



CENTRO STUDI LUCA D'AGLIANO

## Twelfth Luca d'Agliano Lecture in Development Economics

### THE IDEA OF ANTIPOVERTY POLICY

#### Martin Ravallion

Edmond D. Villani Professor of Economics  
Georgetown University

Monday, December 15th 2014  
6.00 p.m.

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

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#### Martin Ravallion

Martin Ravallion holds the inaugural Edmond D. Villani Chair of Economics at Georgetown University, prior to which he was the Director of the World Bank's research department. He has advised numerous governments and international agencies on poverty and policies for fighting it, and he has written extensively on this and other subjects in economics, including four books and 200 papers in scholarly journals and edited volumes. He is President-elect of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, a Senior Fellow of the Bureau for Research in Economic Analysis of Development, a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, USA, and a non-resident Fellow of the Center for Global Development. Among various prizes and awards, in 2012 he was awarded the John Kenneth Galbraith Prize from the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. His latest book, *The Economics of Poverty*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2015.

#### The Idea of Antipoverty Policy

How did we come to think that eliminating poverty is a legitimate goal for public policy? What policies emerged in the hope of attaining that goal? The last 200 years have witnessed a dramatic change in thinking about poverty. Mainstream economic thinking in the 18th century held that poverty was necessary and even desirable for a country's economic success. Today, poverty is more often viewed as a constraint on that success. In short, poverty switched from being seen as a social good to a social bad. This change in thinking, and the accompanying progress in knowledge, has greatly influenced public action, with heightened emphasis on the role of antipoverty policy in sustainable promotion from poverty, as well as protection. Development strategies today typically strive for a virtuous cycle of growth with equity and a range of policy interventions have emerged to help assure that outcome. An expanding body of knowledge has taught us about how effective those interventions are in specific settings, although many knowledge gaps remain.

## Programme

*Twelfth Luca d'Agliano Lecture:*

### “The Idea of Antipoverty Policy”

#### MARTIN RAVALLION

Edmond D. Villani Professor of Economics  
Georgetown University

#### 18.00 Welcoming Address

**PIERO GASTALDO** (General Secretary,  
Compagnia di San Paolo)

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

#### 18.10 Introduction to the Lecture

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

#### 18.20 Lecture

#### 19.20 Discussant

**JAIME DE MELO** (Emeritus Professor,  
University of Geneva; Scientific Advisor,  
Foundation for International Development Study  
and Research; Member, Scientific Advisory  
Board, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)

#### 19.30 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"*.

## 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 Martin Ravallion  
and on the Lecture, please refer to:

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