



The High Performance Movement Lecture Series

Real Economic Transformation in Africa: Breaking free from Growth and Embracing Wellbeing

Overview

Economic growth is a constant mantra of politicians, economists and the media in Africa and beyond. Few understand what it is, but they love and follow it blindly. The reality is that since the global financial crisis, growth has vanished in the more industrialised economies and it is vanishing in Africa too. Politicians may be panicking, but is this really a bad thing?

Using real-life examples and innovative research on technology and change, acclaimed political economist Prof Lorenzo Fioramonti lays bare society's perverse obsession with economic growth by showing its many flaws, paradoxes and inconsistencies. He argues that the pursuit of growth often results in more losses than gains and in damage, inequalities and conflicts. His main point is that, by breaking free from the growth mantra, we can achieve 'real' economic transformation, rather than cosmetic changes. In a word, we can build a better society that puts the wellbeing of all at its centre.

A wellbeing economy would have tremendous impact on everything we do, boosting small businesses and empowering citizens as the collective leaders of tomorrow. This lecture will also serve as the launch of Fioramonti's new book, *Wellbeing Economy: Success in a world without growth*, which has been described by the South African former public protector Thuli Madonsela as "an unorthodox, thought-provoking view, possibly disruptive, in a world that cries out for social justice". *Wellbeing Economy* is manifesto for radical change in Africa and beyond.

Presenter

Lorenzo Fioramonti is Full Professor of Political Economy at the University of Pretoria (South Africa), where he directs the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation. He is also Senior Fellow at the Centre for Social Investment of the University of Heidelberg and at the Hertie School of Governance (Germany) and Associate Fellow at the United Nations University. Prof Fioramonti is the first and only Jean Monnet Chair in Africa, a prestigious recognition awarded by the European Commission to distinguished academics, and also holds the UNESCO-UNU Chair in Regional Integration, Migration and Free Movement of People. In 2012, he received the UP Exceptional Young Researcher Award and in 2014 he became the first president of the European Union Studies Association of Sub-Saharan Africa. He is the author of over 60 scientific articles and 10 books. His most recent books are *Wellbeing Economy: Success in a World Without Growth* (MacMillan 2017) and *The World After GDP: Economics, Politics and International Relations in the Post-Growth Era* (Polity 2017).



Date: Wednesday, 28 June 2017

Time: 17:30-20:00

RSVP: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 or Register directly on EAN's website under 'Events':
<https://www.ean.org.na/?p=2907>

Venue: Mining Engineering Auditorium – NUST Lower Campus

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