

Professor Lord Anthony Giddens

Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

Citation

Born to a very humble family, Prof Lord Anthony Giddens was the first member of his family to enter university. He got his first degree in Sociology and Psychology from University of Hull, and then went on to get his Master's degree from The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a PhD from King's College, University of Cambridge.

A world authority in sociology, Prof Lord Giddens is not only a highly influential modern social theorist but also a polymath. He started his academic career at the University of Leicester and subsequently the University of Cambridge. From 1997 to 2003, he became the Director of the highly prestigious LSE. Under his leadership, LSE's reputation as a world-leading university was greatly strengthened. He now remains as Emeritus Professor in the Department of Sociology there. Besides, he is named as a Lifetime Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. He was also a cofounder of Polity Press, one of the world's most reputable publishers in sociology and social theory. On top of his academic roles, he continues to devote his time and energy on public service and has served on the boards and committees of various public organisations, including the Institute of Public Policy Research.

Prof Lord Giddens is the author or editor of over 40 books, which have been translated into over 40 different languages. His famous Sociology textbook has sold over one million copies and he is regarded as one of the most widely cited sociologists of our age. As a cutting-edge scholar and researcher, Prof Lord Giddens has written with an interdisciplinary approach on a wide range of subjects and a number of far-reaching theoretical models, including theoretical and methodological re-examinations of the role of sociology, social structures and "Structuration Theory", modernity, the relationship between the self and society, and globalisation, as well as politics. Among his masterpieces, "Structuration Theory" and his analysis of modernity are widely recognised as among the most profound theoretical contributions to the social sciences. His work has attracted many followers and indeed numerous books and articles have been written under his influence. As a major political thinker, Prof Lord Giddens served as former Prime Minister Tony Blair's adviser. His beyond-left-and-right "Third Way" politics not only became Blair's guiding political doctrine but also made a profound impact internationally. He took part in the original Blair-Clinton dialogues from 1997. He was awarded a peerage as Baron Giddens in 2004, and currently sits in the House of Lords. Over the years, honorary degrees have been bestowed upon him by over 15 universities around the globe. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Russian Academy of Science. He was also awarded the Prince of Asturias Award from Spain (also known as the "Spanish Nobel Prize") in 2002.

Despite a hectic schedule, Prof Lord Giddens enjoys his multiple engagements very much and remains contented. "I have spent my life as an academic and it has suited me perfectly. You don't make much money, but compared to other jobs you have so much more freedom. Your writings can be read across the world and you are part of an international community of scholars. In a world often driven by commerce and the scramble to make money it is good to have pause to reflect — as well as influence practical and political policy, which I have tried to do." Prof Lord Giddens' political advice has indeed been sought and adopted by political leaders from Europe, the US, Asia, Latin America and Australia.

Prof Lord Giddens considers modernity a juggernaut, a massive force with an unsteerable path and accelerating speed, riding roughshod over everything. While he believes that the advancement of the Internet, robotics and supercomputers will transform both education and work profoundly, he also holds the hopeful view that universities will retain their role no matter how transformed they might become in the future – a great relief for present and future academics who desperately want job security. When invited to give our graduates and guests today some advice on how to live with this juggernaut of modernity facing increased pace and scope of change, he replied:

“This is one of the most dynamic periods of history, with huge changes sweeping across the world. We are far more interconnected today than any previous generation ever was, so many of the changes are truly global. Don't just take education for granted—look at it creatively and learn to adapt to change. Be open, be innovative, but above all have cosmopolitan outlook! And make sure you have a sense of humour.”

Prof Lord Giddens also shares with us his fundamental principle:

“Winston Churchill, the great British leader, has a maxim that guided his life—it was 'Never, ever give up'. I recommend it to you. Talent is important but perseverance and drive count for more.”

