Scientific and Technical Constraints on Sustainable Growth in Agricultural Production

Wednesday November 5, 2003 3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauer Hall, WMU

Vernon W. Ruttan
Regents Professor in the Department of Economics and Applied Economics
Adjunct Professor in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota

Vernon W. Ruttan is Regents Professor Emeritus in the Department of Economics and Applied Economics, and an Adjunct Professor in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.


Professor Ruttan has served on a number of advisory committees and boards, including the Research Advisory Committee of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Technical Advisory Committee to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and Board of Directors of the International Service for National Agricultural Research. He also served on the Board on Global Change and the Board on Sustainable Development of the National Research Council.

He has been recognized by the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) with six awards for published research. He has served as president of the American Agricultural Economics Association, 1971-72. He was elected as a Fellow of the AAEA in 1974, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1985, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1986. In 1996, he was elected to the membership in the National Academy of Sciences. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from Rutgers University, Christian Albrechts University of Kiel and Purdue University. He received the Alexander von Humboldt Award for outstanding contributions to agriculture in 1986, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award in 1986. Professor Ruttan retired Michigan State University and continued his research at Yale University. He earned his masters and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Chicago.

How the World Survived the Population Bomb: An Economic Perspective

Wednesday December 1, 2003 3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauer Hall, WMU

David Lam
Professor of Economics and Senior Research Scientist in the Population Studies Center
The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

David Lam is Professor in the Department of Economics and Senior Research Scientist in the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan. Professor Lam’s research focuses on the interaction of economics and demography in developing countries, including the analysis of the economics of population growth, family, marriage and aging. He has worked extensively in Brazil, where his research analyzes the links between education, labor markets, and income inequality. He was a Fullbright visiting researcher at the Institute for Applied Economic Research in Rio de Janeiro in 1989-90. He was a Fulbright visiting professor at the University of Cape Town, where he worked with faculty of that university on a series of collaborative research and training programs. He is currently the Principal Investigator of the Cape Area Panel Study, a National Institute of Health supported longitudinal survey of young people in Cape Town. His current research includes comparative analysis of income inequality in Brazil and South Africa.

Professor Lam has published widely in leading economics and demography journals. His publications include: “The Dynamics of Population Growth, Differential Fertility, and Inequality” American Economic Review; 1986. “Declining Inequalities in Schooling in Brazil: Its Effects on Earnings” Journal of Development Economics, 1992, (with Debora Leonstis); Effects of Family Background on Earnings and Returns to Secondary Education From Brazil”, Journal of Political Economy, 1993, 1999, (with Robert Schaefer); “Demographic Variables and Incomes”, Journal of Human Resources, 1999, (with John Hoddinott). Professor Lam has been on the economics faculty of the University of Michigan since 1983. He has served for many years as coordinator for the program in economic demography, a joint program between the Population Studies Center and the Department of Economics. He was Director of the Population Studies Center from 1994 to 2005. He has also been Director of the Michigan Center for the Demography of Aging. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Population Association of America, and has served as an advisor or consultant to the World Bank, the U.S. National Institute of Health, the United Nations Population Division, and the South African Human Sciences Research Council. He is currently a member of the Committee on Population of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Professor Lam received his M.A. in demography and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Economic Growth and the Environment

Wednesday February 11, 2004 3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauer Hall, WMU

Theodore Paroninou
John Sawhill Lecturer of Environmental Policy
Harvard University

Theodore Paroninou is the John Sawhill Lecturer of Environmental Policy at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. He specializes in natural resource management and environmental economics as they relate to economic development. At Harvard, he is developing a research program on natural resources and environmental management, and he is focusing on environmental economics.

Dr. Paroninou has served as consultant to several international organizations and adviser to many government from Southeast Asia to Latin America and from the Middle East to Eastern Europe on issues of environmental policy and sustainable development. He served on advisory boards of the National Academy of Science, Biology Research, the Free Scholars Program in Conservation and Environment, the Harvard University Center on Environment, and the Board of the Center for Tropical Forest Science of the Smithsonian Institute.

Dr. Paroninou received the Society for Conservation Biology’s Distinguished Achievement Award in 1991. He is the author of Green Markets and Investments of Change: Motivating and Financing Sustainably Development. He is a co-author of numerous scholarly publications, including book The Timber Alter: Economics and Ecology for Sustaining Tropical Forests; and editor of Environmental for Growth and Environmental Economics in Transition.

Dr. Paroninou received his MA from York University in Toronto, and his Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Property Rights and the Urgent Challenge of Environmental Sustainability

Wednesday March 25, 2004 3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauer Hall, WMU

Daniel W. Bromley
Anderson Bacon Professor of Applied Economics
The University of Wisconsin-Madison

Daniel W. Bromley is Anderson Bacon Professor of applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Bromley has published extensively on the institutional foundations of the economy, the legal and philosophical dimensions of property rights, command economies, natural resources and the environment, and economic development. He has been editor of the journal Land Economics since 1974. He is a member of the editorial Board of Journal of Environment and Development Economics and Ecological Economics. He is a fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, and is listed in Who’s Who in Economics.


Professor Bromley has been a consultant to the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, the Food Foundation; the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Ministry for Environment in New Zealand. He has worked and lectured in many countries including Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, England, South Africa, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, New Zealand, Thailand, Chile, India, Italy, and Japan.

