



CENTRO STUDI LUCA D'AGLIANO

## **Ninth Luca d'Agliano Lecture in Development Economics**

### **THE ROLE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: WHAT DO ECONOMISTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS?**

**Thierry Verdier**

Paris School of Economics

Monday, November 28th 2011  
5.00 p.m.

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

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



#### **Thierry Verdier**

Thierry Verdier is Scientific Director at the Paris School of Economics. He obtained his Ph.D. at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris and his fields of interest are international trade and globalisation; social interactions and cultural transmission; political economy; growth and development; economics of crime and corruption. He is also Associate Professor at the University of Southampton and at The Graduate Institute for International Economics (Geneva). From 2000-2007 he has been co-director of the "International Trade" Programme at CEPR. His articles have been published in prestigious academic journals.

#### **The Role of Cultural Diversity in Growth and Development: What do Economists Have to Say about This?**

Starting with Max Weber, there is a solid tradition in social sciences to acknowledge the importance of cultural factors in socio-economic development. For some time though, economists have neglected such approach. In the last two decades, there has been however increasing work by economists to account for these dimensions and their impact on economic growth and development. The lecture will review and critically discuss such approach and its implications for development policy. One important dimension that we will emphasize is the role of cultural diversity and how it interacts with socio-economic performances and governance structures in ways that are favourable or detrimental to Development.

#### **Programme**

*Ninth Luca d'Agliano Lecture:*

### **“The Role of Cultural Diversity in Growth and Development: What do Economists Have to Say about This?”**

**THIERRY VERDIER**  
Paris School of Economics

#### *17.00 Welcoming Address*

**MARIO GIOANNINI** (Head, Economic and Juridical Research Area, Compagnia di San Paolo)

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

#### *17.10 Introduction to the Lecture*

**FRANÇOIS BOURGUIGNON** (Director, Paris School of Economics; Professor of Economics, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris; Chairmarn, Scientific Advisory Board, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)

#### *17.20 Lecture*

#### *18.20 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 are:

**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"*.

## 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 Thierry Verdier  
and on the Lecture, please refer to:

[www.dagliano.unimi.it](http://www.dagliano.unimi.it)