



2016 AWARDS CEREMONY

RESEARCH PRIZE
BEST PRACTICE PRIZE

— **WELCOMING REMARKS** —

Lavinia Jacobs
President of the Board of Trustees

Prof. Dr. Michael Hengartner
Rector of the University of Zurich

— **KEYNOTE SPEECH** —

Thierry Tanoh
*Minister & Secretary General of Economic Affairs and Finance
Côte d'Ivoire*

— **MODERATION** —

Sarah Ward-Lilley
BBC London, UK

— **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS** —

Prof. Dr. Orazio P. Attanasio
*University College London, UK
Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize 2016*

Beatrice Ogutu
*Director ICS-SP, Nairobi, Kenya
2016 Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Prize*

— **FESTIVE DINNER** —



THE KLAUS J. JACOBS AWARDS

In honor of its founder, the entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs, who passed away in 2008, the Jacobs Foundation has awarded two annual prizes since 2009. Endowed with a total of 1.2 million Swiss francs, the awards recognize exceptional achievements in research and practice in the field of child and youth development.

The Research Prize acknowledges scientific work of high social relevance to the development of children and young people. The Jacobs Foundation attaches great importance to scientific findings from interdisciplinary research which can yield practical applications. The Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize is endowed with one million Swiss francs.

The Best Practice Prize recognizes the exceptional commitment of institutions or individuals who put innovative solutions in the field of child and youth development into practice. The Best Practice Prize is worth 200,000 Swiss francs.

INTEGRATED, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN

If they are to grow up healthy and happy, children need a secure, loving environment. For many of the world's children, the reality of their lives is very different. In 2016, UNICEF reported that the poorest children are twice as likely to suffer from chronic malnutrition and to die before reaching their fifth birthday. The outlook is particularly dismal in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, where 247 million children—two out of every three—live in poverty. If this trend continues, by 2030 more than half of the 60 million elementary-school-aged children in these countries will not be enrolled in school, and nine out of ten will be living in extreme poverty.

This inequitable distribution of educational opportunities—with corresponding effects on progress and wealth—is not inevitable, nor is it a problem that cannot be solved. To address this issue, we need better data about the most disadvantaged children. We need a more equitable approach to investment and more involvement by society and community infrastructures in the affected areas. We need integrated, sustainable solutions for children. And we need research that not only studies the effects of early childhood interventions designed to promote health and education, but also explains why certain programs are effective and how they might be implemented in other contexts.

Orazio Attanasio, recipient of the Research Prize, has created, implemented and evaluated development programs for young children in low-income countries. His team was among the first to demonstrate that programs to promote health and education in early childhood can be implemented on a broad scale in such countries. If interventions are to be successful, high quality is crucial. What's more, long-term success requires patience. Attanasio's research has shown that developmental delays can be observed when disadvantaged children are as young as 12 months, and that what happens in every stage of childhood plays an important role. Accordingly, interventions should be carried out in a step-by-step process, with one step building on another.



ICS-SP in Kenya, recipient of the Best Practice Prize, bases its Skilful Parenting program on these insights and takes a unique approach in combining it with training farming families in agricultural methods. Recognizing the importance of parenting throughout a child's development, ICS-SP serves parents of children from birth to the age of 18. It takes into account local attitudes toward parenthood and the family, and makes use of existing community structures to implement its program. So the program is readily accessible to parents, and they are able to relate to its content and recognize its benefits. The successful combined delivery of Skilful Parenting and agribusinesses is geared towards greater productivity, leading to higher incomes for farming families, improved family relationships and increased well-being for children.

The recipients of the Klaus J. Jacobs Awards have shown how integrated, sustainable programs can benefit the world's most disadvantaged children. My sincere congratulations go to Orazio Attanasio and ICS-SP for their important work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Jacobs'.

Lavinia Jacobs
Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jacobs Foundation



Nearly everything young children do is initiated and guided by their parents.

PARENTAL INVESTMENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Orazio Attanasio, recipient of the Research Prize, studies how parental investments influence children's development. ICS-SP, recipient of the Best Practice Prize, works with farming families to improve parenting skills and agricultural skills.

Parents play a crucial role in their children's development. Young children are completely dependent on others for their basic physical and emotional needs—for food, affection, attention and age-appropriate stimulation. Nearly everything

they do is initiated and guided by their parents. The behavior of parents, in turn, is influenced by a wide variety of factors—their goals, resources and preferences, as well as whether or not they believe that their efforts are worthwhile.

