

Curriculum Vitae

James E. Bessen

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer in Law, Boston University School of Law, 2004 –
Fellow, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University, 2010 – 2013
Visiting Professor, Bowdoin College, Economics, Spring 2005
Visiting Scholar, MIT Sloan School of Management, 2002-3
Editor, *Technological Innovation and Intellectual Property*, 2002-8
Director and Founder, Research on Innovation, 1998-
Consultant, 1994-6
CEO, Bestinfo Division, Intergraph Corporation, 1993-4
Founder, CEO, Chairman, Bestinfo, 1983-1993 (developed first WYSIWYG desktop publishing program)

EDUCATION

A.B. Harvard College, 1972; Graduate courses in economics

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Bessen, James (2015), *Learning by Doing: The Real Connection Between Innovation, Wages, and Wealth*, Yale University Press.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2008), *Patent Failure: How judges, bureaucrats and lawyers put innovators at risk*, Princeton University Press.

WRITING FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Access current list at <http://www.researchoninnovation.org/writing.html>

2015

- [Toil and Technology](#) *IMF Finance and Development*
- [Free Community College Would Help Fix the Skills Gap](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*
- [The Anti-Innovators: How Special Interests Undermine Entrepreneurship](#) *Foreign Affairs*

2014

- [What the Courts Did to Curb Patent Trolling—for Now](#) *TheAtlantic.com*
- [Supreme Court's Alice ruling doesn't solve patent troll problem](#) *The Hill*
- [Oped: Congress Needs to Rein In Patent Trolls](#) *Boston Globe*
- [How Companies Kill Their Employees' Job Searches](#) *TheAtlantic.com*

- [Employers Aren't Just Whining—The “Skills Gap” Is Real](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*
- [The Evidence Is In: Patent Trolls Do Hurt Innovation](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*
- [History Backs Up Tesla's Patent Sharing](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*
- [Stop Trying to Control How Ex-Employees Use Their Knowledge](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*
- [Workers Don't Have the Skills They Need—and They Know It](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*
- [The Case Against SW Patents in 9 Charts](#) *Vox.com*
- [Everything You Need to Know About Occupational Licensure](#) *Vox.com*
- [How Technology Creates Jobs for Less Educated Workers](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*
- [Will Robots Steal Our Jobs? The Humble Loom Suggests Not](#) *Washington Post Sunday Magazine*
- [The Industrial Revolution and Open Innovation](#) *Slate*
- [ALL the Facts: PAEs are Suing Many More Companies](#) *Patently-O*
- [Some predict computers will produce a jobless future. Here's why they're wrong.](#) *The Switch, Washington Post*
- [Innovation Policy, More than Patents](#) *Balkinization*
- [Patent Trolling Was Up 11% Last Year](#) *The Switch, Washington Post*

Earlier

- [The patent troll crisis is really a software patent crisis](#) *The Switch, Washington Post*
- [Don't Blame Technology for Persistent Unemployment](#) *Slate*
- [How patent trolls doomed themselves by targeting Main Street](#) *Ars Technica*
- [The Power of NO \(patent continuations\)](#) *Slate*
- [No, technology isn't going to destroy the middle class](#) *The Switch, Wash. Post.*
- [Soft War: Software patents hinder innovation and foster litigation.](#) *The European*
- [The patent troll crisis is really a software patent crisis](#) *The Switch, Washington Post*
- [Oped: Tax the Patent Trolls](#) *USAToday*
- [Patent Trolls in Public](#) *Patently-O*
- [Can New Fees Fix the Patent System?](#) *Wired.com*
- [China is Not About to Out-innovate the US](#) *Harvard Business Review Blog*

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Bessen, James and Alessandro Nuvolari (2015 forthcoming), “Knowledge Sharing Among Inventors: Some Historical Perspectives,” in *Revolutionizing Innovation: Users, Communities and Open Innovation*, Dietmar Harhoff and Karim Lakhani eds., Cambridge: MIT Press.

Bessen, James (2014). Review of “Industry and Revolution: Social and Economic Change in the Orizaba Valley, Mexico.” By Gómez-Galvarriato Aurora. *Journal of Economic History* 2: 642-4.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2014), “The Direct Costs from NPE Disputes,” *Cornell Law Review*, v. 99(2), 387-424.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2013), “The Patent Litigation Explosion,” *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*, v. 45, 102-145.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2013), “The Private Costs of Patent Litigation,” *Journal of Law, Economics and Policy*, 9, p. 59-95.

Bessen, James and Brian J. Love (2013), “Make the Patent ‘Polluters’ Pay: Using Pigovian Fees to Curb Patent Abuse, 4 *California Law Review Circuit* 84-91.

Bessen, James (2012), “A Generation of Software Patents,” *Boston University Journal of Science and Technology Law*, 18(2), pp. 241-61.

Bessen, James (2012), “More Machines, Better Machines...Or Better Workers?” *Journal of Economic History*, 72(1), pp. 44-74.

Bessen, James, Jennifer Ford, and Michael J. Meurer (2011), “The Private and Social Costs of Patent Trolls,” *Regulation* 34(4), pp. 26-35.

