

Achieving Sustainability:

should people be fitted to policies,
or policies to people?

Keynote Lecture in the Aula of the University of Zurich

Paul Collier

– 19. März 2015, 18:15

Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government
at the University of Oxford

According to Paul Collier, the two defining challenges of our century are world poverty and climate change. If we fail on one, we fail on the other. If we shall fail on managing natural resources we shall surely fail on both. Collier prescribes a recipe to change the world for good: We need compassion to get ourselves started and we need enlightened self-interest to get ourselves serious: this is the alliance that can achieve a sustainable world.

About his books “The Bottom Billion” and “The Plundered Planet” Collier says: To build up an informed society I broke all professional rules of conduct and wrote economic books that you can read on the beach.



Sir Paul Collier is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government; a Professorial Fellow of St Antony's College; and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford. He is also Director of the International Growth Centre (IGC), a research initiative hosted by LSE in partnership with Oxford University. Paul is currently adviser to the Strategy and Policy Department of the International Monetary Fund and adviser to the Africa Region of the World Bank. He has written widely for the New York Times, the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. His research covers the causes and consequences of civil war; the effects of aid and the problems of democracy in low-income and natural-resources rich societies. Recent books include 'The Bottom Billion' (Oxford University Press, 2007), 'The Plundered Planet' (Oxford University Press, 2010) and 'Exodus: How migration is changing our world' (Oxford University Press, 2013). In 2014, Paul received a knighthood for services to promoting research and policy change in Africa.

Upcoming Lectures on Sustainability and Innovation

Cradle to Cradle® Celebrating the Human Footprint – 40 years of environmental debate as the engine for innovation in quality

Michael Braungart – 16. April 2015, 18:15

Professor at Erasmus University, Rotterdam and Founder of EPEA Hamburg

Using agricultural biodiversity to face malnutrition and climate change

Ann Tutwiler – 21. Mai 2015, 18:15

Director General, Bioversity International, Rome, Italy