



HARVARD Kennedy School

MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI CENTER
for Business and Government

For Immediate Release:
May 17, 2018

Contact: Scott Leland
617-496-7424

**John T. Dunlop Undergraduate Thesis Prize Winners:
Samarth Gupta and Johnny Tang**

CAMBRIDGE MA – The Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government (M-RCBG) at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 John T. Dunlop Prize in Business and Government.

Samarth Gupta has won for his thesis, *The Rent is Too Damn High and the Coverage is Too Damn Low: Evidence from Medicaid Expansion and Eviction Rates*. He is a senior at Harvard College and is graduating later this month with an A.B. in Economics. Johnny Tang has also won for his thesis, *Wrong Turns and Right Tails: Identifying Detours in New York City Taxi Rides*. He is also a senior at Harvard College, graduating later this month with an A.B. in Applied Mathematics.

The John T. Dunlop Thesis Prize in Business and Government is awarded to graduating seniors who write the best thesis on a challenging public policy issue at the interface of business and government. Each prize carries a \$1000 award.

This year’s winning thesis by Mr. Gupta examines the impact of Medicaid expansions on eviction from rental housing, with the hypothesis that some cases of evictions are driven by having to pay for medical care, especially in emergency settings. In his winning thesis, Mr. Tang explores New York City taxi services and uncovers evidence that taxi drivers offer lower quality taxi services to passengers by taking detours in response to financial incentives.

In explaining why the Center chose to award the John Dunlop prize to Mr. Gupta and Mr. Tang this year, John A. Haigh, co-director of M-RCBG, said that their “theses are of significant interest to the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government. They are ambitious and well-executed, and the results are robust and important for policy...our review committee was impressed with the sophistication of their analyses.”

John T. Dunlop, the Lamont University Professor Emeritus, was a widely respected labor economist who served as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1969 to 1973. An adviser to many U.S. presidents, beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dunlop was secretary of labor under Gerald Ford, serving from March 1975 to January 1976.

In addition to serving as secretary of labor, Dunlop held many other government posts, including: director of the Cost of Living Council, (1973-74), chairman of the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee (1993-95), chair of the Massachusetts Joint Labor-Management Committee for Municipal Police and Firefighters (1977-2003) and Chair of the Commission on Migratory Farm Labor (1984-2003).

Dunlop served as the second director of the Center for Business and Government from 1987 to 1991. The Center, renamed in 2005 as the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, focuses on policy issues at the intersection of business and government. Dunlop died in 2003.