

Economics prize closes out 2023 Nobel season

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US economist Douglas Diamond receiving last year's Nobel prize for economic from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden in Stockholm last November.

The economics prize closes the prestigious Nobel awards season on Monday, with specialists on credit, the job market or inequalities expected to be among the contenders.

US labor economist Claudia Goldin, a professor at Harvard, is a favorite to win the award, which is due to be announced at 11:45 am (09:45 GMT) in Stockholm.

Of all the Nobels, the economics [prize](#) has the fewest number of women who have won, with just two since it was first awarded in 1969—Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019.

"Equality and diversity are priorities and the committee encourages it in the nominations," Micael Dahlen, a professor in marketing at the Stockholm School of Economics, told AFP.

"But the number one priority is to choose a field of research... which decides who the candidates can be," he continued.

Goldin's research, which has focused on inequality and the female labor force, ever remains on the agenda, Dahlen added.

Last year, the honor went to US economists Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig together with former Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke for research on banks in times of turmoil.

The pick has many commentators ruling out another win in the field of banking.

"In a wider sense the same subject matter can be rewarded one year after another, but it is more common that this is not the case," Mikael Carlsson, professor of economics at Uppsala University in Sweden explained.



French economist Thomas Piketty is among the favorites to pick up the Nobel

prize.

Carlson added that he thought the work of Japan's Nobuhiro Kiyotaki and Briton John H. Moore could be given the nod.

Their "research, which has provided information, among other things, on interest rate cycles and real estate markets, is well placed this year, very topical issues," Dahlen noted.

Analytics group Clarivate, which keeps an eye on potential Nobel science laureates, suggests Frenchman Thomas Piketty, who rose to prominence with his book "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," is another favorite.

Frequently featured in prize discussions in recent years, Piketty could be honored together with his compatriot Gabriel Zucman and Franco-American Emmanuel Saez.

The institute, which bases its predictions on the number of citations from researchers, also floated the names of Americans Raj Chetty, a specialist on the conditions of economic opportunity and [social mobility](#), and Edward L. Glaeser for his analysis of urban economics.

False Nobel

Frenchman Philippe Aghion, the Americans George Loewenstein, Kenneth Rogoff and Carmen Reinhart are also among the academics often considered to be worthy of the prize.

Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu is also often a top name, potentially paired with Russian-American Andrei Shleifer.

Magnus Henrekson of the Research Institute of Industrial Economics in Sweden told AFP "it's doubtful they'll dare" to award Schleifer given his Russian origins and the war in Ukraine.



This year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to imprisoned Iranian women's rights campaigner Narges Mohammadi, seen here in 2007.

The economics prize is the only prize not among the original five set out by the will of Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896.

It was instead created through a donation from the Swedish central bank in 1968, and detractors have thus dubbed it "a false Nobel".

However, just like the other science prizes the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decides the winner and finding candidates follows the same process.

Just like all the prizes it comes with a [gold medal](#), a diploma and a prize sum of 11 million Swedish kronor (about \$1 million), and laureates receive their prizes from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a lavish prize ceremony in Stockholm.

The prestigious Peace Prize on Friday went to imprisoned Iranian women's rights campaigner Narges Mohammadi.

Earlier in the week, Norwegian playwright Jon Fosse was rewarded in literature.

The chemistry prize was awarded to Mounqi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov for their work on nanoparticles called quantum dots.

In physics, Anne L'Huillier, Pierre Agostini and Ferenc Krausz were honored for using ultra-quick light flashes that enable the study of electrons inside atoms and molecules.

The medicine prize, the first to be announced, went to a duo—Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman—for their groundbreaking technology that paved the way for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

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