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Harvard economist Raj Chetty elected 2019 fellow of prestigious society

By a Staff Writer

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Raj Chetty, an economist at Harvard, has been elected as one of the five 2019 Fellows of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS), one of the nation's oldest and most distinguished learned societies, it was announced recently.

Chetty is the William A. Ackman Professor of Public Economics at Harvard University. Chetty's work on topics ranging from tax policy and unemployment insurance to education and affordable housing has been widely cited in academia, among policymakers and in the press.

An economist, whose innovative uses of "big data" has transformed understanding of disadvantage and economic mobility among American youth, Chetty's work has illuminated the "decline of American economic mobility, the impact of race on a child's economic prospects, and other cracks in the American dream," according to the Harvard Gazette.

“The annual election of a small number of exceptionally distinguished scholars as Academy Fellows never fails to remind us that social science, at its best, is constantly expanding its knowledge base and, on that foundation, honoring its social responsibility as an agent of improvement,” said Kenneth Prewitt, Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs at Columbia University and President of the AAPSS. “It is a pleasure to again celebrate this win-win moment in the life of the Academy,” Prewitt said.

The other fellows for 2019 include Paul Krugman, an economist with expertise in trade and finance, and a columnist at the New York Times. Krugman received the 2008 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for his work on international trade theory.
