

This year's recipient of the Johan Skytte Prize is David D. Laitin, Stanford University. Illustration: Anna Ileby

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David D. Laitin is awarded the Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science

David D. Laitin, Stanford University, is this year's recipient of the Johan Skytte Prize, known by many as the 'Nobel Prize in Political Science'. Professor Laitin is awarded the prize for his "original and objective explanation of how politics shapes cultural strategies in heterogeneous societies."

David Laitin is an influential comparative politics scholar, recognised for his research on the relationship between culture and politics. Laitin has made 'culture', often the junk drawer of political science studies, studiable and

concrete by identifying various cultural components of a nation's inner life: language, religion, art and literature or family life. Central to his thinking is that these cultural components do not have to easily reinforce each other or pull in the same direction. These 'spheres' can co-exist without coinciding. Laitin's fieldwork experience spans diverse contexts from Somalia and Nigeria to Catalonia in post-Franco Spain, post-Soviet Estonia and France. His mixed-method research has broad implications for the study of identity, ethnic relations, integration, conflict and migration. Laitin has also contributed to debates about the relationship between qualitative and quantitative methods and is recognised for his views on the compatibility of political ethnography and game theory.

A virtual prize award ceremony will take place on 1 October 2021.

About the Johan Skytte Prize

In 1622, Johan Skytte, then Vice-Chancellor of the University, established the Johan Skytte chair in Eloquence and Government, which is probably the world's oldest active professorship in political science. The lands included in the original donation continue to finance research and the Johan Skytte Prize. The prize money of SEK 500,000 is awarded every year by the Skytte Foundation at Uppsala University to the person who has made the "most valuable contribution to political science."

[Read more about the prize on the Skytte Foundation's website.](#)

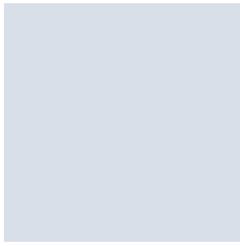
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