In a study of more than 1,400 children in Colombia, Orazio Attanasio has demonstrated the importance of parental investments. Implementing a program he developed, he found that children's gains could be attributed, to a large extent, to increases in the material resources and time their parents invested in them. The program itself did not provide additional resources, but instead encouraged parents themselves to invest in their children.

Similarly, the work of ICS-SP in Kenya and Tanzania focuses on the critical role of parental investments in a child's development, along with support for farming families designed to improve their agricultural practices. As co-founder of the Parenting in Africa Network, ICS-SP has convinced governments, civil society, the private sector and donors in East Africa to prioritize and fund programs for parents. Over the past few years, the topic of parenting has gained political importance in East Africa, and a number of governments are showing more interest in programs for parents as a means of promoting child development.

An evaluation of ICS-SP's parenting program, conducted by Utrecht University, has shown that this approach pays off. The program gives parents a sense of greater competence and leads to a more positive relationship and improved communication between parent and child. Instead of resorting to harsh punishment, these parents are more likely to use positive disciplinary methods.

Researchers have not yet determined precisely how parental investments are translated into developmental outcomes. That information is crucial for the development of effective programs. It is also crucial for identifying windows of opportunity and deciding what aspects of development to focus on during certain stages, and which kinds of investments are most appropriate. We have an enormous opportunity to improve the lives of children around the world by helping parents enhance their childrearing skills and making them aware of the importance and benefits of investing in children. This is the focus of the 2016 Klaus J. Jacobs Awards.

BEYOND IMPACT MEASUREMENT: EXPLAINING AND GENERALIZING INTERVENTION RESULTS

★ RESEARCH PRIZE 2016

Orazio Attanasio develops and evaluates programs in low- and medium-income countries that seek to promote health and education in early childhood. Combining economic models with field experiments, he has broken new ground in the world of research.

For years, economists have used randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to assess the impact of interventions. These experiments, in which individuals or groups are randomly assigned to either a treatment or a control group, help to determine the effect of an intervention and identify causal relationships. To do so, researchers simply compare average outcomes in the treatment and control groups.

Yet RCTs do not yield all of the information needed to gain a more profound understanding of a program or to conduct a meaningful analysis of the relevant political processes. To generalize results beyond the immediate context, and to develop effective policy measures, it is important to know precisely what produces the program's impact. To find out, researchers must model the behavior of individuals or households, as well as the interactions between individuals.

Orazio Attanasio uses economic models to explain the results of randomized controlled trials and generalize them more broadly, which lays the groundwork for implementing successful programs on a wider scale. He used this approach to develop, implement and evaluate an early childhood program in Colombia. Inspired by a successful home-visit program in Jamaica, Attanasio and his



Orazio Attanasio combines economic models and field experiments to assess early child development programs.

team created an early childhood education and nutrition program for one- and two-year-old children from disadvantaged families in 96 Colombian cities, and followed up with the largest-scale evaluation ever undertaken of a program of this kind.

After 18 months, the children's cognitive and language skills had improved significantly. Seeking to explain these results, Attanasio estimated a model of human capital accumulation. He was able to show that the effect was explained largely by the fact that the program encouraged parents to invest more in their children—that is, to spend more time with them and to purchase more toys and books. It became evident that the time parents spend with their children is important for the development of socio-economic skills, and that investments in toys and books play an important role in cognitive development.

For his use of economic models and field experiments to assess and shape early child development programs and policies in low income countries, the Jacobs Foundation is pleased to award the 2016 Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize to Orazio Attanasio.

PROMOTING CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

★ BEST PRACTICE PRIZE 2016

ICS-SP is working to improve the living conditions of children in rural regions of East Africa. To that end, it combines evidence-based parenting training with support for farming families designed to improve their agricultural practices.

According to UNICEF, hitting, yelling and other forms of abuse are a regular part of the lives of many children around the world. Data from 58 countries show that 17 percent of children are beaten by parents or relatives. Three out of ten adults worldwide believe that corporal punishment is an acceptable way to discipline a child. In most countries, these attitudes are found primarily among adults with little education and among very poor families. "In Kenya, two out of every three children are victims of physical violence; in Tanzania, this holds true for nearly 75 percent of all boys and girls," says Beatrice Ogotu, director of ICS-SP.

