



CENTRO STUDI LUCA D'AGLIANO

Fourteenth Luca d'Agliano Lecture in Development Economics

BUILDING AFRICAN CITIES

J. Vernon Henderson

School Professor of Economic Geography
London School of Economics and Political Science

Wednesday, November 2nd 2016
5.00 p.m.

Fondazione Luigi Einaudi
Palazzo d'Azeglio
Via Principe Amedeo, 34
10123 Torino

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J. Vernon Henderson

J. Vernon Henderson joined the London School of Economics in September 2013 as School Professor of Economic Geography, having previously been Eastman Professor of Political Economy at Brown University, USA. His research focuses on urbanization in developing countries, looking both within and across cities and regions. He is the co-PI of a major research project on urbanization in Africa, as well as globally, situated at LSE and Oxford. His current research looks at topics such as expressway development and city growth in China, the dynamics of investment in the built environment in cities, how colonial legacy affects sprawl and the spatial layout of cities, and the impact of democratization in Africa on city growth and health and education outcomes across the urban political hierarchy.

His work is published in journals such as “the American Economic Review”, “Journal of Political Economy”, “Review of Economic Studies”, “Science”, and “Journal of Development Economics.” He is co-editor of the “Journal of Urban Economics” and the “Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics”, and serves on a number of editorial boards. He is a founder and past President of the Urban Economics Association. Over the years, he has worked with governments in Asia and Africa directly or indirectly through institutions such as the World Bank or the McKinsey Global Institute on formulating urban policies.

Building African Cities

Sub-Saharan countries are urbanizing rapidly at comparatively low income levels, with inadequate resources to manage an orderly process. Millions crowd into cities, especially primate cities, stressing local institutions and public finances. This talk reports on a research agenda on urbanization in Africa, using novel data on the built environment and people in cities. Themes covered include colonial legacies of Francophone versus Anglophone approaches to colonial governance and city development, modern redevelopment of the built environment to build high within cities, the role and evolution of slums, the costs of institutional failures which misallocate land use in cities, and how the recent wave of democratization in Africa has reallocated resources across the urban political hierarchy.

Programme

Fourteenth Luca d'Agliano Lecture:

“Building African Cities”

J. VERNON HENDERSON

School Professor of Economic Geography
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17.00 Welcoming Address

PIERO GASTALDO (General Secretary, Compagnia di San Paolo)

GIORGIO BARBA NAVARETTI (Professor of Economics, University of Milan; Scientific Director, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)

17.10 Introduction to the Lecture

FRANÇOIS BOURGUIGNON (Emeritus Chair, Paris School of Economics; Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)

17.20 Lecture

18.20 Discussant

GIANMARCO I.P. OTTAVIANO (Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science; Honorary Professor of Economics, University of Bologna; Coordination Committee, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)

18.30 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 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?"*.

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 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.

For information and replies

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For further information on J. Vernon Henderson
and on the Lecture, please refer to:

www.dagliano.unimi.it