stress the skillful way she has combined the history of ideas and of policy making in her many articles and books. Susan Howson has contributed seminal explorations of interwar and postwar British monetary policy and of the intellectual and practical environments of policy-making, major contributions at the intersection of economic history and the history of economics. Her 1977 book (with Donald Winch) on the British *Economic Advisory Council 1930-1939* was one of the first representatives of a rising empirical historiography concerned with bringing into focus the operational contexts within which economic theories, analyses and policy prescriptions have developed and with which they have interacted. Howson's magisterial 2011 biography of Lionel Robbins, based on extensive archival research, stands as a testament to her deep scholarship. As put by David Laidler in his nomination letter, "she long ago became, and remains, a leading exponent of an approach to the history of economic thought that treats the evolution of economic understanding as a fundamental feature of the historical record that forms a large part of the empirical basis of economics itself".