



**For Immediate Release:**  
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**John T. Dunlop Undergraduate Thesis Prize Winner:  
Dhruva Bhat**

**CAMBRIDGE MA** The Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government (M-RCBG) at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government is pleased to announce the winner of the 2017 John T. Dunlop Prize in Business and Government.

Dhruva Bhat has won for his thesis,

He is a senior at Harvard College and is graduating later this month with an A.B. in Economics.

The John T. Dunlop Thesis Prize in Business and Government is awarded to the graduating senior who writes the best thesis on a challenging public policy issue at the interface of business and government. The prize carries a \$1000 award.

This year's winning thesis examines India's Right to Education Act, which implements a policy of universal education in which all children must attend school from ages 6-14. Counterintuitively, Bhat's analysis finds that the Act has had a negative impact on most measures of literacy and numeracy skills for public school students. The thesis has important policy implications for India and the future success of its over 400 million children.

In explaining why the Center chose to award the John Dunlop prize to Bhat this year, John A. Haigh, executive dean of Harvard Kennedy School and co-director of M-RCBG, said that his "thesis is of significant interest to the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government. It is ambitious and well-executed, and the results are robust, counterintuitive and important for policy...our review committee was impressed with the sophistication of his analysis."

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John T. Dunlop, the Lamont University Professor Emeritus, was a widely respected labor economist who served as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1969 to 1973. An adviser to many U.S. presidents, beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dunlop was secretary of labor under Gerald Ford, serving from March 1975 to January 1976.

In addition to serving as secretary of labor, Dunlop held many other government posts, including: director of the Cost of Living Council, (1973-74), chairman of the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee (1993-95), chair of the Massachusetts Joint Labor-Management Committee for Municipal Police and Firefighters (1977-2003) and Chair of the Commission on Migratory Farm Labor (1984-2003).

Dunlop served as the second director of the Center for Business and Government from 1987 to 1991. The Center, renamed in 2005 as the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, focuses on policy issues at the intersection of business and government. Dunlop died in 2003.