

A PRIZE FOR EXEMPLARY WORK

ON INEQUALITY AND DECISION MAKING



Top 1% Income Share in the U.S.
(including capital gains) 1913–2014
Alvaredo, Facundo, Anthony B. Atkinson, Thomas Piketty
and Emmanuel Saez, The World Top Incomes Database,
<http://topincomes.g-mond.parisschoolofeconomics.eu>

The Tobin Project invites submissions for a \$20,000 prize to be awarded to a junior scholar in recognition of exemplary research on the effects of economic inequality on individual behavior and decision making. A committee of senior scholars will select the winner after evaluating submissions on the basis of their significance, thoughtfulness, novelty, and rigor. Submissions are due on March 5, 2018. (See page 2 for details of the application process.)

Background

How does inequality influence individuals' behavior and decision making, and how might this in turn shape broader social outcomes?

In recent years, economic inequality in the United States has reached heights not seen since the Great Depression. Despite significant time and resources devoted to the study of inequality, the academic and policymaking communities continue to lack a deep understanding of inequality's effects on the health of our economy and our democracy.

The Tobin Project has identified one potentially promising avenue for research that could help resolve these debates. We believe that the academic community may be able to develop and deepen understanding of inequality's broader impact by investigating inequality's effects on individuals.¹ Since 2010, the Tobin Project has worked to further research on the relationship between inequality and decision making by convening and collaborating with leading scholars and inspiring new and innovative work.

As a way to recognize and energize additional work on this topic, the Tobin Project is now awarding a prize for exemplary research on inequality and decision making.

¹ For a review of the literature on inequality's consequences and a discussion of the rationale motivating the Tobin Project's Inequality and Decision Making Initiative see Moss, Thaker, and Rudnick (2013).

Prize Selection Committee

Nancy Adler

Lisa and John Pritzker Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Health and Community at the University of California, San Francisco

Marianne Bertrand

Chris P. Dialynas Distinguished Service Professor of Economics and Co-Director of the Social Enterprise Initiative at the University of Chicago

Christopher Jencks

Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy, Emeritus at the Harvard Kennedy School



Application Process and Submission Criteria

We seek to recognize a junior scholar for a piece of work that has the potential to influence the field of inequality and decision making and contribute to understanding and addressing this critical issue.

ELIGIBILITY

All junior scholars who have completed their graduate studies (post-doctoral fellows through assistant professors) are eligible for the prize. We welcome submissions that draw on any discipline or methodology.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

We ask that each applicant submit the following:

- Curriculum vitae
- Working paper—a paper at any stage of the publication process that addresses research completed within the past year and best represents the applicant's approach to work on inequality and decision making
- Research brief—a 1-2-page, single-spaced document that contextualizes the working paper within the applicant's field, career, body of work, and research interests

While we will review research credited to multiple authors, we ask that all authors interested in and eligible for the prize furnish their own C.V. and research brief. Depending on these submissions, we may award the prize to be shared among the eligible members of a research team.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Tobin Project and the Selection Committee will assess submissions using the following objective criteria:

- Significance of the finding for identifying and understanding the effects of inequality on individual behavior and decision making and more broadly on society
- Rigor of research methodology
- Thoughtfulness of conceptual framework
- Novelty of findings for the academic community
- Significance of findings for the academic community
- Significance of findings for the policy community

Motivated by the belief that rigorous scholarship on major, real-world problems can make a profound difference over the long term, the Tobin Project strives to be a catalyst for transformative research in the social sciences. The mission of the Tobin Project is to mobilize, motivate, and support a community of scholars across the social sciences and allied fields seeking to deepen our understanding of significant challenges facing the nation. Inspired by Professor James Tobin's belief that scholars have a vital role to play in the public sphere, the Tobin Project has built an interdisciplinary network of over 600 leading scholars across 80 universities, from Nobel Laureates to the most promising graduate students, who are working to generate pioneering research on pressing problems of the 21st century. Currently, the Tobin Project is focused on four core research areas: Economic Inequality; Government & Markets; Institutions of Democracy; and National Security. For more information, please visit www.tobinproject.org.

The Tobin Project is a non-partisan organization recognized as a public charity under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 5, 2018.
Please direct submissions and any questions to research@tobinproject.org