

Bio

Alan L. Olmstead

Alan L. Olmstead is Distinguished Research Professor of Economics at the University of California, Davis.

Professor Olmstead's recent book, *Creating Abundance: Biological Innovation and American Agricultural Development*, with Paul W. Rhode examines three centuries of technological change in American agriculture. He is also an Editor-in-Chief of the five-volume *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2006.

Professor Olmstead's research has appeared in *Science*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Journal of Economic History*, the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, *Agricultural History*, and other scholarly publications.

In 2011, the Cliometrics Society named Professor Olmstead as one of its 12 inaugural Fellows (<http://www.cliometrics.org/fellows.htm>). Professor Olmstead is a past president of the Economic History Association and a winner of that society's Alice Hanson Jones Prize (2010) and Arthur H. Cole Prize (2003). In 2009, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association recognized Professor Olmstead with its Quality of Research Discovery Prize. The Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society honored Professor Olmstead as its inaugural Alan Lloyd Fellow in 1999. He has shared numerous distinctions for the *Historical Statistics of the United States*, including the Thomas Jefferson Prize in 2008.

Professor Olmstead currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the National Bureau of Economic Research. He has held several administrative posts including serving as the Director of the Institute of Governmental Affairs (1984-2009), the Director of the All UC Group in Economic History (1979-2009), and the U.S. co-director of the U.S.-Soviet Exchange in Quantitative Agricultural History (1985-91). From 1989 to 1991, he advised elected officials in Moscow on redrafting the constitution of the USSR on issues of privatization and land reform. He has lectured in over twenty five countries.