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Yale economist to visit Laurier to speak about economic responses to global warming

WATERLOO – John Roemer, the Elizabeth S. and A. Varick Stout professor of political science and economics at Yale University, will give a public lecture at Wilfrid Laurier University as part of a short-term visit March 5 to 7, 2012.

The lecture, titled "North-South convergence in the presence of global warming," takes place March 7 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in room 112 of the Bricker Academic Building on Laurier's Waterloo campus. Admission is free.

The talk will focus on how rights to admit carbon into the atmosphere should be allocated between the global North (including developed countries such as Canada) and the global South (including developing countries such as Brazil, India and China). Roemer will propose a solution that is politically realistic, will allow the South to continue to develop, and will allow the North to continue to grow.

"The question of how to address climate change while accounting for economic growth and the global recession is a crucial one facing the world today," said Maria Gallego, associate professor of economics at Laurier. "John Roemer is a leading economist with a broad-based area of expertise, and his ideas on this subject come out of a lifetime of influential scholarship."

Roemer holds a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley and an AB in Mathematics from Harvard University. His work concerns distributive justice, political economy, and the relationship between them. He is a fellow of the Econometric Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a corresponding fellow of the British Academy, and a past fellow of the Guggenheim and Russell Sage Foundations.

His visit will also include an academic seminar titled "Kantian equilibrium, externalities, and social ethos." The seminar, which proposes a more interdependent model of human behaviour than normally assumed in economic theory, will be held March 5 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Laurier's Waterloo campus in room 2260 of the Schlegel Building. Roemer will also be speaking one-on-one with faculty and students each day of his visit.

The visit is being hosted by a coalition of academic groups, including the Laurier Centre for Economic Research and Policy Analysis, the Laurier Computational Science and Applied and Statistical Modelling Seminar Series, the departments of Economics at Laurier and the University of Waterloo, and the Department of Political Science at Laurier.