



SOCIETY FOR PROGRESS

For release: 9 October 2025

Academic society awards 7 Progress Medals for exemplary stewardship and scholarship inspiring economic actors worldwide to better integrate economic performance with fairness, well-being, and nature. (www.societyforprogress.org)

Fontainebleau, France – 9 October 2025. The Society for Progress, an intellectually diverse and independent working group of social scientists, philosophers, and business leaders from around the world, has awarded for the fourth time a set of medals for pioneering contributions to theory and practice in shaping the economic system to better integrate fairness, well-being, and nature.

Reflecting the quest and efforts for a more evolved paradigm and practice of capitalism, the 2025 Progress Medals honor contributions by three scholars and four leaders. The laureates are honored with a gold medal, a formal certificate, and, for scholars, a cash award, all funded by donors from around the world.

The seven 2025 Progress Medal laureates (in alphabetical order) and their contributions are as follows:

- For pushing the frontiers of knowledge, policy, and practice on cohesive families and vibrant communities as primary platforms for enhancing well-being, demography, and inclusion, the Society awards a Progress Medal to **Dr. Mugheer Al Khaili**, member of the Executive Council and head of the Department of Community Development, Abu Dhabi.
- For pioneering research on hybrid organizing as a social technology integrating economic and moral logics, and for underscoring the intentional construction of a corresponding organizational identity, the Society awards a Progress Medal to **Julie Battilana**, a professor with joint appointments at the Harvard Business School and the Harvard Kennedy School in Massachusetts, USA.
- For his daring and innovative commitment to defend and advance, from within the private enterprise system, the rights and interests of humans and nature, the Society awards a Progress Medal to **Andrew Forrest**, founder and

executive chairman of Fortescue, a metals, energy, and technology group with major operations in Australia and elsewhere.

- For codifying morality as a communicative process in which consultation, exchange, and understanding are fundamental acts that enable and legitimate collective choice and action, the Society awards a Progress Medal to **Jürgen Habermas**, the German philosopher and social theorist.
- For pioneering research on social entrepreneurs as architectural innovators who advance well-being and sustainability by activating community, engaging democratically, and creating markets, the Society awards a Progress Medal to **Johanna Mair**, professor of organization and leadership at the Hertie School in Berlin, Germany.
- For pioneering a progressive practice of capitalism in which disparate stakeholders are mobilized collectively to better integrate people, planet, and profit and to thus reliably reconcile performance & progress, the Society awards a Progress Medal to **Ramon Mendiola**, CEO until recently of FIFCO, a leading producer of beverages and food, headquartered in Costa Rica.
- For the steadfast caring, creativity, and courage to integrate, in a competitive sector, value for customers, well-being for employees, and wealth for shareholders, the Society awards a Progress Medal to **James D. Sinegal**, co-founder and former CEO of Costco Wholesale, a leading retailer in the USA.

The 2025 nomination and award committee was constituted of six members of the Society for Progress: Elizabeth Anderson, Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan; Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy, New York University; Gerald Davis, Professor of Business Administration, University of Michigan; John Meyer, Professor of Sociology, Stanford University; Subramanian Rangan, Professor of Strategy, INSEAD; and S.D. Shibulal, co-founder and former CEO, Infosys.

The Progress Medals were inaugurated in 2016. In keeping with the nature of the project and its global relevance, donor funding for the medals comes from esteemed business leaders and entrepreneurs from around the world. They include Frank Brown and Steven Denning, both formerly of General Atlantic, a leading private equity firm in the United States; Oleg Bagrin, former CEO of NLMK, Russia; Fadi Ghandour, the Jordanian co-founder of Aramex and Wamda; Sunil Munjal, chairman of Hero Group, India; Dr. Babu Padmanabhan, founder and MD at Steer Engineering, a science-based leader in material transformation; Kumari & S.D. Shibulal, patrons of the Sarojini Damodaran Foundation; Ruben Vardanyan, the Armenian-Russian impact investor, social entrepreneur, and co-founder of RVVZ Foundation; and, from Europe, Rolf Abdon, co-founder and former chairman of Grain Millers, Inc.

The Society for Progress was initiated in 2013 by Subi Rangan, professor of

strategy at INSEAD, the global business school, and Ebba Hansmeyer, its founding director. Seminal funding came from ADEK (Abu Dhabi's Department of Education and Knowledge). External donors and INSEAD have since supported the research, meetings, and activities of the Society.

About the Society for Progress

The Society for Progress is an academically diverse and independent group of scholars and leaders. Its work is based on the belief that integrating perspectives from moral philosophy and moral psychology will help evolve the decentralized economic system ("capitalism") in a manner that better integrates market and society, humans and nature, and the present and the future. In particular, the Society aspires to contribute to and catalyze rigorous research on how enterprises and all economic actors may better and more systematically integrate performance and progress (see *Performance & Progress: Essays in Business, Society, and Capitalism*, Oxford University Press, 2015; *Capitalism Beyond Mutuality?*, OUP, 2018; and *Core Assumptions in Business Theory: A Wedge between Performance & Progress*, OUP, 2025). The work of developing better models, methods, and measures for integrating performance and progress can scarcely be accomplished by one mind or even a college of intellectuals. Contributions must come from the best and brightest around the world, and the ideas must be absorbed and developed further not just by policy makers and intellectuals but especially by scholars of enterprise, students of enterprise, and leaders of enterprise. It is in this spirit that the Society for Progress Medals are conceived and awarded.

About INSEAD

INSEAD is one of the world's leading and largest graduate business schools, with campuses and centers in France, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, and San Francisco. The school brings together people, cultures, and ideas to change lives and to transform organizations. A global perspective and diverse viewpoints are reflected in all aspects of the school's research and teaching. INSEAD's ethos is encapsulated in its motto: "The Business School for the World."

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Past & present Fellows of the Society for Progress

Philosophy scholars

Elizabeth Anderson (Michigan)
Anthony Appiah (NYU)
Joshua Cohen (Berkeley/ Apple University)
Michael Fuerstein (St. Olaf)
Philip Kitcher (Columbia)
Susan Neiman (Einstein Forum)
Philip Pettit (Princeton/ Australian National University)
Mathias Risse (Harvard)
David Schmidtz (Arizona)
Amartya Sen (Harvard)
Valerie Tiberius (Minnesota)

Social science scholars

The late Kenneth J. Arrow (Stanford), **2013–2017**
David Autor (MIT)
Jay Barney (Utah)
Julie Battilana (Harvard)
Gerald Davis (Michigan)
Robert Frank (Cornell)
Joshua Greene (Harvard)
Harrison Hong (Columbia)
The late James G. March (Stanford), **2013–2018**
John Meyer (Stanford)
Hilke Plassmann (INSEAD)
Subramanian Rangan (INSEAD)
James Walsh (Michigan)

Business leaders and others

Rabih Abouchakra (Executive director, Office of Development Affairs, UAE Presidential Court)
The late Bertrand Collomb (Former CEO, Lafarge, France), **2013–2019**
Ramon Mendiola (CEO, Florida Ice & Farm Co., Costa Rica)
S.D. Shibulal (Co-founder and former CEO, Infosys, India)
Jim Snabe (Chairman, Siemens; former co-CEO, SAP; board member World Economic Forum)

SFP Founding Director

Ebba Hansmeyer

SFP Administrative Director

Laura Payet