

CES Lectures

“Roots of Growth and Inequality in the Wealth of Nations”

Oded Galor

What sparked humanity’s leap from stagnation to prosperity? What drives the vast inequality among nations? This lecture series will examine the evolution of societies in the course of human history, uncovering the universal forces that have shaped humanity’s journey and driven the dramatic transformation of living standards over the past two centuries. The series will shed light on the role of deeply rooted factors—institutions, culture, geography, and human diversity—in the emergence of vast disparities in the wealth of nations.

Lectures’ Outline:

Lecture I: The Journey of Humanity: Roots of Growth and Inequality in the Wealth of Nations

Lecture II: The Geographical Origins of Persistent Variations in Growth-Enhancing Cultural Traits

Lecture III: The Out of Africa Hypothesis of Comparative Development

Readings:

Lecture 1:

Galor, O., *Unified Growth Theory*, Princeton University Press, 2011

Galor, O., *The Journey of Humanity*, Penguin Random House, 2022

Galor, O., (2025). Unified Growth Theory: Roots of Growth and Inequality in the Wealth of Nations. *Annual Review of Economics*, 17. pp. 197–216

Lecture 2:

Galor, O. and O. Moav, 2002, “Natural Selection and the Origin of Economic Growth,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117, 1132-1191

Alesina, A., P. Giuliano, and N. Nunn. 2013. “On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the plough,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128, 469-530.

Galor, O. and O. Ozak 2016, “The Agricultural Origins of Time Preference.” *American Economic Review*, 106, 3064-3103.

Galor, O. and V. Savitskiy, 2020, “Climatic Roots of Loss Aversion.”

Lecture 3:

Ashraf, Q. and O. Galor, 2013. “The Out of Africa Hypothesis, Genetic Diversity and Comparative Economic Development,” *American Economic Review*, 103, 1-46.

Ashraf, Q., & Galor, O. (2013). Genetic diversity and the origins of cultural fragmentation. *American Economic Review*, 103(3), 528-33.

Arbatli E., Q. Ashraf, O. Galor, and Marc Klemp, 2020. “Diversity and Conflict,” *Econometrica* 88(2), pp.727-797.

Ashraf, Q.H., Galor, O. and Klemp, M., 2021. The ancient origins of the wealth of nations. In *The handbook of historical economics*, Academic Press, 675-717

Galor, O, M. Klemp, and D. Wainstock, 2025 “Roots of Inequality”

Galor, O, M. Klemp, and D. Wainstock, 2025” Gene-Culture Co-Evolution of the Dynamics of Human Diversity.