

**Institute for Advanced Study**  
**Center for Economic Development**  
*Distinguished Speakers Series*



# **Reference Points and the Theory of the Firm**

## **Professor Oliver Hart**

*Harvard University*

### About the speaker:

Oliver Hart is the Andrew E. Furer Professor of Economics at Harvard University, where he has been teaching since 1993. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University (1974), MA in economics from Warwick University (1972) and a BA in mathematics from Cambridge University (1969). His previous teaching affiliations include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the London School of Economics and Cambridge and Essex Universities.

The professional contributions of Professor Hart have been recognized by a long list of honors. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been granted honorary doctorates from the Free University of Brussels and the University of Basel. He has delivered major lectures at universities and conferences around the world, including the 1988 Fisher-Schultze Lecture of the Econometric Society, the 1993 Clarendon Lecture of Oxford, the 2002 Arrow Lecture of Stanford, the 2007 Coase Lecture of LSE.

Professor Hart has served on the Executive Committee and on the Council of the Econometric Society and as director and committee member of other boards and organizations. His active editorial services have been used by the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Econometrica*, *Review of Economic Studies*, and the *Journal of Economic Theory*.

He is a leading authority on contract theory, the theory of the firm, and corporate finance. He has made major breakthroughs in several subjects, such as incomplete market, contract theory, and the theory of the firm. In addition to numerous articles in leading scientific journals, he also published a book as well as articles in the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times.