

## **CSIC awards its Extraordinary Medal for Scientific Merit to economist Daron Acemoglu**

- The institution will hold the award ceremony next December in recognition of Acemoglu's contributions to the study of institutions and their role in economic development, democracy, and technological progress



Daron Acemoglu during the press conference following the announcement of the 2024 Nobel Prizes

The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), an agency affiliated with the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, has awarded its Extraordinary Medal for Scientific Merit to economist Daron Acemoglu in recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements and exceptional contribution to the advancement of knowledge in economics, political economy, and the study of institutions and economic development. The award ceremony will take place next December.

Throughout his internationally renowned scientific career, Acemoglu has contributed to the understanding of some of the major challenges facing modern societies. In

particular, his research into how political institutions shape economic institutions and, in turn, long-term economic prosperity has provided a key framework for understanding both the success and failure of nations.

In awarding the distinction, the institution has taken into consideration that “at a time when fundamental democratic principles, such as the **rule of law, the protection of fundamental rights, and respect for pluralism**, are facing new challenges in different parts of the world, Daron Acemoglu’s work provides important theoretical insights and analytical tools of great value for informed public debate and public policy design.”

### An internationally renowned career

Acemoglu graduated from the University of York (United Kingdom) in 1989 and received his PhD from the London School of Economics in 1992, where he subsequently taught for a year. In 1993, he joined the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he is currently an Institute Professor.

Throughout his career, he has published more than a hundred articles in leading international journals, including the American Economic Review, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, and the Review of Economic Studies, as well as four books. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the European Economic Association, and the Econometric Society, and has served as editor of Econometrica.

Acemoglu has produced an extensive body of research that has had a major international impact. Among his most influential works is *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, co-authored with James A. Robinson. In the book, they explore the concept of inclusive institutions—institutions that encourage investment and innovation and create a level playing field for individuals and businesses.

Another key area of Acemoglu’s research is technological progress and its economic and social consequences. His work has examined how innovation can transform economies and how its benefits and costs are distributed among different groups within society.

Throughout his career, Acemoglu has received numerous prestigious distinctions, including the John Bates Clark Medal from the American Economic Association in 2005 and the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in 2016. In 2024, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, jointly with Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson, “for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity.”

### The CSIC Extraordinary Medal for Scientific Merit

The CSIC Extraordinary Medal for Scientific Merit recognises individuals or entities that have made exceptional contributions to the advancement of science and technology. Among the individuals who have received this distinction is Spanish biophysicist Eva Nogales, who was awarded the medal in 2024 for her pioneering work in visualising

macromolecular function through cryo-electron microscopy. In addition, the CSIC has granted various recognitions for scientific excellence to figures such as British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who was honoured in 1989; American Nobel laureate Roy J. Glauber, in 2008; Colombian neuroscientist Rodolfo Llinás, in 2012; astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell, in 2015; Nobel Prize-winning physicist Donna Strickland, in 2023; and physicist Juan Ignacio Cirac, in 2025.

**CSIC Comunicación**[comunicacion@csic.es](mailto:comunicacion@csic.es)