

# The Nobel Prize for Economics to Amartya Sen, a Philosopher Economist

by Diana Baroni

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It's like having won something, about the "Lottery of the Fate". The Nobel for Economy to Amartya Sen gives me this sensation. It's like to breath more freely: an authorisation to hope for the future.

For these few people like us, who, even if alone, sees the human people, all, as protagonists, values and not as problems to be delegated to governments, this Nobel is a wonderful event. It's a signal of changing age, that takes the Humanity back in the centre of thought, that joins the break between umanistic and scientific thought, as we since a long time and laboriously augur.

The Nobel Commission prizes a man who doesn't passively support, leaning on "numbers", the spirit of the age, full of prejudices and clichè (and crashes in the practice) about the Market, absolute ruler of our lives. Poor lifes, in this situation, also in rich countries, lifes reduced to the Lewinsky's and to the Berlusconi's, flattened like soles on the mephitical sand of different conformities (that remain banalities even if re-confirmed and recycled every day, with emphasis as great discoveries, as great universal principles of wisdom). Lifes that are deprived of any philosophical and political enlightenments: thus even the Pope appears a revolutionary, because he makes an encyclical about the necessity of bringing togheter Faith and Reason. The fact that the Commission, I was saying, awards instead a countercurrent position, and also uncomfortable for the dominer Countries, a completely human conception, not even very famous (even if probably now a lot of people will say they knew it), that talks about welfare State, liberation of people who haven't any choise, solution of big problems like the hunger through the conscious and active partecipation of all singles, makes us exult.

Perhaps, the efforts we are doing for opening debates and discussions about the opportunities of our immediat future, the conception we support on TdF, that promotes the currently alive humans as precious resource and not as a burdening load on the shoulder of Earth, with a Nobel-prize pushing in the same direction, are going to have greatly enlarged probabilities. This Nobel-prize will oblige the different "operators" to compare themselves with a philosophical, before than economical, conception, based on the people, or rather, on the free people. And people means also females, children, all people in their different ages and conditions, in their different Countries and Cultures. I sudden think that the economist we used to see, often as a guest in TV programs, could quietly discuss market, development, cuts in welfare State, etc. remaining totally out from any responsibilities as regards the human condition of a lot of people (for instance, women in the majority of the world and poors in general) remaining, let's say, innocent like an hangman, who kills because this is his job, thinking to defeate delinquency. By the way, how can someone choose certain strange jobs that surely exist and have certain effects in the reality, i don't speak only about hangmen, but that don't appear in professional registers and in employment exchange? But how shall they deal with Sen's ideas? Shall they relinquish their economical prescriptions or their innocence? Yes, because Sen obliges to wisdom, to a social, political, philosophical and economical engagement.

At last, it could only benefit. Let's hope that the human self-respect is going to win! Make room at humanity!

Thank you very much Royal Accademy of Stockholm, for this Nobel-prize to Amartya Sen, thanks by who, like me, now feels him-self not so fool and powerless, with more right of citizenship in this age and in this world.

And thanks, surely, to Sen for having always persisted in thinking by his head, making all us more free.

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## Amartya Kumar Sen's CV

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Lament University Professor, Harvard University, and Professor of Economics and of Philosophy, Harvard University

From January 1998: Raster, Trinity College, Cambridge

HenshiD Address Education November 3, 1933, Santiniketan, India Indian

Department of Economics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA (until June 1998)

Master, Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 ITQ, UK (from 1998)

Presidency College, Calcutta (B.A. 1953)

Trinity College, Cambridge (B.A. 1955, H.A. 1959, Ph.D.1959)

### Cambridge Universit Prizes and Awards:

- Adam Smith Prize, 1954,
- Wrenbury Scholarship 1955,
- Stevenson Prize, 1956

### Trinity College prizes an awards:

- Senior Scholarship, 1954,
- Research Scholarship, 1955,
- Prize Fellowship, 1957.

### Professional elections ad awards:

- President, The Econometric Society, 1984
- President, The International Economic Association, 1986-89
- President, The Indian Economic Association, 1989
- President, The American Economic Association, 1994
- Fellow of the British Academy Fellow of the Econometric Society
- Honorary Fellow of Trinity College

- Cambridge Foreign Honorary Member
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- Member of the American Philosophical Association
- Honorary D Litt., Honorary D Litt., University of Saskatchewan, Canada, 1979
- Honorary D.U., Visva-Bharati University, India, 1983
- Honorary D.Sc., Essex University, U.K., 1984
- University of Bath, U.K., 1984
- Docteur Honoris Causa, University of Caen, France, 1987
- Dottore ad Honorem, University of Bologna, Italy, 1988
- Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa, Georgetown University, USA, 1989
- Docteur Honoris Causa, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, 1989
- Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa, Tulane University, USA, 1990
- Honorary D Litt., Honorary D Litt., Jadavpur University, India, 1990
- Honorary D. Litt., Kalyani University, India, 1990
- London Guildhall University, UK, 1991
- Honorary Doctorate, Athens University of Economics and Business, 1991
- Honorary D. Litt., Williams College, USA, 1991
- Honorary D. Litt., New School for Social Research, USA, 1992
- Honorary D. Litt., Calcutta University, India, 1993
- Honorary D. Litt., Oberlin College, USA, 1993
- Honorary Doctor of Law, Queen's University, Canada, 1993
- Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Valencia, Spain, 1994
- Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Zurich, Switzerland, 1994
- Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Syracuse University, USA, 1994
- Doctor Honoris Causa, Antwerp University, Belgium, 1995
- Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Wesleyan University, 1995
- Honorary Doctor of Science, Edinburgh University, UK, 1995
- Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa, Oxford University, 1996
- Doctor of Philosophy Honoris Causa, University of Stockholm, 1996
- Doctor Honoris Causa, Bard College, 1997
- Doctor Honoris Causa, Kiel University, 1997

[source: Harvard University]