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the sociology profession and to the global community, may I invite you to confer upon Prof Lord Anthony Giddens, in absentia, the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

English citation written and delivered by Professor Wei Xiangdong

Anthony Giddens 教授

榮譽社會科學博士

贊辭

Anthony Giddens教授出生於貧困的家庭，是家中第一位大學生。他在赫爾大學取得社會學和心理學學士學位，及後取得倫敦政治經濟學院的社會學碩士學位及劍橋大學英皇學院的博士學位。

身為社會學的國際權威，Giddens教授不單是深具影響力的現代社會理論家，同時亦博學多才。在其學術職業生涯之初，他先後任教於萊斯特大學和劍橋大學。1997年至2003年間，他轉職至享負盛名的倫敦政治經濟學院擔任院長。在他的領導下，倫敦政治經濟學院作為世界頂尖大學聲名大噪；時至今日，他仍於該學院擔任社會學系榮休教授一職。此外，他是劍橋大學英皇學院的終身院士，並為政體出版社的聯合創辦人。政體出版社是全球聲譽最佳的出版社之一，以出版社會學和社會理論的著作見稱。Giddens教授除了在學術界擔任要職外，也熱心於公共服務，在不同公營機構的董事會及委員會均有職務，其中包括公共政策研究所。

Giddens教授撰寫或編輯的著作達四十餘本，翻譯成四十多種語言。出自他手筆的著名社會學教科書售出超過100萬本，他被視為當代被引述得最多的社會學家之一。教授身為頂尖的學者，研究表現超卓，一直以跨學科視野探討廣泛的題材和多個影響深遠的理論，包括從理論和研究方法角度重新審視社會學、社會結構和「結構化理論」的角色，還有現代性、個人與社會的關係、全球化，以及政治等等。在他眾多傑出著作中，「結構化理論」及對「現代性」的分析獲得廣泛讚賞，是社會科學領域中最重要的理論之一。他的著作吸引了很多追隨者，無數書籍和文章都受其影響。Giddens教授亦是重要的政治思想家，曾擔任英國前首相貝理雅的顧問。他超越左右兩派的「第三條道路」，不單成為指引貝理雅的政治學說，同時亦對國際社會構成深遠影響。早於1997年，他已參與貝理雅與克林頓之間的對話。2004年，教授獲頒貴族名銜，冊封為Baron Giddens男爵，現為上議院議員。多年來，全球已有超過15間大學向他頒授榮譽學位。他現為美國文藝及科學院、中國社會科學院和俄羅斯科學研究院院士，並於2002年獲頒被譽為「西班牙諾貝爾獎」的阿斯圖里亞斯親王獎。

雖然Giddens教授工作繁重，但他非常享受身兼多職的生活，依然感覺滿足：「我畢生醉心學術，學者的工作真的非常適合我。雖然不會賺很多錢，但相對其他工作而言，卻自由得多。我的著作不僅能夠傳遍世界各地，而且我亦能夠成為國際學者社群的一員。在這個往往以商業主導和追逐金錢的世界，能夠停下來反思是好的，進而影響實際生活和政治決策，這是我一直致力去做的事情。」事實上，不論是歐洲、美國、亞洲、拉丁美洲或澳洲的政治領袖，都徵詢並採納Giddens教授的政治建議。

Giddens教授認為現代性是一股可怕而巨大的破壞力量，其路向難以操控，更以高速蹂躪一切。縱然他相信互聯網、機械人和超級電腦的發展將會為教育和工作模式帶來重大改變，但他同時亦抱有希望，認為無論大學將來經歷任何變遷，大學本身仍會繼續存在。這為現時和將來非常需要工作保障的學者帶來莫大安慰。在步伐愈來愈急速，變化愈來愈大的環境中，我們應如何面對這無可阻擋的現代性？被問到能否為這個問題給予今天的畢業生和嘉賓一些建議時，他回答：

「這是歷史上最變幻莫測的時代之一，巨大的變化橫掃世界。今天，我們彼此之間的連繫比過去任何世代都要緊密，因此很多的變化都是全球一同去經歷的。不要再一成不變地看教育；反之，我們要帶著創意去看教育，學習適應變化。抱持開放的心，勇於創新，但最重要的是擁有國際視野！還有，你必須有幽默感。」

教授也和我們分享他的基本原則：

「英國的偉大領袖邱吉爾有一句人生座右銘，就是『永不放棄』。我要向你們推薦這句話。天份是重要的，但堅持不懈、鞭策自強更為關鍵。」

主席先生，為表揚Giddens教授對社會學和國際社會的卓越貢獻，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予Anthony Giddens教授。

英文贊辭由魏向東教授撰寫及宣讀