

The **BBVA Foundation** and the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**  
are pleased to invite you to the lecture:

## ***Population Ageing: A Threat to the Swedish Welfare State?***

**Tommy Bengtsson**

Professor, Department of Economic History, Lund University, Sweden

**Monday, March 19 at 19:00**

**Fundación BBVA**

Paseo de Recoletos, 10

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### **Summary:**

Population ageing is a global phenomenon, which will continue far into the future. It is, however, not a new one. In many countries, Sweden included, the share of the elderly doubled during the last century at the same time as living standards improved tremendously. Why is population ageing a problem today when it was not one in the past? There are strong reasons to believe that we have entered a new stage of population ageing, very different from the past. The pension system has already undergone a series of changes to make it more robust, and there are more changes planned. Now the focus includes the costs of elderly support and healthcare, which are steadily increasing. And as the elderly population grows, they will increase even more. Will more immigrants, or more babies, solve the problem? Or do we need reforms similar to those implemented in the pension system?

### **Biography:**

Tommy Bengtsson is Professor of Demography and Economic History at Lund University, working in both historical and contemporary economic demography. Until 2014, he was director of the Centre for Economic Demography, which he started in 2006. The center today has forty scholars and doctoral students from different disciplines. His historical studies include the analysis of demographic response to short-term economic stress, as well as how conditions in early life influence social mobility, fertility and longevity. His contemporary studies are on the economic and social integration of the immigrant population in Sweden and on population ageing. A distinctive feature of his research is the use of longitudinal individual data combined with community-wide information on economic and institutional factors. He has initiated several international comparative projects that use this approach. He was also one of the initiators of the AGENTA project, which deals with economic transfers across generations in an ageing Europe.

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The lecture series also forms part of the Postgraduate Courses run by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

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