

## THE SVERIGES RIKSBANK PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES 2023

### CLAUDIA GOLDIN

Network 18  
creative



Claudia Goldin  
Source: wikipedia.org

***“the last chapter”***



Dear Readers,

I am delighted while releasing the third issue of Economics Quest by Department of Economics, Durgapur Government College.

Economics Quest highlights important aspects of Economics as a discipline.

Economics Quest in its debut issue also assembles the activities of the Department of Economics.

I wish best wishes to all the readers of Economics Quest!

Dr Anjan Ray Chaudhury

HoD, Department of Economics

Claudia Goldin is an American economic historian and a professor at Harvard University. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2023 for her pioneering research on women's labor market outcomes. In this essay, I will summarize some of her main contributions and their implications for society.

Goldin's research has provided a comprehensive account of how and why women's earnings and employment rates have changed over time, from the 18th century to the present day. She has used historical data from various sources, such as census records, tax returns, and surveys, to document the patterns and drivers of gender differences in the labor market.

One of her key findings is that women's participation in the labor market did not have a steady upward trend, but rather a U-shaped curve. She showed that women's work outside the home declined with the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society in the early 19th century, as men's wages rose and women's domestic responsibilities increased. However, women's labor force participation started to rise again with the growth of the service sector and the expansion of education in the 20th century. Goldin explained this pattern as the result of structural change and evolving social norms regarding women's roles in the family and the society.

Another important contribution of Goldin is her analysis of the impact of the contraceptive pill on women's education and career choices. She demonstrated that access to the pill in the 1960s and 1970s enabled young women to delay marriage and childbearing, and invest more in their human capital. This led to a significant increase in women's college enrollment and graduation rates, especially in fields that required longer and more specialized training, such as law, medicine, and business. Goldin argued that the pill was a key factor in closing the gender gap in education and opening up new opportunities for women in the labor market.

However, Goldin also showed that despite the remarkable progress of women in education and employment, the gender gap in earnings persisted and even widened for some groups of women in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. She found that the main source of this gap was not differences in education or occupation, but rather differences in hours worked and flexibility demanded by employers. She coined the term "the last chapter" to describe the remaining gender gap that arises from the unequal division of household and childcare responsibilities between men and women, and the high penalty for working part-time or taking career breaks. She proposed that the solution to this problem lies in changing the structure and culture of work, such as reducing the returns to long and inflexible hours, and promoting more family-friendly policies and practices.

Goldin's research has greatly enhanced our understanding of women's role in the economy and the society, and the challenges and opportunities they face in achieving equality and empowerment. Her work has also inspired and influenced many other scholars and policymakers in the field of gender and development. She is widely regarded as one of the most influential and innovative economists of our time, and a deserving recipient of the Nobel Prize.



Source: Deutschland.de

COP28 is the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 13 December 2023. The conference aimed to bring together world leaders and other stakeholders to discuss and agree on actions to limit and adapt to global warming. In this essay, I will summarize the main outcomes and challenges of COP28, and their implications for the future of climate action.

The COP28 conference was preceded by a series of extreme weather events that highlighted the urgency and severity of the climate crisis. These included record-breaking heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires, and storms that affected millions of people around the world. The scientific consensus was clear: human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels, were the main drivers of climate change, and the window of opportunity to avoid the worst impacts was rapidly closing.

The main goal of COP28 was to finalize the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which was adopted at COP21 in 2015. The Paris Agreement is a global pact that aims to limit the rise in global average temperature to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. To achieve this, countries are expected to submit and update their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are their plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change.

However, COP28 faced several challenges and controversies, both before and during the conference. One of the main issues was the choice of the host country, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is one of the world's largest oil producers and emitters. The UAE appointed Sultan Al Jaber, the CEO of the state-owned oil company, as the COP28 president, raising concerns over his potential conflict of interest and influence on the negotiations. Moreover, leaked documents suggested that the UAE planned to use the conference to strike new fossil fuel deals with other countries, undermining the credibility and integrity of the COP process.

