

# Abhijit Banerjee

UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Panel years: 2013-2015

Born: 1961

Age at nomination: 52

Nationality: Indian, American

## Research Summary

Question	Status	Confidence
Q1 — HLP Job Title at Nomination	Found & Verified	High
Q2 — Education Trajectory	Found & Verified	High
Q3 — Geographical Mobility	Found (unconfirmed)	High
Q4 — Organizational Mobility	Found & Verified	High
Q5 — Sectors of Expertise	Found & Verified	High
Q6 — Professional Networks & Awards	Found & Verified	High
Q7 — Career Domain Classification	Found	High

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## Q1 — HLP Job Title at Nomination

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### Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Year of nomination: 2013 · Age at nomination: 52

#### Analytical Reasoning

Step 1 — Temporal anchoring: The text mentions that in 2013, Abhijit Banerjee was named to a UN panel, which provides a clear temporal marker. Step 2 — Role identification: The text states that Banerjee is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at MIT. Step 3 — Organization identification: The organization linked to this role is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Step 4 — Temporal match assessment: The role is described as 'currently' held, and there is no indication that it ended before 2013. Step 5 — Confidence assessment: The confidence is high because the role is explicitly stated and the temporal marker (2013) is clear.

Confidence: high · Primary source: en.wikipedia.org · Verified by 3 independent source(s)

*"Banerjee is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;"*

Q2 — Education Trajectory

Geographic reach: Global North & South · Prestige: Elite & peripheral · Disciplines: economics

Degrees & Credentials

Degree	Field	Institution	Country	Year
BSc	economics	Presidency College	India	—
MA	economics	Jawaharlal Nehru University	India	—
PhD	economics	Harvard University	USA	1988

Bold entries indicate elite institutions.

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified degrees from the text - BSc from Presidency College, MA from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and PhD from Harvard University. Step 2: Determined countries for each institution - India for Presidency College and Jawaharlal Nehru University, USA for Harvard University. Step 3: Classified institutions as Global North (Harvard) and Global South (Presidency College, Jawaharlal Nehru University). Step 4: Classified Harvard as elite and the Indian institutions as peripheral. Step 5: Synthesized disciplines as economics. Confidence is high due to explicit information in the text.

Confidence: high · Primary source: en.wikipedia.org · Verified by 2 independent source(s)

"Alma mater Presidency College (BSc) Jawaharlal Nehru University ( MA ) Harvard University ( PhD )"

### Q3 — Geographical Mobility

Countries of residence / employment:  
India, USA

Location Detail

City	Country	Period	Role / Context
Mumbai	India	1961-1980s	Born and early life
Kolkata	India	1980s	Education at Presidency College
New Delhi	India	1980s	Education at Jawaharlal Nehru University
Cambridge	USA	1980s-1988	PhD at Harvard University
Princeton	USA	1988-1992	Work at Princeton University
Cambridge	USA	1992-1993	Work at Harvard University
Cambridge	USA	1993-present	Work at MIT

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified locations mentioned in connection with Abhijit Banerjee's work, career, or residence.  
Step 2: Filtered locations based on likely duration of 6+ months. Step 3: Assigned approximate year ranges based on available context. Step 4: Assessed confidence levels. Step 5: Compiled de-duplicated country list.

Confidence: high · Primary source: en.wikipedia.org · Verified by 0 independent source(s)

## Q4 — Organizational Mobility

Domain distribution: 8 academic · 1 civil\_society · 2 international

### Career Positions

Title	Organisation	Period	Domain	Type
<b>Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics</b>	<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</b>	null	academic	Primary
<b>Founding Director</b>	<b>Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)</b>	null	academic	Primary
Member	U.N. Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda	null	international	Secondary
Research Fellow	National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)	null	academic	Secondary
Research Fellow	Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)	null	academic	Secondary
Research Fellow	Kiel Institute for the World Economy	null	academic	Secondary
Research Fellow	American Academy of Arts and Sciences	null	academic	Secondary
Research Fellow	Econometric Society	null	academic	Secondary
Trustee	Save the Children USA	null	civil_society	Secondary
Chair	Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel	null	international	Secondary
<b>Former President</b>	<b>Bureau for Research in the Economic Analysis of Development</b>	null	academic	Primary

Bold entries are primary (full-time) positions.

### Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified roles include Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at MIT, Founding Director of J-PAL, member of U.N. Secretary-General's High-level Panel, research fellowships at NBER, CEPR, Kiel Institute, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Econometric Society, Trustee of Save the Children USA, Chair of the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel, and former President of the Bureau for Research in the Economic Analysis of Development. Step 2: Organizations were explicitly named for each role. Step 3: Approximate periods were not provided for most roles, except for the Nobel Prize in 2019. Step 4: Classified domains based on the nature of each organization. Step 5: Assessed prominence based on the description of each role.

Confidence: high · Primary source: leighbureau.com · Verified by 2 independent source(s)

*"Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee is a Nobel Prize winner and the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."*

## Q5 — Sectors of Expertise

Primary Sector

DEVELOPMENT

All Identified Sectors

Sector	Evidence	Prominence
development	Founded J-PAL, research in development economics, Nobel Prize for alleviating global poverty, served on UN post-2015 development agenda panel.	Primary
education	Co-Chair of J-PAL's Education sector, Chair of the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel.	Secondary
global health	Chair of the Global Advisory Board for Covid-19 Response of the government of West Bengal.	Secondary
government	Co-Chair of J-PAL's Innovations in Government Initiative.	Secondary

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified sectors based on roles, research focus, awards, and sector-specific activities. Step 2: Linked evidence to each sector. Step 3: Assessed prominence based on depth and breadth of engagement. Step 4: Mapped sectors to standard taxonomy labels.

Confidence: high · Primary source: povertyactionlab.org · Verified by 1 independent source(s)

*"His areas of research are development economics and economic theory."*

## Q6 — Professional Networks & Awards

### Affiliations & Memberships

Organisation	Type	Period
Bureau for the Research in the Economic Analysis of Development	advisory	past
National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)	fellowship	—
Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)	fellowship	—
Kiel Institute	fellowship	—
American Academy of Arts and Sciences	membership	—
Econometric Society	membership	—
Guggenheim Foundation	fellowship	—
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	fellowship	—
UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda	advisory	—
Save the Children USA	board	—
Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel	advisory	—
Global Advisory Board for Covid-19 Response of the government of West Bengal	advisory	—

### Awards & Distinctions

Award	Awarding Body	Year
<b>Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel</b>	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	2019
<b>Infosys Prize in Social Sciences and Economics</b>	Infosys Science Foundation	2009
<b>Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year</b>	Goldman Sachs	—

### Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified affiliations outside primary employment. Step 2: Identified significant awards. Step 3: Classified each affiliation into appropriate type. Step 4: Assigned periods where available.

Confidence: high · Primary source: povertyactionlab.org · Verified by 2 independent source(s)



## Q7 — Career Domain Classification

# ACADEMIC

**Classification confidence:** high

### Evidence by Domain

**ACADEMIC:** Primary roles as professor and director at MIT and J-PAL, numerous academic fellowships, and prestigious awards like the Nobel Prize.

**CIVIL SOCIETY:** Secondary roles as trustee of Save the Children and advisory roles in development and global health.

**INTERNATIONAL:** Advisory roles in UN panels and global initiatives.

### Analytical Reasoning

Step 1 — Jobs review: Abhijit Banerjee's primary roles are heavily academic, including Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at MIT and Founding Director of J-PAL. Secondary roles include academic fellowships and advisory positions in international and civil society organizations. Step 2 — Duration weighting: His academic roles span decades, particularly at MIT since 1993, while other roles are shorter-term or advisory. Step 3 — Sectors cross-check: His primary sector is development, which aligns with academic and civil society domains. Secondary sectors like education and global health also reinforce academic and civil society ties. Step 4 — Networks cross-check: His affiliations are predominantly academic (NBER, CEPR, Econometric Society) with some international and civil society advisory roles (UN, Save the Children). Awards like the Nobel Prize further cement his academic standing. Step 5 — Dominant domain identification: The academic domain is overwhelmingly dominant. Step 6 — Hybrid test: While there are secondary roles in international and civil society, they do not meet the threshold for a hybrid classification.

This classification is synthesised from Q1–Q6 outputs using an LLM reasoning step. It reflects the overall career pattern, not any single role.