



Ronnie Chatterji

Dr. Aaron "Ronnie" Chatterji is the Chief Economist at OpenAI and the Mark Burgess & Lisa Benson-Burgess Distinguished Professor of Business and Public Policy at Duke University. Ronnie previously served as the White House Coordinator for CHIPS Implementation. Ronnie has published two books: "Can Business Save the Earth?" and "The Role of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Economic Growth." Throughout his career, Ronnie has tackled questions of innovation, strategic technologies, and sustainable business.

Aaron "Ronnie" Chatterji, Ph.D. is the Mark Burgess & Lisa Benson-Burgess Distinguished Professor of Business and Public Policy at Duke University. Ronnie works on developing solutions to grand challenges at the intersection of the public and private sectors. Through his award-winning academic research, top government policy roles, and operational experience in the private sector, he aims to generate unique insights and drive impact in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, business strategy, geopolitics, and sustainable economic development.

Ronnie is currently on leave as the first Chief Economist of OpenAI. In this role, he is developing research insights on how artificial intelligence is changing our economy and society. He works closely with the product and commercial teams to diffuse the power of AI to as many people as possible.

Prior to this role, Ronnie led the implementation of the Biden Administration's CHIPS program, a \$52 billion initiative to enhance America's industrial base and national security. He has previously served in senior economic policy roles in the Biden and Obama Administrations, including as Acting Deputy Director of the National Economic Council and Senior Economist at the Council of Economic Advisers.

Chatterji has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles in leading academic journals and two academic books, "Can Business Save the Earth?" (Stanford University Press) and "The Role of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Economic Growth" (University of Chicago Press).

His first popular press book, "Deep Tech World" will be published in 2026. He is also the founding director of the Deep Tech Project at Duke, an initiative dedicated to understanding how technologies like generative AI, quantum computing, and climate tech will be financed, commercialized and scaled and assessing the impact on local economies and geopolitics.

He has received several awards for his research, including the Kauffman Prize Medal for Distinguished Research in entrepreneurship, the Rising Star award from the Aspen Institute, and the Strategic Management Society Emerging Scholar award. Chatterji has authored several op-ed pieces in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, including influential essays introducing the concept of CEO activism. He writes widely for management and policy audiences with several recent pieces in Harvard Business Review and for the Brookings Institution. He is a frequent keynote speaker and experienced facilitator who has worked with top companies in finance, healthcare, technology, energy, retail, real estate and sports. Chatterji has served as a senior adviser to KKR, Samsung, and PsiQuantum. Ronnie has won multiple teaching awards at Duke, both for his teaching in the core curriculum and electives. He created a new elective on business and politics that was profiled in national media and became one of the most popular courses at the Fuqua School of Business.

Chatterji is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and was previously a visiting Associate Professor at The Harvard Business School. He also holds a secondary appointment at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy. During his sabbatical leave in 2020, Ronnie ran for State Treasurer of North Carolina, winning the statewide primary election and earning more than 2 million votes in the general election.

Ronnie previously worked as a financial analyst at Goldman Sachs. He received his Ph.D. from the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley and his B.A. in Economics from Cornell University.

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