ICS-SP works with families, communities and other stakeholders to create better living conditions for children so that they can grow up happy and healthy. At the heart of its efforts are programs for parents to prevent violence against children and promote early childhood development. These are coupled with agricultural training programs designed to promote productivity and increase family income. Many farmers are benefiting from this unique combination of economic and social support, and this combined approach is showing success—not only in fighting poverty, but also in promoting early childhood development.

ICS-SP's parenting training reflects a recognition that the only way to change how children are brought up is to change parents' behavior. Under the guidance of trained course leaders, parents learn more about appropriate childrearing methods. In seven modules, which address topics ranging from family relationships and communication to child protective services, parents learn the basics of childrearing and have opportunities to discuss what they have learned. The program places emphasis on parents being good role models for their children. The program is not intended to promote a single approach and is mindful of local attitudes toward parenthood and the family.

A sustainable increase in income, greater knowledge and improved parenting skills change how families function. Higher incomes reduce the stress of poverty and its effects on childrearing; better parenting skills, knowledge of child development, communication and age-appropriate parenting strengthen family cohesion and improve parents' self-concepts, and ultimately have a favorable effect on children's well-being.

In recognition of its unique approach combining evidence-based parenting training with agricultural training for farming families in rural regions of East Africa, the Jacobs Foundation is pleased to present the 2016 Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Prize to ICS-SP.

In ICS-SP courses parents learn the basics of childrearing and have opportunities to discuss what they have learned.



LAUREATES TO DATE

RESEARCH PRIZE

2015 Sarah-Jayne Blakemore for her research on understanding emotional and social brain development during adolescence

2014 Michael J. Meaney for his research on the mechanisms of how parental care becomes embedded in children's biology

2013 Greg J. Duncan for his research on the long-term consequences of poverty in early childhood

2012 Dante Cicchetti in recognition of his research on children's resilience and the effects of adversity on development

2011 Michael Tomasello for his research on the identification of uniquely human forms of collaboration, communication and cultural learning

2010 Terrie E. Moffitt and Avshalom Caspi for their research into the interplay of genetic disposition and environmental influences in child development

2009 Laurence D. Steinberg for his work in the psychopathology, risk-taking and decision-making behavior of young people

BEST PRACTICE PRIZE

Gesamtschule Unterstrass for an innovative social emotional learning project adding social competencies to the Swiss curriculum

SHARPZ for its evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to address the severe needs of trauma affected children and their families in Zambia

ELTERN-AG for its prevention program to support families with young children in particularly difficult circumstances

Off Road Kids Foundation for its nationwide efforts to help young runaways and street children in Germany

Christiane Daepf for developing Ideenbüro, a program for helping schoolchildren to accept responsibility and learn the benefits of cooperation

Opstapje Deutschland e. V. and **a:primo** for their commitment to providing early support for socially disadvantaged children in Germany and Switzerland

Father Johann Casutt for successfully adapting the Swiss model for the vocational training to the needs of young people in Indonesia

JURY FOR THE RESEARCH PRIZE 2016

Professor Jürgen Baumert

*Director Emeritus of the Center for Educational Research,
Max Planck Institute for Human Development Berlin, Germany*

Professor Jere R. Behrman

University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia (PA), USA

Professor Francesco C. Billari

University of Oxford; England

Professor Dorret Boomsma

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; the Netherlands

Professor Uta Frith

University College London; England

Professor Kathleen E. Kiernan

University of York; Heslington (YO), England

Professor Terrie E. Moffitt

Duke University; Durham, USA & King's College London; England

Professor Michael J. Shanahan

Zurich University, Switzerland

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THE JACOBS FOUNDATION

The Jacobs Foundation is active worldwide in the area of child and youth development. The Zurich-based private foundation was established in 1989 by entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs. It is operated according to the vision of its founder, who believed that a society can only experience long-term success when as many of its members as possible are given the chance to receive quality education.

The Jacobs Foundation aims at identifying and supporting the most innovative globally leading researchers in the field of child and youth development. It promotes activities that provide answers to how the living and learning conditions of young people can be designed and supported so that they will become successful members of society.

As far as its methods and approaches are concerned, the Jacobs Foundation is particularly committed to scientific excellence and evidence-based findings, and subscribes to an approach in child and youth development that emphasizes positive development opportunities for young people. This approach covers a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines and approaches that include the psychological, cognitive, emotional, intellectual, social vocational, academic, economic and physical development of children and youth.

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Our Promise to Youth