



For Immediate Release

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Miguel Urquiola Named Chair of the Department of Economics

*Dr. Urquiola, a leader in the field of economics education,
assumes the chairmanship of the Department*

New York, NY - Professor Miguel Urquiola has been appointed Chair of the Department of Economics. Urquiola, Professor of Economics and International Affairs, will begin his term on July 1, 2019. He succeeds Bernard Salanié who, served as Department Chair during 2016 – 2019.

“I very much appreciate the honor and opportunity. I am grateful for the trust invested in me by my colleagues,” said Professor Urquiola. “For more than a century the Department has played a prominent role in the development of economic thought, and it will continue to do so through its faculty and students. I am deeply committed to continue to build our role in this area.”

Urquiola added, “This is an exciting time in the field of economics. The quality and quantity of data are expanding rapidly, as are the theoretical insights economists bring to bear on them—our field, our department, our students, and our alumni have much to contribute.”

A Career of Accomplishments

Professor Urquiola joined the Department of Economics and the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) in 2003, after earning a BA and Ph.D. in Economics from Swarthmore College and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively. His research is on the economics of education, with a focus on understanding competition between schools and universities. This includes work on how parents and students select educational providers, and what consequences such choice has on performance. He has served as Vice Dean at SIPA and is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

About Columbia | Economics

The Department of Economics offers a general economics major, in addition to five interdisciplinary majors structured to suit the interests and professional goals of a heterogeneous student body. All of the undergraduate programs have different specific requirements but share the common structure of core theoretical courses that provide the foundation for higher-level elective courses culminating in a senior seminar. Graduate students receive training within an

outstanding research environment, supported by members of faculty who are leading research in their fields.

In 2018, the Department offered 46 undergraduate courses. A total of 4,969 students were enrolled, 777 in the Department's majors. The M.A. program provides a technical and rigorous approach to the study of economics. In addition, the doctoral program receives approximately 1,000 applications each year for an incoming class of roughly 25 students. The Department has played a prominent role in the development of economic thought.

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