



Australian  
National  
University

FH GRUEN PUBLIC LECTURE

# From Colony to Superpower: American Growth and Inequality since 1774

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 5.30pm–7.00pm

## Speaker

**Professor Jeff Williamson**  
Harvard University

## Location

The [Law Lecture Theatre](#)

## RSVP

Please register at Eventbrite:  
Click [here](#). (Or go to  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/> and  
search for "FH Gruen".)

## Enquiries

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This lecture is free and open to  
the public and will be followed  
by a reception.

Presented by  
**Research School of  
Economics**

**ANU College of  
Business and Economics**



How and when did America become so rich and unequal? For more than two centuries, Americans have debated competing visions of what was happening to national income, its distribution, and why. However, the debate lacked the solid evidence needed to choose between competing visions. Despite good data about economic conditions in the twentieth century, we still know

little about the growth and inequality of American incomes from 1650 to 1913. We also need to better understand what caused the dramatic movements in inequality and our world income per capita leadership between colonial settlement and today. This Gruen Lecture will summarize new findings about American growth and inequality reported in a forthcoming book with Peter H. Lindert, *Unequal Gains: American Growth and Inequality since 1700* (Princeton).

**Jeffrey Gale Williamson** is Laird Bell Professor of Economics, *emeritus*, Harvard University; Honorary Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Research Associate NBER; and Research Fellow CEPR. President of the Economic History Association (1994-1995), Chairman of the Harvard Economics Department (1997-2000), and Master of Harvard's Mather House (1986-1993), his most recent books are: *Unequal Gains: American Growth and Inequality since 1700* (forthcoming Princeton: with Peter Lindert), *The Spread of Modern Manufacturing to the Poor Periphery since 1870* (forthcoming Oxford: ed. with Kevin O'Rourke), *Latin American Inequality in the Long Run* (forthcoming INTAL: ed. with Luis Bértola), *The Cambridge History of Capitalism* (2 vols. 2014: ed. with Larry Neal), *Trade and Poverty: When the Third World Fell Behind* (MIT 2011); *Globalization and the Poor Periphery before 1950* (MIT 2006); and *Global Migration and the World Economy* (MIT 2005: with Tim Hatton).