Groningen Growth and Development Centre
Maddison Lecture in Economic History and Development

The Future of Growth: Lessons from Economics

Thursday 12 June 2014, 15.30 - 17.15 hours
Lecture hall 5419.0015 (Kapteynborg), Zernike complex

Public lecture by:
Prof. Dani Rodrik
• Professor of Social Science,
  Institute for Advanced Study,
  Princeton
• Honorary Doctor,
  University of Groningen

The lecture is open to everyone, and will be followed by drinks

The event is supported by:
SOM Research School
Faculty of Economics and Business
The Future of Growth: Lessons from Economics
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Most economists nowadays agree that the level of economic development of a country ultimately depends on the quality of its government and the skills of its workforce. Yet, the fast economic development of China and other East Asian countries does not seem to be simply the result of superior governance and high workforce skills. Similarly, the experiences of several Latin American countries since the 1990s has shown that focusing solely on political and educational reforms does not necessarily produce rapid economic growth.

To account for these experiences, Prof. Rodrik, in his Maddison lecture, will propose an alternative way to think about the process of economic development. He will claim that there are two drivers of economic growth in developing countries. The first is the “accumulation of fundamentals”, namely the build-up of workforce skills and the improvement of government institutions. The second is “structural change,” namely the movement of labor from traditional to modern sectors of the economy. Achieving a high level of prosperity in the long-run requires the former. Yet, rapid economic growth can only come from a swift process of structural change.

Moreover, as Rodrik will explain, the set of policies that can improve the fundamentals may not always be appropriate to promote structural change and trigger fast growth. He will also discuss what this view of economic development implies for the future of growth in the developing world and in particular in the world’s poorest region, Sub-Saharan Africa.


In June 2014, Dani Rodrik will be receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Groningen as part of the university’s 400-year-anniversary celebrations. www.rug.nl/feb/rodrik

This lecture is organized by the Faculty of Economics and Business in co-operation with Studium Generale Groningen and the Economics and Business student Faculty association (EBF) of the University of Groningen.

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Landleven 12, Groningen

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