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Professor Bhattacharya received his Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, in 1980; an M.B.A. from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, in 1982; and his Ph.D. in Finance from Columbia University in 1990. He joined HKUST in 2014.

Professor Bhattacharya was the Executive Editor of Financial Management, 2016-2022, where he succeeded in tripling its citation impact factor. He was an Associate Editor of the Review of Financial Studies and the Journal of Financial Markets. His publications have appeared in all the top-tier finance journals (Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, The Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis and the Journal of Business), top-tier accounting journals like The Accounting Review, and top-tier economics journals

Professor Bhattacharya's research is about the dark side of financial markets. He believes, with apologies to Thomas Jefferson, that "the price of capitalism is eternal vigilance." He has been invited to present his research in 236 institutions in 35 countries in 5 continents, and his papers have been featured more than a hundred times in various media across the world, including six times in the Economist. He teaches in a different country every summer. He has taught at top universities in Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, UK, USA (Chicago, Duke and MIT) and Vietnam. His goal is to spread the gospel of honest finance to every corner of the globe.