

## MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

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The COVID-19 Pandemic: What Next?

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March 30, 2020 11:00 am - 12:00  
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11:00am

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Simon Johnson

Ronald A Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship  
Professor of Global Economics and Management  
MIT Sloan School of Management

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Simon Johnson is the Ronald A. Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he is also head of the Global Economics and Management group and chair of the Sloan Fellows MBA Program Committee. He cofounded and currently leads the popular Global Entrepreneurship Lab (GLAB) course – over the past 16 years, MBA students in GLAB have worked on more than 500 projects with start-up companies around the world.

He also works closely with Joi Ito, head of MIT's Media Lab, on the Digital Currency Initiative (DCI). Specifically, Johnson supervises research projects related to blockchain technology, and teaches a course (with Michael Casey and Brian Forde) on this fast developing business sector. Johnson is not an investor in bitcoin or any bitcoin-related startups, but he works closely with MIT students and others who want to build better companies.

Johnson is a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C., a cofounder of [BaselineScenario.com](#), and a member since inception of the FDIC's Systemic Resolution Advisory Committee. In July 2014, Johnson joined the Financial Research Advisory Committee of the U.S. Treasury's Office of Financial Research (OFR); he chairs the recently formed Global Vulnerabilities Working Group.

Johnson has been a member of the private sector Systemic Risk Council since it was founded by Sheila Bair in 2012; this group is now chaired by Sir Paul Tucker. From April 2009 to April 2015, he was a member of the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Economic Advisers. In March 2016, Johnson was the third Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Central Bank of Barbados.

"For his articulate and outspoken support for public policies to end too-big-to-fail", Johnson was named a Main Street Hero by the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) in 2013. In April 2015, the Washington Examiner placed Johnson at #11 on their list of New Voices for 2015. In November 2015, Johnson joined the advisory council of Intelligence2 Debates.

Over the past seven years, Johnson has published more than 300 high impact pieces in the New York Times, Bloomberg, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, The New Republic, BusinessWeek, The Huffington Post, The Financial Times, and Project Syndicate.

"The Quiet Coup" received over a million views when it appeared in The Atlantic in early 2009. His book *13 Bankers: the Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown* (with James Kwak), was an immediate bestseller and has become one of the mostly highly regarded books on the financial crisis. Their follow-up book on U.S. fiscal policy, *White House Burning: The Founding Fathers, Our National Debt, and Why It Matters for You*, won praise across the political spectrum. Johnson's academic research on economic development, corporate finance, and political economy is widely cited.

From March 2007 through the end of August 2008, Johnson was the International Monetary Fund's Economic Counsellor (chief economist) and Director of its Research Department. He also helped to found and run the NBER Africa Project; four volumes are forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press.

Johnson holds a B.A. in economics and politics from the University of Oxford, an M.A. in economics from the University of Manchester, and a Ph.D. in economics from MIT.

[View full bio](#)

Join the MIT Industrial Liaison Program for **The COVID-19 Pandemic: What Next?** with MIT Sloan professor and co-chair of the COVID-19 Policy Alliance, [Simon Johnson](#). This one-hour webinar will provide an update on public health in the United States and its implications for the economy. Johnson will also cover various plausible alternative scenarios for reopening the US economy, and will allow ample time for questions and answers.

Yossi Sheffi, Professor of Engineering at MIT and Director of the MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics, has argued in *The Resilient Enterprise: Overcoming Vulnerability for Competitive Advantage* (MIT Press, 2005) that a company's survival and prosperity depend more on what it does before such a disruption occurs than on the actions it takes as the event unfolds. Ten years later, he published *The Power of Resilience: How the Best Companies Manage the Unexpected* (MIT Press, 2015). In this webinar, Professor Sheffi will focus on the here and now. He will explore the COVID-19 disruption in the context of past disruptions and explain what companies should be doing now as the epidemic is spreading.

His perspectives have been reported widely by WSJ, Bloomberg, CNBC, and all major

