

June 20, 2022 | University of Zurich

Good economics for hard times

Nobel laureates
Abhijit Banerjee and
Esther Duflo

Economics.
For Society.

Invitation

We are delighted to invite you to an inspiring evening with **Nobel-Prize winning economists Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo**, where they will share their newest findings on the big questions of global relevance with us. Do cash handouts make people lazy? What impact will automation have on jobs and welfare? How can we avert climate armageddon? They share their thoughts based on empirical research, having worked with a passion to find better answers to our biggest problems.

We look forward to welcoming you at the University of Zurich and to exchange thoughts and ideas on this important topic with you.



Ernst Fehr
Director, UBS Center for Economics in Society



Joachim Voth
Scientific Director, UBS Center for Economics in Society

Good economics for hard times Better answers to our biggest problems

How can we alleviate inequality and poverty? This is the core question that Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo have been addressing for years and the motivation behind their extensive research. Equipped with a broad experience in the field of development economics and the latest scientific findings, they dare to tackle the big questions of our time and are not afraid to bring up uncomfortable topics. Their latest book *Good Economics for Hard Times* is filled with personal anecdotes and experiences and provides a new perspective of policy debates that are shaping the discourse on today's most pressing global problems: immigration and inequality, globalization and technological disruption, slowing growth and accelerating climate change – these are sources of great anxiety across the world, from New Delhi and Dakar to Paris and Washington, DC.

Banerjee and Duflo are strong advocates of interdisciplinary approaches and criticize the economics profession's obsession with growth, the shortcomings of using financial incentives to influence behavior, or the separation of economics, psychology, and communication. "Economics is too important to be left to economists," is one of their famous quotes.

Program

18.00 **Introduction**
Ernst Fehr (UBS Center, University of Zurich)

18.05 **Good economics for hard times**
Nobel laureates Abhijit V. Banerjee (MIT) and
Esther Duflo (MIT)

19.15 *End of event*

About the speakers



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. 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).



Abhijit 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 and co-recipient of the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for his groundbreaking work in development economics research.

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About the UBS Center

The UBS Center celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. It was established in 2012, enabled by a founding donation by UBS, which the bank made on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The UBS Center's mandate is to enable world-class research in economics at the University of Zurich, and to serve as a platform for dialogue between academia, business, politics, and the broader public, fostering the continuous knowledge transfer.

