



Marina Halac Recipient of the 2016 Elaine Bennett Research Prize

Marina Halac, Associate Professor of Business and Economics at Columbia University and Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick, is the recipient of the 2016 Elaine Bennett Research Prize. Established in 1998, the Elaine Bennett Research Prize recognizes and honors outstanding research in any field of economics by a woman not more than seven years beyond her Ph.D.

Professor Halac will formally accept the Prize at the Business Meeting and Award Ceremony of the American Economic Association (AEA) Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP), held during the 2017 AEA/ASSA Meeting in Chicago, IL. The event is scheduled for 3:00-4:30 PM on January 7, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency.

Marina Halac is recognized for her impressive contributions to microeconomic theory, and to our understanding of dynamic incentives and agency problems. Her research in contract theory and game theory focuses on how incentives are shaped by the information environment. She has developed theoretical models to study issues such as the structure and dynamics of employment relationships, the problem of how to motivate experimentation and innovation, and the design of fiscal rules to constrain government spending. Her work on relational contracting, which studies the optimal design of self-enforcing contracts in a principal-agent setting where the value of the relationship is not commonly known, opens up new areas of inquiry and suggests ways of making dynamic contracting problems with bargaining analytically tractable. In other work, she examines the credibility of management systems, and the role of reputation in maintaining high productivity equilibria. In general, Professor Halac's work approaches complex, dynamic, non-standard agency problems with analytical rigor and generates implications for policy and for empirical testing.

Professor Halac received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 2009 and currently serves on the editorial boards of two journals. Her publication record is exemplary, and includes five papers in top five journals. Her work is also well-cited and influential. In addition to her outstanding research, Professor Halac is described as "an award-winning teacher, a noted provider of public goods, and a spectacular colleague" who is much in demand as a speaker at seminars and conferences.

The Elaine Bennett Research Prize is given in memory of Elaine Bennett, who made significant contributions to economic theory and experimental economics during her short professional career, and who mentored many women economists at the start of their careers. Previous winners of this prize are: Emi Nakamura (Columbia University), Anna Mikusheva (MIT), Erica Field (Duke University), Amy Finkelstein (MIT), Monika Piazzesi (Stanford University), Marianne Bertrand (University of Chicago), Esther Duflo (MIT), Susan Athey (Stanford University), and Judith Chevalier (Yale University).

CSWEP is a standing committee of the American Economic Association charged with promoting the careers and monitoring the progress of women economists. It sponsors mentoring and networking activities, conducts an annual survey of economics departments, and distributes professional development materials and career advice. CSWEP endeavors to raise awareness of the challenges that are unique to women's careers in economics and of best practices for increasing diversity in the economics profession.

For further information, please contact:

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