Economic growth goes beyond the idea of an increase in income; it can lead to the creation of a more open, democratic and environmentally friendly society. This is the conclusion of Benjamin Friedman’s investigations into economic history in his book “The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth”. He shows how even in wealthy societies, like the US and Western Europe, economic stagnation can threaten democracy and freedom. This is a provocative stance to take in times such as these, when growth, linked to globalisation and climate change, is often seen as lying at the root of problems. His book is a stimulating contribution to the debate on the influence of growth on the process of globalisation, on the environment and on the development of democratic societies.

The lecture will be followed by an open discussion and a reception.

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