Albert O. Hirschman Prize Ceremony

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Wolfensohn Hall
4:30 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Institute for Advanced Study
Albert O. Hirschman Prize

The Albert O. Hirschman Prize is the highest award of the Social Science Research Council. It recognizes academic excellence in international, interdisciplinary social science research, theory, and public communication, in the tradition of German-born American economist Albert Hirschman, who was a Faculty member at the Institute for Advanced Study from 1974 until his death in 2012.

The prize recognizes Hirschman’s pioneering role in contemporary social science and public policy as well as his lifelong commitment to international economic development. Exploring theory and practice, the history of ideas—economic, social, or political—and innovative approaches to fostering growth, Hirschman saw scholarship both as a tool for social change and as an inherent value in a world in need of better understanding. He wrote in ways that help social science effectively inform public affairs. His work stands as an exemplar of the necessary knowledge that the SSRC seeks to develop and the interdisciplinary and international approach that it champions.

Social Science Research Council

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is an independent, international, nonprofit organization founded in 1923. It fosters innovative research, nurtures new generations of social scientists, deepens how inquiry is practiced within and across disciplines, and mobilizes necessary knowledge on important public issues.

Institute for Advanced Study

The Institute for Advanced Study, founded in 1930 as an independent institution in Princeton, New Jersey, is one of the world’s leading centers for basic research in the sciences and humanities, where the permanent faculty and visiting scholars have the freedom to pursue some of the deepest theoretical questions without pressure for immediate outcomes. Its reach has been multiplied many times over through the more than 7,000 scholars who have influenced entire fields of study as well as the work and minds of colleagues and students.
Albert O. Hirschman Prize Ceremony
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4:30 pm  Welcome
Robbert Dijkgraaf, Director and Leon Levy Professor
Institute for Advanced Study

Presentation of Awards
Dani Rodrik, Albert O. Hirschman Professor
Institute for Advanced Study

Introduction of Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee

Ira Katznelson, President
Social Science Research Council
Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History
Columbia University

Esther Duflo, Co-Director
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab
Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation
and Development
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Abhijit Banerjee, Co-Director
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab
Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Panel Discussion

Christopher Udry, Henry Heinz II Professor of Economics
Yale University

Margaret Levi, Director
Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences
Professor of Political Science
Stanford University

Question and Answer Session

Reception, Fuld Hall
Esther Duflo

Esther Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is 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.

Duflo earned her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999. With Abhijit Banerjee, she wrote Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty (PublicAffairs, 2011), which won the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award in 2011. She has received numerous academic honors and prizes including the Infosys Prize, the David N. Kershaw Award, a John Bates Clark Medal, and a MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellowship. Duflo is a member of the President’s Global Development Council and she is a Founding Editor of the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.

Abhijit Banerjee

Abhijit Banerjee is the Ford Foundation International Professor 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). His current research focuses on development economics and economic theory.

Banerjee received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1988. He is the author of a range of articles and books, including Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty (PublicAffairs, 2011) with Esther Duflo, which won the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award in 2011. Banerjee also finished his first documentary film, The Name of the Disease, in 2006. He is a past president of the Bureau for the Research in the Economic Analysis of Development, a Research Associate of the NBER, a CEPR
research fellow, International Research Fellow of the Kiel Institute, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society, and has been a Guggenheim Fellow and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow.

**Poverty Action Lab**

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) was established in 2003 as a research center at the Economics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. J-PAL serves as a focal point for development and poverty research based on randomized trials. The objective is to improve the effectiveness of poverty programs by providing policy makers with clear scientific results that help shape successful policies to combat poverty. J-PAL works with NGOs, international organizations, and others to evaluate programs and disseminate the results of high quality research. J-PAL handles issues as diverse as boosting girls' attendance at school, improving the output of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, racial bias in employment in the US, and the role of women political leaders in India. J-PAL was renamed in honor of Abdul Latif Jameel in October 2005.

**Ira Katzenelson**

Ira Katzenelson has been Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History at Columbia University since 1994, and, since 2012, president of the Social Science Research Council.

His book *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time* (Liveright, 2013) has been awarded the Bancroft Prize in History, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award in Political Science, the Sidney Hillman Foundation Prize for Book Journalism, and the J. David Greenstone Book Prize in Political Science and History. Other recent books include *Liberal Beginnings* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) with Andreas Kalyvas, *When Affirmative Action Was White* (Norton, 2006), and *Desolation and Enlightenment* (Columbia University Press, 2003). Professor Katzenelson has served as president of the American Political Science Association and the Social Science History Association. He is a member at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
and the American Philosophical Society, and a Research Associate at Cambridge University’s Centre for History and Economics.

**Margaret Levi**

Margaret Levi, Director at the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University is a leading American political scientist. Currently, Levi’s research focuses on improving relations between government and citizens, and the effects of a trustworthy government.

Levi earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1974 is the author of many books including *In the Interest of Others* (Princeton, 2013), *Cooperation Without Trust?* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2005), *Democracy at Risk* (Brookings, 2005), and *Of Rule and Revenue* (University of California, 1988). Levi’s many accolades include the William H. Riker Prize in Political Science and fellowships from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. She is a Trustee of the Institute for Advanced Study.

**Dani Rodrik**

Dani Rodrik, Albert O. Hirschman Professor in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, is an economist whose work bridges the realms of theory and public policy by combining rigorous research with an innovative examination of ideas across the field of economics—from the consequences of globalization to the role of national institutions, the challenges of inequality, and the tensions between the market and the state. Rodrik’s current research centers on the future of economic growth and the role of ideas in political economy.

Rodrik earned his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1985. He has published many books including *Has Globalization Gone Too Far?* (Institute for International Economics, 1997), *One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and*
Economic Growth (Princeton University Press, 2007), and The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy (W. W. Norton & Company, 2011). Rodrik is the recipient of the Albert O. Hirschman Prize and of the Leontief Award for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Antwerp, Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, and the University of Groningen.

Christopher Udry

Christopher Udry is the Henry J. Heinz, II Professor of Economics at Yale University and is a development economist whose research focuses on rural economic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Udry has conducted extensive field research in West Africa on technological change in agriculture, the use of financial markets, asset accumulation and gift exchange to cope with risk, gender relations and the structure of household economies, property rights, and a variety of other aspects of rural economic organization.

Udry received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1991 and is known for his work on economic development in Africa. He has published many works including Readings in Development Economics (MIT Press, 2000), a two volume series with Pranab Bardhan, and Development Microeconomics (Oxford University Press, 1999), also with Bardhan. He spent two years as a secondary school teacher in northern Ghana, and has been a visiting scholar at Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria and at the University of Ghana at Legon. Udry is a Fellow of the Econometric Society.