

# Press release, November 17, 2015

## Star economist and Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz to speak at WU



**In a talk to be held at WU on Sunday, November 29, 2015, Joseph E. Stiglitz, recognized as one of the most distinguished economists in the world, will present his new book, "The Great Divide: Unequal Societies and What We Can Do About Them." Joseph Stiglitz is Nobel laureate in economics and a professor at Columbia University, New York.**

From 1995 to 1997, Joseph Stiglitz was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors and a cabinet member in the Clinton Administration. He then served as chief economist of the World Bank from 1997 to 2000. Together with George A. Akerlof and A. Michael Spence, he won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for analyses of markets with asymmetric information. In 2008, French President Nicolas Sarkozy named Joseph Stiglitz chair of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission, which presented its Report on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress in 2009. Today, this report is still regarded as an essential point of reference for questions regarding the standard procedures of measuring the domestic product and possible ways of measuring well-being and sustainability. Since the financial crisis of 2008, Joseph Stiglitz has been playing a key role in the creation and development of the Institute for New Economic Thinking, which critically investigates current developments in the financial markets and topics regarding the distribution of wealth. In his two latest books, Professor Stiglitz primarily addresses questions related to economic inequality and the distribution of wealth and income. Joseph Stiglitz holds an honorary doctorate from WU.

### Distinguished speakers

The event will be held at WU and is co-organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), WU's Department of Economics, WU's Research Institute for Economics of Inequality ([INEQ](#)), and the WU VW-Zentrum student support office. Opening remarks will be delivered by WU Rector Edeltraud Hanappi-Egger and Fatou Haidara, Director of the UNIDO Policymaking Organs Secretariat. After his presentation, Professor Stiglitz will participate in a panel discussion – chaired by WU Professor Ingrid Kubin – featuring Célestin Monga from UNIDO, WU researcher Alyssa Schneebaum (Department of Economics), and WU Professor Wilfried Altzinger (Research Institute for Economics of Inequality). The event will take place in WU's Audimax. Due to strong public interest, it will also be broadcast via live stream to three adjacent auditoriums. Please note that advance registration is required. In addition, on Monday, 30.11.2015 Joseph Stiglitz will participate in a UNIDO news conference at 12:30. He will also deliver the keynote speech at the sixteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference, which will focus on sustainable industrialization for shared prosperity as a means to implement the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Contact information for media enquiries: Mikhail Evstafyev, [M.EVSTAFYEV@unido.org](mailto:M.EVSTAFYEV@unido.org).

### Joseph Stiglitz: The Great Divide: Unequal Societies and What We Can Do About Them

**Date:** Sunday, November 29, 2015, 2:00pm to 5:00pm

**Location:** WU Audimax, Teaching Center building, Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Vienna

**Registration at** [wu.ac.at/economics/vw-zentrum/events/stiglitz-en/](http://wu.ac.at/economics/vw-zentrum/events/stiglitz-en/)

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