

PRESS RELEASE

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THE CALVÓ-ARMENGOL PRIZE IS AWARDED BY THE BARCELONA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ANDORRA

Benjamin Golub, a young economist at Harvard, wins the Calvó-Armengol International Prize in Economics

Golub is an expert on social connections and their effect on people's opinions and behavior

Benjamin Golub, a young economics professor at Harvard University, has won the sixth Calvó-Armengol International Prize in Economics from the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics in collaboration with the government of Andorra. Golub has been a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows and a Postdoctoral Fellow for the Prize in Economics, History, and Politics at Harvard and MIT, as well as a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Golub received a B.S. in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 2007 and a PhD in economics from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2012.

The Calvó-Armengol prize jury, made up of Professors Salvador Barberà, Marianne Bertrand, Antonio Cabrales, and Joel Sobel, has selected Benjamin Golub for his research on economic networks, which focuses on how the structure of social connections determines people's opinions and behavior. His work explores how power distributions and social connections cause a society to reach a consensus of opinion on a given topic, such as climate change, the validity of vaccines, or foreign policy, and under what circumstances this consensus will be correct.

The Calvó-Armengol International Prize is awarded every two years to a researcher in economics or other social sciences who is under the age of 40 and who has contributed to the comprehension of social structures and their implications on economic interactions.

The first economist selected to receive this prize, Esther Duflo (MIT), was awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics, becoming the youngest person and second woman to ever receive this award. Other prize recipients include Harvard researchers Roland Fryer (2012) and Raj Chetty (2014), Stanford professor Matthew Gentzkow (2016), and most recently, Harvard economist Melissa Dell (2018).

The award was established to honor the memory of young economist Antoni Calvó-Armengol, who died in 2007 at the age of 37. Calvó, an Andorra native, was a professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Barcelona GSE and made important academic contributions in the field of social economics.

Benjamin Golub will collect the prize in spring 2020 at an awards ceremony in Andorra, Toni Calvó's native country, and an academic event in Barcelona attended by leading figures in the field of economics from around the world. The prize includes a cash award of €30,000.

The Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

The Barcelona Graduate School of Economics was founded in 2006 by economist Andreu Mas-Colell to bring together the pioneering economic research established in Barcelona and compete with the world's leading major institutions for economic research. It is a collaborative scientific project by researchers in the field of economics from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Pompeu Fabra University, the Center for Research in International Economics (CREI), and the Institute for Economic Analysis (IAE-CSIC). It offers three master's degrees with seven specialized programs, a model summer school, and several professional courses that meet throughout the year.

It has a team of researchers, 21 of whom have obtained research funding from the European Union granted by the European Research Council (ERC), and a Scientific Council composed of 30 of the world's leading economists, including 11 Nobel Laureates in economics. The school is based at two campuses, UPF's Ciutadella Campus and UAB's Bellaterra Campus, and is directed by economist Teresa Garcia-Milà.

According to RePEc's (Research Papers in Economics) international rankings, the Barcelona GSE is the top research institution in Spain, the fourth economics department in Europe, and the fourteenth economics department in the world. It has received recognition from the Severo Ochoa Program for Centers of Excellence in R&D, granted by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, two years in a row.

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