

For many years, Harry Garretsen (Deventer, 1962), Professor of International Economics & Business at the Faculty of Economics and Business at the UG and Director of the Centre of Expertise *In the LEAD*, has been combining his ground-breaking research on the interface of international, spatial, and macroeconomics with structural attention for leadership and management. He is seen as an excellent human- and society-based researcher and expert, a skilled adviser, and a dedicated manager, who applies himself to improving quality and innovation in science, with good results and obvious pleasure. This combination makes him unique in the Netherlands and abroad, and a role model for younger generations of researchers.

Pioneer in spatial economics

In 2008, after a career with De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) and as a Professor at Radboud University and Utrecht University, Harry Garretsen returned to the UG, where he had graduated and obtained his PhD. Since then, this Professor of International Economics & Business has conducted pioneering research in the field of international monetary and trade economics in combination with economics and geography. His innovative approach to the matter of why economies in different geographic locations develop so differently, prompted a new interdisciplinary academic field: spatial economics. His innovative research in this field resulted in almost a hundred international academic publications, countless citations, and contributions to various books. In 2011, for example, he won the prestigious Martin Beckmann Award for an article that he co-wrote with his colleague Maarten Bosker. His appointments as a fellow at the University of Cambridge and CESifo Institute in Munich, and as a member of the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities, are further proof of his considerable international academic reputation.

Innovative focus on leadership

Since 2015, Garretsen's research has mainly focused on leadership in relation to economics, which he approaches from a more economics-based and empirical angle— an innovative focus in a field that is traditionally studied from the management perspective. This is one of the reasons that he and his colleague Janka Stoker founded the Centre of Expertise *In the LEAD*, where knowledge gathered by economists, psychologists, and management scientists is applied to study the effectiveness of leadership. In 2018, he and Stoker wrote the book *Goede leiders zweven niet* ('Good managers don't dither') together. In ten easy-to-read chapters, the authors demonstrate that the perfect management style does not exist, but that good management is a combination of personality and circumstances. The book was very well received and is now on its fifth reprint. He also wrote various articles about leadership and, in 2020, was closely involved in a special edition of the reputable magazine *Leadership Quarterly* about the interface between leadership and economics.

Active participant in public debate

As a PhD student, Garretsen was already active in public debate as editor-in-chief of the Faculty staff magazine. He not only wrote substantive articles about his field, but also about management subjects such as teaching innovation. He was never afraid to show that he sometimes disagreed with the Faculty Board. The way in which he has contributed to public debate throughout his career, by writing columns and articles for newspapers, magazines, and other media, is unique for an academic. Furthermore, he does not feel intimidated by unknown territory. He and Steven Brakman have written numerous readers' letters about

various subjects, including the coronavirus pandemic. He also wrote some fifty articles and columns about leadership together with Janka Stoker, for a range of media. His contributions to public debate always demonstrate his creativity, enterprising spirit, and open nature.

Effective bridge-builder between policy and science

In addition to his academic work, Garretsen is also closely involved in economic policy formation and policy debates. He started his career as a senior policy officer at De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) and has since held several advisory positions in the field of policy. On all of these platforms, he is seen as a dedicated bridge-builder, someone who constantly searches for the connection between science, policy, and society. Between 2004 and 2014, for example, he was Crown-appointed member of the Social and Economic Council (SER), where he gave advice on social-economic issues. He approached this task with knowledge, authority, and perseverance. His combination of academic authority, creativity, and an amiable character also made him a highly effective and valued mediator within the SER. In his role as a member of the DNB Bank Council, he is known for putting forward strong, constructive ideas as an independent, prominent academic. He is the one to bring parties together by identifying common ground and shared principles. Despite the distance he has to travel and his busy schedule, he always arrives at meetings on time and is keen to introduce new subjects or be the first to respond to presentations given by other members.

Impassioned manager

Garretsen has clearly earned his managerial spurs. He was able to combine managerial duties at two universities (Radboud University and Utrecht University) with his regular research work. He was Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business at the UG from 2011 to 2016, also chairing the Council of Deans in Economics and Business (DEB) in that period. Although other people were highly impressed by his dedication and energy, Garretsen never doubted that he could combine his work as the dean of such a large faculty with his work as a researcher, lecturer, manager, and adviser. Under his leadership, the recently merged Faculty was able to develop and secure itself a strong international position. For example, the Faculty acquired two important international accreditations: the AACSB accreditation and the EQUIS accreditation, putting it into a select group of just 1% of all international faculties boasting both accreditations. He also managed to continue developing the tenure track, which nurtures academic talent, allowing it to flourish. With regard to the revision of the Recognition and Rewards system, which assesses academics on the basis of the content and the social impact of their work, he is considered to be an 'Open Scientist *avant la lettre*' and, according to many, a flag-bearer for this development.

A much-loved lecturer and supervisor

As a lecturer, Garretsen is popular at every level: Bachelor's and Master's students enjoy his course units and are very appreciative of how much they learn from him. But he is also highly active in teaching management courses. He and his colleague Stoker developed a new programme in HR Leadership for Human Resource Management directors within the University of Groningen Business School. In addition, he has supervised 12 PhD students and was closely involved in countless PhD reading committees at the UG and elsewhere. Garretsen has a reputation as an impassioned lecturer, whose dry sense of humour, obvious pleasure, and impressive wealth of knowledge leave a lasting impression.