



## SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation  
The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa,  
conferred on Dr. Esther Duflo  
Thursday, October 5, 2023

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around the world. 1

Educated in economics and history in France, Dr. Duflo completed her PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999. There, she went on to found the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab and now serves as the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics. Her lifelong focus on understanding the lives of the world's poorest people and the economic choices available to them has greatly influenced international policymaking in many different fields including education, health and medicine, finance, and the adoption of new technologies. 1 1

Dr. Duflo's innovative research methods allow her to rigorously field test a range of interventions to tackle specific problems that contribute to poverty. In Kenya, for example, she demonstrated how combatting teacher absenteeism and adapting teaching methods to student needs could improve educational outcomes for children. In India, her research helped determine the most cost effective immunization program and eventually leading to improved vaccine access. And in sub-Saharan Africa, her research looked at how to incentivize smallholder farmers to adopt modern technologies that would greatly benefit their crops and livelihood. 1

Dr. Duflo is the author of five highly acclaimed books, including *Poor Economics* and *Good Economics for Hard Times*. She also served as 1