Bessen, James (2009), “Evaluating the Economic Performance of Property Systems,” *Review of Law and Economics*, Vol. 5 : Iss. 1, Article 1.

Bessen, James (2009), “Estimates of Patent Rents from Firm Market Value,” *Research Policy* 38, pp. 1604-16.

Bessen, James and Eric Maskin (2009), “Sequential Innovation, Patents, and Imitation,” *RAND Journal of Economics*, 40(4) pp. 611-35.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2008) “Of Patents and Property,” *Regulation*, 31(4), pp. 18-27.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2008) “Do Patents Perform Like Property?,” *Academy of Management Perspectives*, 22(3), pp. 8-20.

Bessen, James (2008) “The value of U.S. patents by owner and patent characteristics,” *Research Policy*, 37, pp. 932-45.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2007) “What’s Wrong with the Patent System? Fuzzy Boundaries and the Patent Tax,” *First Monday*, volume 12, number 6 (June 2007), URL: http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue12_6/bessen/index.html.

Bessen, James and Robert M. Hunt (2007), "An Empirical Look at Software Patents," *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy* 16, no. 1, pp. 157-89.

Bessen, James (2007). Review of Cristiano Antonelli, Dominique Foray, Bronwyn H. Hall and W. Edward Steinmueller, editors, *New Frontiers in the Economics of Innovation and New Technology: Essays in Honour of Paul A. David*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2006 at EH.NET.

Bessen, James (2006), "Open Source Software: Free Provision of Complex Public Goods," in Jürgen Bitzer and Philipp J. H. Schröder, eds., *The Economics of Open Source Software Development*, Elsevier B. V.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2006), "Patent Litigation with Endogenous Disputes," *American Economic Review*, 96, no. 2, pp. 77-81.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2005), "Lessons for Patent Policy from Empirical Research on Patent Litigation," *Levis & Clark Law Review*, v. 9, no. 1, pp. 1-27.

Bessen, James and Eric S. Maskin (2005), "Geistiges Eigentum im Internet: Ist alte Weisheit ewig gültig?" ("Intellectual Property on the Internet: What's Wrong with the Conventional Wisdom?"), in Lutterbeck, Bernd, Robert A. Gehring, and Matthias Bärwolff, *Open Source Jahrbuch 2005: Zwischen Softwareentwicklung und Gesellschaftsmodell*, Berlin: Lehmanns Media.

Bessen, James (2005), "Patents and the Diffusion of Technical Information," *Economics Letters*, v. 86, no. 1, pp. 121-128.

Bessen, James and Robert M. Hunt (2004), "The Software Patent Experiment," *Business Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Q3 2004, pp. 22-32.

Bessen, James and Robert M. Hunt (2004), "The Software Patent Experiment," in proceedings of OECD Conference on IPR, Innovation and Economic Performance.

Bessen, James (2004), "Holdup and Licensing of Cumulative Innovations with Private Information," *Economics Letters* v. 82, No. 3, pp. 321-26.

Bessen, James (2003), "Technology and Learning by Factory Workers: The Stretch-Out at Lowell, 1842," *Journal of Economic History*, 63, pp. 33-64.

Bessen, James (2003), "IT Adoption Costs and Productivity: A Reply to Diego Comin," *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 6, pp. 252-62.

Bessen, James (2002), "What Good is Free Software?" in Robert Hahn, editor, *Is Open Source the Future of Software?*, AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies, Washington, DC.

Bessen, James (2002), "Technology Adoption Costs and Productivity Growth: The Transition to Information Technology," *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 5, pp. 443-69.

Bessen, James (1993), "Riding the Marketing Information Wave," *Harvard Business Review*, September-October 1993, 71, pp. 150-60.

WORKING PAPERS

Bessen, James (2011), "Was Mechanization De-Skilling? The Origins of Task-Biased Technical Change," Boston Univ. School of Law Working Paper No. 11-13.

Bessen, James (2010), "The Two Faces of Innovation," Boston Univ. School of Law Working Paper No. 10-35.

Bessen, James (2009), "Imperfect Property Rights," Boston University School of Law Working Paper No. 09-46.

Bessen, James (2008), "Accounting for Productivity Growth When Technical Change is Biased," Research on Innovation Working Paper #0802.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2007), "The Private Costs of Patent Litigation," Boston Univ. School of Law Working Paper No. 07-08.

Bessen, James (2006), "A Comment on 'Do Patents Facilitate financing in the Software Industry?'" Boston Univ. School of Law Working Paper No. 06-13.

Bessen, James and Michael J. Meurer (2005), "The Patent Litigation Explosion," B.U.S.L. Working Paper 05-18.

Bessen, James (2003), "Patent Thickets: Strategic Patenting of Complex Technologies."

Bessen, James (2000), "Real Options and the Adoption of New Technologies," Research on Innovation Working Paper.

Bessen, James (1997), "Productivity Adjustments and Learning-by-Doing as Human Capital," Center for Economic Studies (Bureau of the Census) Working Paper, CES-WP-97-17.

Major Research Funding

NSF, SES-0527657 “Harnessing Patent Data for Social Science Research,” Senior Investigator