Professor Bromley received his B.A degree in Range Ecology from Utah State University, and his M.S. and Ph.D degrees in Natural Resource Economics from Oregon State University.
The Economics of Sustainable Development is the 40th annual Public Lecture-Seminar Series organized by the Department of Economics at Western Michigan University. Sustainable development can be broadly defined as a pattern of development that enables future generations to live as least as well as the current generation. The series explores the contributions of economic science to sustainable development from the various dimensions. This year’s series also coincides with the University’s Centennial. The series is directed by Professor Siwy Asela of the WMU Economics Department, and is co-sponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. The public is cordially invited to attend the lectures at no admission charge. In addition to the public lecture, each guest scholar will present an academic seminar, aimed at the economics faculty and graduate students. For additional information, please contact Professor Siwy Asela at Tel: (269) 387-5556 or E-mail him at asela@wmich.edu, or call Economics Department Office at Tel: (269) 387-5555.

The Lecture-Seminar Series is coordinated with a graduate advanced undergraduate course, Guest Economic Seminar (ECON 591, 592) under the supervision of Professor Asela. The courses are offered during the Fall and the Spring semesters for one academic credit to students enrolled at the University.

Travel Directions: From I-94, take U.S. 131 (north) to Exit 36A (Kalamazoo). Travel east on Stadium Drive to the fourth traffic light at Howard Street. Turn left onto Howard and take the second right to the WMU campus. Follow the signs to the Mills Auditorium parking ramp. Knauss Hall is the dark brick building opposite the Waldo Library clock tower.

Western Michigan University
Department of Economics
College of Arts and Sciences
Werner Sichel Lecture-Seminar Series
Academic Year 2003-2004

The Economics of Sustainable Development

Public Lectures on Wednesdays
3:00 p.m., 3508 Knauss Hall

Malcolm Gillis
Rice University
September 24, 2003

E. Wayne Nafziger
Kansas State University
October 15, 2003

Vernon W. Ruttan
University of Minnesota
October 15, 2003

David Lam
University of Michigan-A Ann Arbor
December 3, 2003

Theodore Panayotou
Harvard University
February 11, 2004

Daniel W. Bromley
University of Wisconsin-Madison
March 24, 2004

Some Understudied Dimensions of Sustainability

Wednesday, September 24, 2003
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall, WMU

Malcolm Gillis
Ervin Kenneth Zinger Professor of Economics and President
Rice University

Malcolm Gillis is Ervin Kenneth Zinger Professor of Economics and President of Rice University. He spent the first 25 years of his professional life teaching economics and emerging economic analysis to bear on important issues of public policy in nearly 20 countries.

Professor Gillis’s publications and teaching activities fall into two broad categories: fixed environmental and economic policy. He has published over 70 journal and book articles. He is the author, co-author, or editor of 8 books, including a widely acclaimed 1968 publication, Public Policies and the Mitigation of Forest Resources: Tax Reform in Developing Countries, 1989, and a leading textbook, Economics of Development, now available in five languages. For five years he was co-editor of the economics journal, The Quarterly Journal of Economics. He served as a member of the Governor’s Council of Advisers for the State of Alaska for three years, and as a board member of the American Forestry Association for several years. In 1980-81, he chaired the Economic Future Commission for the Governor and General Assembly of the State of North Carolina. He is a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee and the chair of the Task Committee of the Association of American Universities. He was a Distinguished Fulbright Professor, Catholic University of Chile. Since 1999 he has been a director of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the Business and Higher Education Forum. He is also a founding director of International University of Business in Germany.

Professor Gillis co-founded the Center for World Environment and Sustainable Development and the Duke Center for Tropical Conservation. In 1997, he was named to the National Academy of Sciences Board on Sustainable Development and to the Board of Directors of the National Council for Science and Environment. Until assuming university leadership roles, he was a frequent consultant to the state of Alaska, the U.S. Treasury Department, the Canadian Ministry of Finance, the World Bank, the Ford Foundation, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Governments of Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and the Government of Indonesia, where he conducted studies leading to a fundamental reform of the entire tax system in 1983.

Professor Gillis received his B.A. and M.A degree from the University of Florida, and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He holds an honorary Doctor of Laws from Rocky Mountain College. His first academic position was an assistant professor of economics at Duke University, followed by a 15-year stay at Harvard University. He returned to Duke as professor of Economics and public policy. In 1990, he was named a Distinguished Professor in Public Policy. In July 1995, Professor Gillis became the sixth president of William Mary Rice University.

Economic Development, Inequality, and War

Wednesday, October 15, 2003
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall, WMU

E. Wayne Nafziger
University Distinguished Professor of Economics
Kansas State University


Professor Nafziger has been Senior Research Fellow at United Nations University’s World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WEER), Helsinki, Brussels Visiting Fellow, the Carter Center, Visiting Professor, International University of Japan, Visiting Scholar, University of Cambridge; Fellow, East West Center; Honolulu; Visiting Fulbright Professor at Indian Institutes.

He has made presentations at the Soviet Academy of Sciences (Moscow), International Institute of Technology and Economy Institute (Beijing), International Centre for Theoretical Physics (Trieste), Czech Academy of Sciences (Prague), Stockholm School of Economics, and U.S. Department of State Conference on Nigeria. He has also served on numerous boards of several major journals. He has been at Kansas State University since 1966 where he received the Edgar S. Hargrave Research Award, the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research Senior Faculty Award for research excellence, and the Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award.

Professor Nafziger is a member of many professional organizations including the American Economic Association, the Society of International Development, the Association for Comparative Economic Studies, and Ostrom Delta Epsilon (Phi Kappa Phi). He received his B.A. degree from Goshen College, his Masters degree from the University of Michigan, and his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois.