

# PRESS RELEASE



## ERNST MEYER PRIZE AWARDED TO DR ARNAUD GOUSSEBAÏLE FOR DOCTORAL THESIS ON *PREVENTION AND INSURANCE OF NATURAL DISASTERS*

(Zurich, 5 July 2017) The Geneva Association has awarded the Ernst Meyer Prize, presented in recognition for a doctoral thesis which makes a significant contribution to the study of risk and insurance economics, to Dr Arnaud Goussebaïle for his dissertation on *Prevention and Insurance of Natural Disasters*.

“By modelling individual behaviours, markets and public policies, Dr Goussebaïle’s thesis suggests innovative prevention actions and insurance mechanisms that can efficiently mitigate wealth shocks for economic groups exposed to natural disasters,” said Prof. Christophe Courbage of the judging committee, and editor-in-chief of *The Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance—Issues and Practice*. “His dissertation offers a better understanding of why certain rare risks are insurable and others not, reflecting on the insurability of low-probability catastrophic risks.”

Dr Goussebaïle, who received his PhD from Ecole Polytechnique Paris, states that world economic losses caused by natural disasters have increased over the last three decades due to greater risk exposure, exacerbated by climate change. With only a third of these losses covered by insurance, global resilience to disaster risk is a key socioeconomic issue.

Niklaus Wildberger, Deputy Secretary General and Head of Insight at The Geneva Association, said: “The Ernst Meyer Prize underpins our commitment to supporting impactful research with practical applications for the insurance industry. A strategic focus of The Geneva Association is to leverage the expertise of the insurance industry to strengthen societal and economic resilience against natural catastrophes, and so we are pleased to award Dr Goussebaïle the prize for his valuable contribution to this field.”

The Ernst Meyer Prize is awarded annually by The Geneva Association, the leading international think tank of the insurance industry. The judging committee was composed of Prof. Christophe Courbage (University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland), Prof. Andreas Richter (LMU München) and Prof. Richard Watt (University of Canterbury, Christchurch).

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### Contact:

Daniel Perez-Whitaker  
Director of Communications, The Geneva Association  
+41 44 200 4906  
[daniel\\_perezwhitaker@genevaassociation.org](mailto:daniel_perezwhitaker@genevaassociation.org)

## About The Geneva Association

The Geneva Association is the leading international insurance think tank for strategically important insurance and risk management issues. It is a unique platform for dialogue between leaders of the insurance industry and key decision-makers at the international and national levels to evidence the important social and economic role of the insurance industry.

The Geneva Association identifies fundamental trends and strategic issues where insurance plays a substantial role or which influence the insurance sector. Through the development of research programmes, regular publications and the organisation of international meetings, The Geneva Association serves as a catalyst for progress in the understanding of risk and insurance matters and acts as an information creator and disseminator.

The Geneva Association membership comprises a statutory maximum of 90 chief executive officers (CEOs) from the world's top insurance and reinsurance companies. It organises international expert networks and manages discussion platforms for senior insurance executives and specialists as well as policy-makers, regulators and multilateral organisations.

Established in 1973, The Geneva Association, officially the International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics, is based in Zurich, Switzerland and is a non-profit organisation funded by its membership.

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