

Toronto gurus win big at ‘Oscars of management thinking’

Three Rotman School of Management professors place among top 15 in Thinkers50 ranking.



Supplied photo

Don Tapscott, an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, placed fourth in an international ranking of management leaders.

By: [Christopher Reynolds](#) Staff Reporter, Published on Wed Nov 11 2015

Three University of Toronto professors and business leaders placed in the top 15 in a recent ranking of the world's 50 most influential management thinkers.

Don Tapscott, Roger Martin and Richard Florida — all tied to the Rotman School of Management — stood alongside leading commerce theorists and executives at the biennial Thinkers50 awards in London this week.

The awards - dubbed “the Oscars of management thinking” by the Financial Times - recognize leadership and innovation in management across fields and borders.

Tapscott, fourth on the Thinkers50 list for the second time in a row and author of the 2006 bestseller *Wikinomics*, said he was proud of Rotman’s achievement, but put emphasis on the ongoing “problem of prosperity.”

“We have wealth creation, yet prosperity for most is declining. We have economic growth, but we don’t have commensurate job creation,” he told the Star from Barcelona, where youth unemployment hovers around 50 per cent.

“The digital age hasn’t delivered on its promise,” noted the Rotman adjunct professor and fellow with the affiliated U of T think-tank, the Martin Prosperity Institute (MPI).

Tapscott, who is CEO of the Tapscott Group, is now focusing on how collaborative online networks - from UberX and Airbnb to crowd-sourced funding, encyclopedias and operating systems - [could transform “stalled” bodies](#) like state governments and aging corporations.

Roger Martin, Rotman’s former 15-year dean and current MPI director, placed seventh in the ranking, largely for his [work in social entrepreneurship](#) and “integrative thinking.”

The innovation champion stresses a fusion between intuitive thinking and analytical approaches.

“If you only think analytically, all you can do is extrapolate the past and you cannot create the future. If you only think intuitively, chances are you will create some great futures — and enough bad ones that you’ll go out of business,” he said in an embedded video at the Thinkers50 website.

Florida, a renowned public intellectual who serves alongside Martin as MPI’s director of cities, continues to receive recognition for his work on how a vital “creative class” [can jar cities out of economic and cultural stagnation](#).

Placing 14th, the American-born “urbanist” and “[academic rock star](#)” leapt 11 spots from his previous ranking in 2013.

“People associated with Canadian institutions do very well,” said Stuart Crainer, who co-founded Thinkers50 with fellow journalist and commentator Des Dearlove.

“Management is an open, pragmatic combination of science and art...and the Canadians seem to be well suited to thinking in those ways.”

Canadian Sydney Finkelstein, a professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, placed 43rd on the list.

Henry Mintzberg, a Montreal-born business author and McGill University professor at the Desautels Faculty of Management, received a lifetime achievement award at the ceremony Monday evening at City of London's Drapers' Hall.