CENTRO STUDI LUCA D'AGLIANO

Twenty-Fourth Luca d'Agliano Lecture in Development Economics

HOW TO ACHIEVE COMMUNITY WELFARE

James A. Robinson

Harris School of Public Policy,
University of Chicago

Saturday, 24th October 2026
11:30 a.m.

Teatro Carignano
Piazza Carignano 6
10123 Torino

The activities of the Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano in Torino are supported by

Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo

James A. Robinson

James Robinson is a University Professor at the Harris School of Public Policy, the Committee on Social Thought and the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago and Recipient of the 2024 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. He studied economics at the London School of Economics, the University of Warwick and Yale University and is co-author with Daron Acemoglu of *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, Why Nations Fail* (which has been translated into 51 languages), and *The Narrow Corridor*. His next book, on Sub-Saharan Africa, entitled *Wealth in People,* will be published in 2027. His research uses the quantitative and mathematical methods of economics but in combination with the more qualitative, hermeneutical and case-study-based approaches of other social sciences. He is currently conducting research in Colombia, South Korea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Nigeria where he is a Visiting Professor at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Nigeria-Nsukka and holds the chieftaincy title Nwanne di na Mba from the community of Umuchieze, Imo State. He taught every summer for 28 years at the University of the Andes in Bogotá where he is a Profesor Honorario. He has taught research design in the collaborative PhD program in economics run by the African Economic Research Consortium in Nairobi where he is a Fellow.

How to Achieve Community Welfare

Institutions and political equilibria are sustained by ideas that justify them and make them normatively appealing. How do the ideas behind the welfare state emerge, evolve, and lose force over time? To protect the welfare state today, do we need to reinvent its ideational foundations?

Programme

Twenty-Fourth Luca d'Agliano Lecture:

"How to Achieve Community Welfare"

JAMES A. ROBINSON
Harris School of Public Policy,
University of Chicago

11:30 ***Welcoming Address***

MARIAPIA MENDOLA (Professor of Economics, University of Milan Bicocca; Scientific Director, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)

Introduction to the Lecture

THIERRY VERDIER (Professor of Economics, Paris School of Economics; Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)

11:35 ***Lecture***

12:15 ***Debate***

The Luca d'Agliano Lectures in Development Economics

The Luca d'Agliano Lectures in Development Economics are organised every year in Turin thanks to the generous support of the Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo. They aim at favouring the diffusion of the ideas of the best world thinkers in the field to a non specialised audience. The ultimate objective of the Lectures is to help grounding the general debate on development issues, often confused and muddled, into sound economic analysis.

Past Luca d'Agliano Lecturers:

2003 - Pranab Bardhan (Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley): *"Globalisation and the Poor";*

2004 - Dani Rodrik (Professor of International Political Economy, Harvard University): *"Rethinking Economic Growth in Developing Countries";*

2006 - Jeffrey G. Williamson (Laird Bell Professor of Economics, Harvard University): *"Globalization and Underdevelopment in the Pre-Modern Third World";*

2006 - François Bourguignon (Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, World Bank; Professor of Economics, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris): *"Employment and Development: Good Jobs, Bad Jobs";*

2007 - Paul R. Krugman (Professor of Economics and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University): *"Does Outsourcing Change Everything?";*

2008 - Anthony J. Venables (Professor of Economics, Oxford University; Director, Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies): *"Accelerating Economic Growth in Africa";*

2009 - Barry Eichengreen (George C. Pardee and Helen N. Pardee Professor of Economics and Professor of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley): *"The Dollar in Doubt";*

2010 - Nemat (Minouche) Shafik (Permanent Secretary, Department for International Development): *"The Future of Aid";*

2011 - Thierry Verdier (Scientific Director, Paris School of Economics): *"The Role of Cultural Diversity in Growth and Development: What do Economists Have to Say about This?";*

2012 - Timothy Besley (School Professor of Economics and Political Science, London School of Economics and Political Science): *"State Effectiveness and Economic Development"*;

2013 - Kevin H. O'Rourke (All Souls College, University of Oxford): *"Globalization and Industrialization in the Long Run";*

2014 - Martin Ravallion (Edmond D. Villani Professor of Economics, Georgetown University): "*The Idea of Antipoverty Policy*";

2015 - Jean-Philippe Platteau (Professor Emeritus, University of Namur): *"Religion, Politics, and Development: Is Islam a Special Issue?";*

2016 - J. Vernon Henderson (School Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science): "*Building African Cities";*

2017 - Kaushik Basu (Professor of Economics and Carl Marks Professor of International Studies, Cornell University; Former Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, The World Bank): *"Culture, Corruption, and the Law. Challenges for a Globalizing World"*;

2018 - Robert W. Staiger (Roth Family Distinguished Professor in the Arts and Sciences and Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College): *"Is Multilateralism Dead? Trade in the Era of Trump";*

2019 - Gordon Hanson (Pacific Economic Cooperation Chair in International Economic Relations and Director, Center on Global Transformation, University of California): *"The Global Political Consequences of China's Trade Boom";*

2020 - Oriana Bandiera (Sir Anthony Atkinson Chair in Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science): *"Inequality and the (mis)use of Talent"* (online)*;*

2022 - Pol Antràs (Robert G. Ory Professor of Economics, Harvard University): *"De-Globalization? Global Value Chains and the Global Economic Turmoil";*

2023 - Sergei Guriev (Provost, Sciences Po, Paris): *"Spin Dictators: The New Breed of Tyranny for the Globalized World";*

2023 - Elhanan Helpman (Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade, Harvard University): *"Offshoring, Reshoring, and the Future of International Trade";*

2024 - Thomas Philippon (Max L. Heine Professor of Finance, Stern School of Business, New York University): *"Regulating Market Power and Big Tech on the Two Sides of the Atlantic".*

2025 - Edward L. Glaeser (Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics, Harvard University: *"Cities and the Housing Crisis".*

Luca d'Agliano

Luca d'Agliano was born in Turin on July 4th, 1961. In September 1980, he went up to Churchill College, University of Cambridge, where he read philosophy and then economics. On taking his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983, he was awarded a scholarship by the Fondazione Luigi Einaudi, Turin, and was admitted to St. Anthony's College, University of Oxford. Here, under the guidance of Amartya Sen, he studied questions relating to developing countries and welfare economics.

It was Luca's vision that the study of economics should be "… continually carried over into practical applications, above all when attempting to solve problems that limit the growth of man's well-being. For this substantially ideological reason, it becomes important to combine close study of purely theoretical matters with a study of the problems afflicting the developing countries in their struggle against poverty […]".

Nearly a year later, Luca d'Agliano lost his life in a road accident (June 1984).

Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano

The Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano was founded in Turin in 1986 by the family of Luca d'Agliano, his friends, and some of his teachers. It is currently located at the Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto – formerly at the Fondazione Luigi Einaudi – in Torino and at the University of Milan. It is a non-profit research institution contributing original research in the field of international and development economics. Particular emphasis is placed on the training of young scholars and in giving them the opportunity of acquiring a truly international perspective. The activities of the Centro Studi mainly focus on academic research, but it also greatly contributes to the policy debate.

The Luca d'Agliano Lecture is organised within the framework of the Festival Internazionale dell'Economia

in collaboration with Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto

For further information on James A. Robinson and the Lecture, please refer to:

https://dagliano.unimi.it/