“Africa: Why Economists Get It Wrong”
Friday, April 15, 2016 | Luncheon Keynote Address | 1 p.m.

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About the Speaker
Morten Jerven is an economic historian with a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and, since 2009, has been working at the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Jerven was appointed Associate Professor in International Relations and Global Change at Norwegian University of Life Sciences in 2015.


You can find more material at www.mortenjerven.com

About the Lecture
Not so long ago, Africa was being described as the "Hopeless Continent." Recently, though, talk has turned to Africa Rising™, with enthusiastic voices exclaiming the potential for economic growth across many of its countries. What, then, is the truth behind Africa’s growth, or lack of it?

In *Is Africa Rising?*, Morten Jerven fundamentally reframes the debate, challenging mainstream accounts of African economic history. Whilst for the past two decades experts have focused on explaining why there has been a "chronic failure of growth" in Africa, Jerven shows that most African economies have been growing at a rapid pace since the mid-90s. In addition, African economies grew rapidly in the 1950s, the 1960s, and even into the 1970s. Thus, African states were dismissed as incapable of development based largely on observations made during the 1980s and early 1990s. The result has been misguided analysis and few practical lessons learned.

This lecture aims to be an essential account of the real impact economic growth has had on Africa, and what it means for the continent’s future.