

Renowned UCSD professor wins Sweden's "Nobel Prize" for Political Science

September 25, 1997

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Editor's Note: Photos of Professor Lijphart are available.

World renowned political scientist Arend Lijphart, an authority on comparative government and a faculty member in the University of California, San Diego's Department of Political Science, has received the Johan Skytte Prize, an award that has become known in Sweden as the Nobel Prize for political science.

Lijphart, who will receive the award at a formal ceremony Oct. 4 in Uppsala, is only the third person to receive the prestigious award from the Johan Skytte Foundation at Uppsala University in Sweden. The prize of 350,000 Swedish crowns (about \$45,000) is one of the largest awards given in the social sciences in Europe, and is awarded to the scholar who has made the most valuable contribution to the discipline of political science. The two previous recipients of the Johan Skytte Prize are well-known political scientists Robert Dahl and Juan Linz, both of Yale University.

"Arend has contributed so much to the department, the university, and to the discipline of political science," said UCSD Political Science Department Chair Harry Hirsch. "He is truly deserving of this prestigious award. We are all very proud of him."

In recognition of this important award, Lijphart was honored this week at a special ceremony organized by the Swedish Consul.

According to the Johan Skytte Foundation, Lijphart, who served as president of the American Political Science Association last year, is receiving the award for his path breaking research on the function of consensus in democratic politics in divided as well as homogeneous societies."

Over the past decade, Lijphart has consulted with numerous governments and political leaders, including those of South Africa, Israel, N. Ireland, and other deeply divided societies, on how to restructure their political systems to accommodate for these deep divisions. Lijphart played a major role in helping to end racial violence in South Africa in the '80s. His model of "consociational democracy," which emphasizes political consensus and cooperation between political parties, is highly respected among political scientists.

Lijphart, a native of Holland, is recognized at UCSD for his considerable work in the early '80s to establish what is now known as the Lijphart Archive, the world's most comprehensive collection of official electoral statistics from democracies around the world. The archive, housed at the UCSD Geisel Library, contains district by district details of all elections since 1945 from about 25 countries. Contents of the archive are currently available to scholars and researchers throughout the world, and are partially accessible via the Internet, according to Professor Gary Cox, a colleague of Lijphart's and the current director of the Lijphart Archive.

Lijphart, the recipient of numerous awards and honors, has authored and edited more than a dozen books, including *Electoral Systems and Party Systems: A Study of Twenty- Seven Democracies* (1994), and *Parliamentary Versus Presidential Government* (1992). He received his Ph.D. From Yale University.

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