

Bio of Prof. Putnam

Robert D. Putnam is the Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University. He is also the founder of The Saguro Seminar: Civic Engagement in America, a program that has brought together leading practitioners and thinkers for a multi-year discussion to develop broad-scale, actionable ideas to fortify our nation's civic connectedness.

Professor Putnam was educated at Swarthmore College, Balliol College, Oxford; and Yale University, and has received honorary degrees from Swarthmore and Stockholm University. Before coming to Harvard in 1979, Putnam taught at the University of Michigan and served on the staff of the National Security Council.

He is author or co-author of a dozen books and more than thirty scholarly articles published in twenty languages, including *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (1993); *Double-Edged Diplomacy: International Bargaining and Domestic Politics* (1993); *Hanging Together: The Seven-Power Summits* (1984); *Bureaucrats and Politicians in Western Democracies* (1981); *Comparative Study of Political Elites* (1976); and *Beliefs of Politicians* (1973). Most recently, he has written on the theory of social capital in the best-selling *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (2000), and a collective volume, *Democracies in Flux: The Evolution of Social Capital in Contemporary Society* (2002). In 2003, he completed *Better Together: Restoring the American Community*, which describes a dozen promising new examples of social capital-building in communities across America. He is currently undertaking research on the challenges of building community in an increasingly diverse society.

Putnam is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the British Academy, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a former President of the American Political Science Association. A former Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, he has also served as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Director of the Center for International Affairs, and Chairman of the Department of Government at Harvard. He has been consulted by both the Clinton and Bush White Houses, by leading governors and members of congress from both parties, by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, and by national leaders from Germany to Finland to New Zealand.

For his theory of social capital, Professor Putnam was recently awarded the 2006 Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science by the Skytte Foundation at Uppsala University. The Skytte Prize is one of the largest and most prestigious in political science.

He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.