

December 9, 2025

SIMON JOHNSON is the Ronald A. Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he is head of the Global Economics and Management group. At MIT, he is also co-director of the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Center on Inequality and Shaping the Future of Work and a Research Affiliate at Blueprint Labs.

In December 2024, Johnson received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel, joint with Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, “for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity.”

In 2007-08, Johnson was chief economist and director of the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund. He currently co-chairs the CFA Institute Systemic Risk Council with Erkki Liikanen. He is a Research Associate at the NBER and a Fellow at CEPR.

Johnson’s most recent book, with Daron Acemoglu, *Power and Progress: Our 1000-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity*, explores the history and economics of major technological transformations up to and including the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence. *Power and Progress* has been published in about 20 languages around the world. It was long listed for the 2023 Financial Times and Schroders Book of the Year and for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction, and it was shortlisted for the 2024 Lionel Gelber Prize. Johnson draws on this research as an unpaid adviser to the British government on the question of how Artificial Intelligence can be used to create more good jobs and boost shared prosperity.

His previous book, with Jonathan Gruber, *Jump-Starting America: How Breakthrough Science Can Revive Economic Growth and the American Dream*, explained how to create millions of good new jobs around the U.S., through renewed public investment in research and development. This proposal attracted bipartisan support, as reflected in the 2022 Chips and Science Act.

Johnson was previously a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C., a cofounder of BaselineScenario.com, a member of the Congressional Budget Office’s Panel of Economic Advisors, and a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s Systemic Resolution Advisory Committee. From July 2014 to early 2017, Johnson was a member of the Financial Research Advisory Committee of the U.S. Treasury’s Office of Financial Research (OFR), within which he chaired the Global Vulnerabilities Working Group. From February 2021 to March 2025, Johnson was a member of the board of directors of Fannie Mae, where he was at various times vice chair of the audit committee, vice chair of the compensation committee, and a member of the risk and capital committee. Building on this extensive experience, Johnson is currently (unpaid) co-chair of the academic advisory board for Better Markets, an organization that advocates for more effective financial regulation and higher levels of loss-absorbing equity capital for banks.

“The Quiet Coup” received over a million views when it appeared in *The Atlantic* in early 2009. His book *13 Bankers: the Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown* (with James Kwak), was an immediate bestseller and has become one of the mostly highly regarded books on the financial crisis. Their follow-up book on U.S. fiscal policy, *White House Burning: The Founding Fathers, Our National Debt, and Why It Matters for You*, won praise across the political spectrum. Johnson’s academic research papers on long-term economic development, corporate finance, political economy, and public health are widely cited.

“For his articulate and outspoken support for public policies to end too-big-to-fail”, Johnson was named a *Main Street Hero* by the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) in 2013. In 2024, the work of Johnson and his colleagues during the COVID pandemic was recognized by the Nursing Home Association of Massachusetts. And on July 4th, 2025, the Carnegie Corporation of New York honored Johnson as one of its *Great Immigrants*, “an extraordinary group of immigrants who have made notable contributions to the progress of American society.”

Johnson has a B.A. from the University of Oxford, an M.A. from the University of Manchester, and a Ph.D. from MIT. He held a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University (1989-91) and was junior faculty at Duke University (1991-96). In 2025 he was elected an honorary fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he studied as an undergraduate, 1981-84. In December 2025 he was elected a member of the Royal Economic Society.