

ANU PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2008

ANU Trevor Swan Distinguished Lectures in Economics

GLOBALISATION & THE GREAT DIVERGENCE

Jeffrey Williamson

Laird Bell Professor of Economics, Harvard University



Wednesday 23 April, 4.30–6pm

Lecture Theatre, Innovations Building 124, Eggleston Road, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

A reception will follow the lecture.

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In this lecture Professor Williamson assesses the rising Gross Domestic Product per capita gap over the period 1782 and 1913 between today's rich countries and developing countries – the great divergence. His lecture offers evidence that from 1870–1939 a faster rise in export prices versus import prices raised long-run growth in rich countries but did not do so in poor countries. Poor countries' relative economic performance also suffered because the volatility of the index of export to import prices between 1820 and 1870 was greater than for rich countries.

Professor Williamson is the Laird Bell Professor of Economics at Harvard University and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Professor Williamson has served as President of the Economic History Association (1994–1995) and Chairman of the Harvard Economics Department (1997–2000). He is the author of about 25 books and almost 200 scholarly articles in economic history, international economics and economic development. His most recent book is *Globalization and the Poor Periphery before 1950: The Ohlin Lectures* (MIT 2006). He has held visiting professor or visiting scholar appointments at least a dozen different institutions including The Australian National University, Cambridge University, Stanford University, and the Stockholm School of Economics.

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