

How Population Growth Promotes Innovation

Abstract

Throughout history, human civilisation has advanced through continuous innovation, with each generation inheriting and building upon the ideas and achievements of the past. Today, innovations like artificial intelligence are driving the next wave of progress, yet a declining birth rate threatens to stifle this momentum by weakening the talent pool needed to nurture and expand upon these breakthroughs.

In this lecture, James Liang will explore the social and economic implications of the 'Low Fertility Era'. He will examine the ramifications for society's innovative capacity, including how a shrinking younger workforce could undermine entrepreneurship and dampen growth. Drawing on his academic work as well as his extensive experience as a business leader, he will discuss the factors contributing to the increasing reluctance among young people to have children. He will also propose how both the public and private sectors can help overcome these barriers, including through the development of effective incentive structures to foster an environment more supportive of family-building.