



Danish Academic Economists in North America

Dear DAEiNA Members and Friends:

As most of you have surely heard by now, Dale Mortensen recently passed away at the young age of 74. Dale was an honorary member of DAEiNA. All of us who were lucky enough to be there will forever remember Dale's after-dinner speech at the 2013 DAEiNA meeting at Northwestern University. On behalf of DAEiNA Rasmus Lentz has kindly written the obituary below.

Regards from the DAEiNA Board

Dale T. Mortensen died on January 9, 2014 at the age of 74. In addition to Dale's great impact on Economics as a whole, Dale's contribution to the Danish research community cannot be overstated. DAEiNA is proud to have had Dale as an honorary member.

In 1982, at what was to become a long series of Sandbjerg conferences, Dale started a collaboration with Danish researchers at primarily Århus University, such as Henning Bunzel and Niels Westergård-Nielsen. A particular focus of the collaboration was the development of micro panel labor market data, which we now know as matched employer-employee data. In large part as a result of this collaboration, Denmark has been on the forefront of the development of this type of integrated databases, which are critical for both the scholarly community and policy makers.

Dale visited Århus University during his sabbatical in 1998, and during 2006-2011, Dale was a distinguished Niels Bohr Professor at the Economics Department in Århus. Århus was not the only Danish institution to benefit from Dale. In 2000 Dale gave the Zeuthen Lectures at the University of Copenhagen. These were subsequently published in his 2003 book on wage dispersion. After the 2010 Nobel prize, of course, his reach went well beyond the Danish academic world, he was quickly adopted by Denmark as "pretty much" our Danish Nobel Prize Winner. His father was after all, Danish. In 2013 Dale spoke at the 4th of July celebrations in Rebild, which was a particular pride to him.

Countless Danish students and researchers have benefitted tremendously from Dale's consistent commitment to the Danish research community. We will miss him dearly.