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NOBEL LAUREATE

Professor Abhijit V. Banerjee

Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA



Professor Abhijit V. Banerjee is Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer, was awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize for Economics for helping to develop an innovative experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

Professor Banerjee studied economics at the University of Calcutta (B.Sc. 1981), Jawaharlal Nehru University (M.A. 1983), and Harvard University (Ph.D. 1988). He taught economics at Princeton University from 1988 to 1992, at Harvard in 1991 and 1992–93, and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from 1993. In 2003 he and Duflo, along with Sendhil Mullainathan, an economist at MIT, founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a research centre supporting scientifically informed policy making to reduce global poverty.

Professor Banerjee is currently the Co-chair, Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel since 2020, and a Trustee at Save the Children since 2016. He was a Member of the United Nations High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2012 – 2013, and a Member of the Panel for the Evaluation of World Bank Research, among holding other prestigious posts. Over and above being the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics, he has received a multitude of honours including, but not limited to, Honorary Doctor of Laws, University of Pennsylvania, 2023, Banga Vibhushan, highest civilian honour of the Government of West Bengal, 2022, Golden Plate Award, Academy of Achievement, 2022, Honorary Doctorate, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, 2022 and Member, National Academy of Sciences, 2020.

Some of the recent books authored by Prof. Banerjee are: Good Economics for Hard Times (with Esther Duflo), What the Economy Needs Now (co-edited with Gita Gopinath, Raghuram Rajan, and Mihir S. Sharma), and Handbook of Field Experiments, Vol. 1 and 2, (with Esther Duflo). Other well-known books are Poor Economics, (with Esther Duflo), and Understanding Poverty (co-edited with Roland Benabou and Dilip Mookherjee). Prof. Banerjee is a cooking enthusiast and has a book 'Cooking to Save Your Life' to his credit. He also writes a regular column on food for a daily paper.