

ECONOMICS RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES 11-2020

Is it time to break free from GDP?

By

Ehsan Masood

Ehsan Masood is a science journalist and senior editor with the journal Nature. The second edition of his book 'GDP: The World's Most Powerful Formula and Why it Must Now Change' will be published in the spring of 2020. His previous book was 'Science and Islam: A History', which accompanied a three-part series for BBC Radio 4. Ehsan was formerly a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US, where he investigated the impact of McCarthyism on US academics and universities, also for a documentary for BBC Radio 4. Ehsan was born and lives in London. He spent his teenage years in Karachi in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

Abstract: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the world's economic health-check, an influential ranking of global prosperity. A rising number is manna for markets and keeps business buzzing; falling GDP can be a portent of doom.

GDP can be unforgiving for those countries that cannot be – or choose not to be – measured by its rules. And it fails to measure much of what is really important to our lives. GDP was created to help Western economies rebuild after the Great Depression and to rise again from the fires of the Second World War. But it simultaneously rewarded decades of environmental destruction, and now, amid an unprecedented economic crisis, it faces a fight for its survival.

What began as a useful formula to assess a country's path to prosperity, has trapped societies and leaders into a system of measurement from which the world has to break free. We must, and in this talk, science writer Ehsan Masood shows how we can.

Date: Friday, November 6, 2020

Time: 06:00 P.M. (PST) & 01:00 P.M. (GMT)

Webinar link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81486279550?pwd=dkc2enVtNTdJL1pIY2xhZXg0QWpKZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 8627 9550

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