Another challenge was the lack of ambition and commitment from some of the major emitters, such as China, India, and the US, to align their NDCs with the 1.5°C goal. Despite the pressure from the scientific community and the civil society, these countries did not announce any significant new targets or actions to reduce their emissions and support the developing countries in their transition to low-carbon development. Instead, they opted for vague and conditional pledges that left many loopholes and uncertainties.

Despite these difficulties, COP28 managed to produce some positive outcomes and breakthroughs. For the first time, the conference agreement explicitly recognized the need to "transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems" in a "just, orderly and equitable manner". This was seen as a historic acknowledgment of the role of fossil fuels in driving climate change, and the need to shift to renewable and clean energy sources. However, the agreement did not specify a timeline or a mechanism for this transition, and some countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Russia, resisted the use of the term "phase out" instead of "phase down".

Another achievement was the global targets to triple the capacity of renewable energy and double the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030. These targets were based on the recommendations of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and were supported by a coalition of countries, businesses, and organizations. The agreement also called for the acceleration of low- and zero-emission technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, hydrogen, and nuclear power, as well as the elimination of harmful subsidies for fossil fuels.

Furthermore, COP28 made some progress on the issues of adaptation, finance, and loss and damage. The agreement reaffirmed the commitment of the developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2025 to support the developing countries in their climate action. It also increased the share of adaptation finance to at least 50% of the total climate finance, and established a new fund for loss and damage, which are the irreversible and unavoidable impacts of climate change. However, these measures were still considered insufficient and inadequate by many developing countries, especially the small island states and the least developed countries, which are the most vulnerable and affected by climate change.

In conclusion, COP28 was a mixed bag of successes and failures, hopes and frustrations, compromises and controversies. The conference delivered some important steps forward, but also left many gaps and challenges unresolved. The ultimate test of COP28 will be the implementation and enforcement of the agreement, and the willingness and ability of the countries to increase their ambition and action in the coming years. The next COP, which will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2024, will be a crucial opportunity to review and enhance the NDCs, and to ensure that the world is on track to achieve the Paris Agreement goals and avert a climate catastrophe.

## Paradox of Value



The water diamond paradox is an economic concept that explains why diamonds are more expensive than water, even though water is more essential for survival. It is based on the idea of marginal utility, which means the additional benefit or satisfaction that a person gets from consuming one more unit of a good or service. The more a person consumes of a good, the less marginal utility they get from it. For example, the first glass of water that a person drinks in a day has a very high marginal utility, because it quenches their thirst and keeps them alive. But the tenth glass of water has a very low marginal utility, because it does not add much to their well-being. On the other hand, diamonds have a very low total utility, because they are not necessary for survival, but they have a very high marginal utility, because they are rare and desirable. Therefore, people are willing to pay more for diamonds than for water, even though water has a higher total utility.

# Department News

Annual sports in college are an important part of the academic and co-curricular activities that aim to promote physical fitness, mental health, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the students and staff.

Durgapur Government College organized its annual sports for the students on 14 December 2023 and 15 December 2023 at the college sports ground. The event was attended by the principal, the teachers, the non-teaching staff, and the students of various departments.

The annual sports began with the preliminary rounds of various events, such as athletics, football, volleyball, discus throw, badminton etc. to select the finalists. The finalists then competed in the final rounds, which started after the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, the inaugural song, the oath-taking, and the special remark by the principal. The principal encouraged the students to participate in sports with enthusiasm, spirit, and discipline, and to enjoy the event as a celebration of their talents and abilities.

The final rounds of the events were exciting and competitive, as the students displayed their skills and performance in different sports. The students cheered for their respective teams and departments, and created a lively and festive atmosphere.

The students of the department of Economics performed outstandingly showing true sportsmanship spirit. Waris Chisty of third semester Economics program grabbed second position in discus throw and Swastika das of first semester Economics UG bagged second position in badminton. The department's volleyball team were the runner's up in the inter department volleyball event.

The annual sports event of the college was a memorable and enjoyable event for everyone. It showcased the spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, and excellence among the students and the staff. It also provided an opportunity for the students to showcase their talents and skills, and to develop their physical and mental well-being.



# Some Snapshots of Annual Sports 2023







THANKS FOR READING!