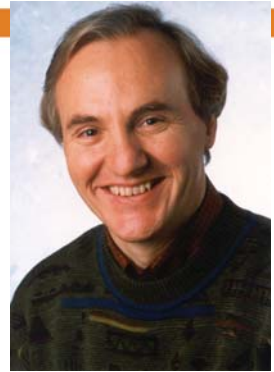




ERNST FEHR

JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH FELLOW



ERNST FEHR is Director of the Institute for Empirical Research in Economics at the University of Zurich and one of the world's leading experimental economists. Fehr's groundbreaking research on human altruism has challenged the notion that self-interest is the core motivator in economic behavior. Fehr was one of the first to provide convincing experimental evidence that economic choices could be motivated by factors beyond self-interest, pointing to altruism, fairness, reciprocity, and bounded rationality. Drawing on game theory and social psychology, Fehr's work has revealed an "economics of reciprocity," indicating that individuals are more likely to contribute to a common goal when others are contributing, regardless of whether the goal is most beneficial to the individual. His findings have helped explain patterns in human cooperation for which traditional economics research could not account.

Fehr's work is motivated by the belief that understanding the interaction between altruists and selfish individuals is crucial for determining patterns of human cooperation. He has applied his research model to various aspects of economics, exploring ways altruism affects not only economic choices, but also aspects of social economics such as minimum wage laws. His most recent research has focused on the role of boundedly rational behavior in strategic interactions as well as on the neurobiological foundations of social behavior. In addition to his many pathbreaking articles in *Nature*, *Science*, and the *American Economic Review*, he is the co-editor of *Moral Sentiments and Material Interests: The Foundations of Cooperation in Economic Life* (2005) and *Foundations of Human Sociality* (2004).

Fehr also serves as Director of the Research Priority Program on the Foundations of Human Social Behavior at the University of Zurich, and is an Affiliated Faculty Member of the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science and a professor in the Department of Economics and Economic Policy at the University of Technology in Vienna.