

# KENNETH ARROW

*Team:* New York City All Rounders

*Position:* Silly Point

*Status:* Alive! Can you believe it? Alive, I say!

Kenneth Arrow (1921–) is famous for more than being the only one of the dead white male theorists who isn't actually dead. He is an economist with an amazing knack for distilling the complexities of the world into simple and compelling logical discussions. Arrow's theorem, which explains exactly why it is impossible for voting to be a certain means of selecting the most preferred outcome when there are more than two choices, is the most obvious example. However, almost all of the larger body of social choice theory, which is concerned with the logic underlying how groups of people make and implement decisions, owes its existence—or at least a great big hug—to Arrow.

Arrow was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1972, and what may be more remarkable than that is he has seen several of his students win Nobel Prizes. And as remarkable as that all is, you would think I'd have a lot more to say about him, but then again, that is the kind of accomplishment that speaks for itself.



THINKER  
IN  
BOXES