



Campus of
Milan

Graduate School in the Economics and Finance of Public
Administration - DEFAP

DEFAP

GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THE ECONOMICS
AND FINANCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

3rd ANNUAL LECTURE IN PUBLIC ECONOMICS

POLITICAL COMPETITION AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

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About the Speaker

TORSTEN PERSSON

Director of the Institute for International Economic Studies - Stockholm University
Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics



Torsten Persson received his Ph.D. in 1982 and was appointed Professor of Economics in 1987 at the University of Stockholm. Since 1998, he served as Director of the Institute for International Economic Studies at the University of Stockholm. He has been visiting professor at leading universities and research institutions in Europe and the US, including Berkeley, Harvard, Princeton, and the LSE. He has advised governments and international organizations, such as the IMF and the Bank of Sweden. He is a Fellow and elected Council Member of the Econometric Society, and has been President of the European Economic Association for 2003. He is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, and a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also served as Chairman, Member, and Secretary of the Prize Committee for the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel.

He has received a number of prizes, including the 1997 Yrjö Jahnsson Medal, the 1995 Söderberg Prize and the 2003 Torgny Segerstedt Medal, given biannually by Uppsala University "for outstanding contributions in the humanities or social sciences".

Torsten Persson's early research in macroeconomics and international finance focused on the effects of exchange-rate systems and the determinants of current accounts. He then moved to study the effect of alternative political institutions on political and economic outcomes, becoming one of the most outstanding scholars in the field. His research greatly contributed to our understanding of crucial issues such as the credibility of monetary and fiscal policy, the design of central-bank institutions, policy-making in federations, and the rationale for separation of powers. In the last few years, he has been involved in an extensive research program, which has uncovered systematic consequences of alternative political systems - such as electoral rules and forms of government - for policy outcomes and economic performance.