

NOBEL SYMPOSIA SERIES

Poor Economics (almost) 15 years later

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ABSTRACT

In this lecture, professors Banerjee and Duflo will revisit some of the findings of their book, published in 2012, *Poor Economics*. How has the world and the field moved since then? What did they get right? What did they get wrong? What did they miss entirely?



BRUCE VICKMARK

BIOGRAPHY

Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee is the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2003 he co-founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) with Esther Duflo and Sendhil Mullainathan, and he remains one of the Lab's Directors. Banerjee is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society. He is a winner of the Infosys Prize a co-recipient of the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for his groundbreaking work in development economics research.

Abhijit is the author of a large number of articles and six books, including *Poor Economics*, which won the Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year, *Good Economics for Hard Times*, both co-authored with Esther Duflo, and *Cooking to Save Your Life*. He is the editor of three more books and has directed two documentary films. Banerjee has served on the U.N. Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He is a trustee of Save the Children USA, a trustee of the British Museum, and the Chair of the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel and the Global Advisory Board for Covid-19 Response of the government of West Bengal.

Esther Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a co-founder and co-director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). In her research, she seeks to understand the economic lives of the poor, with the aim to help design and evaluate social policies. She has worked on health, education, financial inclusion, environment and governance. Professor Esther Duflo's first degrees were in history and economics from Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris. She subsequently received a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT in 1999.

Duflo has received numerous academic honors and prizes including 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (with co-Laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Michael Kremer), the Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences (2015), the A.SK Social Science Award (2015), Infosys Prize (2014), the David N. Kershaw Award (2011), a John Bates Clark Medal (2010), and a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship (2009). With Abhijit Banerjee, she wrote *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, which won the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award in 2011 and has been translated into more than 17 languages, and the recently released *Good Economics for Hard Times*.

Duflo is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/r/iukFqXgkYF>



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