



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

and

PCED

Philippine Center for
Economic Development

present a seminar on

“A Century of Philippine Spatial Inequality”

By

Jeffrey G. Williamson

11 March, Friday

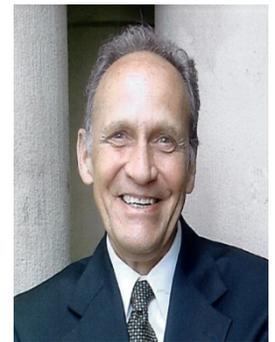
4:00-5:00 p.m. – Room 303

Abstract

Income inequality is higher in the Philippines than in most of its Asian neighbors, and provincial and urban-rural income gaps account for a large share of it. However, there is little evidence of labor market failure in the Philippines since, when properly measured, real wage gaps by skill are very modest. Unequal endowments account for most of the provincial and urban-rural income gaps. That is, individual attributes of workers and households explain the majority of the urban-rural gaps, and schooling, skill, and experience are the three individual characteristics that matter most. Provincial variables like typhoon incidence, government corruption, school crowding, and access to health facilities matter far less. Workers born in the cities and immigrants to the cities invest more in human capital than do rural workers, but we cannot yet tell how much of that is due to better human-capital-building infrastructure supply in the cities and how much is due to higher urban demand for that infrastructure. To help identify causation, we appeal to history. Using provincial HDIs, we ask whether regional inequality rose during the start of modern economic growth 1903-1960, fell, or was stable at high levels.

About the speaker:

Jeffrey Gale Williamson is Laird Bell Professor of Economics, *emeritus*, Harvard University; Honorary Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Visiting Professor, University of the Philippines, School of Economics; 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 Timothy Hatton).



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