Keynote Speaker

December 2026

The H.F.A.A. is delighted to inform you that the Keynote Speakers for the 25th Annual Conference of the HFAA will be Professor Gaizka Ormozobal (IESE, Spain) and Professor Elias Papaioannou (LBS, UK).



Gaizka Ormazabal is an associate dean for Research and PhD program since 2023 and Professor in the Accounting and Control Department. Professor Ormazabal received a Ph.D. in Business from Stanford University, a Ph.D. in Construction Engineering from Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya and a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering (Ingeniería de Caminos, Canals y Puertos) from Universitat Politécnica de Catalunya.

Professor Ormazabal's research focuses on executive compensation and corporate governance. His work examines the choice and valuation implications of corporate governance mechanisms. His current research projects analyze recent trends in managerial compensation, corporate governance intermediaries, financial regulation, bank accounting, and the role of corporate governance in sustainable development.

His research appears in leading academic journals including, among others, *Journal of Accounting and Economics, Journal of Accounting Research, Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Review of Accounting Studies* and *The Accounting Review*. His research has been featured in the popular media, including such outlets as the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Forbes*, and *Bloomberg* and has been cited in final rulings by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the European Securities and Markets Authority. He is editor of *Review of Accounting Studies. Professor Ormazabal* is also a Research Affiliate in the Financial Economics program of the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), research member in the European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI), and Research Member of the Sustainable Finance Research and Policy Network (RPN). He is the Grupo Santander Chair of Financial Institutions and Corporate Governance and serves as academic director at the IESE Center for Corporate Governance.



Elias Papaioannou focuses on international finance, political economy, applied econometrics, growth, and development.

In the academic year 2019/2020, Elias held the Varian Visiting Professor of Economics at the MIT Department of Economics.

After completing his doctorate in 2005, he worked for two years at the Financial Research Division of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, Germany. From 2007 to 2012, he served as an economics assistant at Dartmouth College in the US. Between 2010 and 2012, he was a visiting assistant professor at the economics department of Harvard University in the US.

His research has been recognized with a consolidator ERC grant in 2018, the inaugural 2013 European Investment Bank Young Economist Award, the 2005 European Economic Association's Young Economist Award, and the Royal Economic Association's Austin Robinson Memorial Prize, 2008. He is a research affiliate of the Centre for Economic Policy Research.

Elias' research has been published in leading peer-refereed journals, with his work appearing in numerous book volumes. He regularly consults with international organizations and institutional investors on macroeconomic developments in the EU and Greece.

In 2005, Elias received his Ph.D. from LBS. He holds a Master's in Public Policy and Administration from Columbia University and an LL.B. Bachelor's in Law from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Together with Nathan Nunn (Harvard University), Stelios Michalopoulos (Brown University) and Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton University) and supported by CEPR, STEG and the European Research Council, Elias led the Wheeler Institute open-access lecture series African History through the Lens of Economics