



Anthony Philip Thirlwall, one of the foremost economic theorists of our time, died 8 November 2023 aged 82. When Penny -Tony's wife- informed me of this, I reacted with a stunned disbelief that instantly grew into grief, albeit Tony had long before notified me about his terminal illness. Tony Thirlwall was an original scholar, detached from dogmatic and ideological modes of thinking and removed from scholastic affiliations to groups of interest that sometimes plague the discipline. Perhaps that was the reason why Tony liked to call himself "unreconstructed Keynesian" to keep distance from squads, so-called Keynesians or otherwise. Professor Thirlwall was a distinguished member of The Mexican Journal of Economics and Finance's (Remef) editorial board. We are genuinely saddened to hear of the passing of such great human being, a beacon light of economics.

Apart from being a prolific author, with more than 200 refereed journal articles, 18 books, a dozen of edited volumes, and several book reviews, Tony Thirlwall was also Series Editor of Great Thinkers in Economics (a wonderful collection of intellectual biographies of great economists published by Palgrave Macmillan) and Nicholas Kaldor's biographer and literary executor. Tony had come to epitomise a fresh and critical way of looking at both current economic phenomena in less developed countries and the pitfalls of received economic theories shaping present policies responsible for economic stagnation, financial crisis and the blatant insanity of social inequality.

Tony is best known for his model of balance-of-payments-constrained growth, sometimes labelled Thirlwall's Law (Thirlwall, 1979, 2003; McCombie and Thirlwall, 1994). His model shows that demand drives output growth and that, in an open capitalist economy, balance of payments equilibrium is a major restraint for long period economic dynamics. Thirlwall's theory challenges mainstream economic mode of thinking (which habitually assumes a closed economy) in its own citadel. He argues that 1) the supply-side constrained theory of output growth is groundless,

since the supply of factors of production and technological progress (Harrod's natural growth rate) are both elastic and endogenous to aggregate demand fluctuations; 2) the structure of production matters for economic development (differential growth is structurally determined, balance of payments equilibrium sets an upper limit to aggregate demand) and 3) the supply of money is endogenous to economic activity and to the modus operandi of a modern financial system (the banking sector can create money ex nihilo). Tony is also worldwide known for his textbook *Economics of Development: Theory and Evidence* (the 10th edition is co-authored with Penélope Pacheco-López), a landmark reference on growth and development.

Tony Thirlwall visited Mexico many times, he lectured at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN), where he had former students, connoisseurs of his work and friends. He always shared inspiring ideas and learned wisdom with us. The present issue of *Remef*, titled "Anthony P. Thirlwall's Theory of Economic Development, Growth and Finance: An Analytical Appraisal from Mexico", assembles ten original papers by Mexican colleagues who generously pay a tribute to Tony discussing his theories and applying them to empirically assess the performance of the Mexican economy and other emerging economies from various methodological and analytical perspectives.

The sorrow of losing Anthony P. Thirlwall, a true friend, a talented colleague and a generous professor is acute, his absence leaves us with an impossible emptiness. We send our sincerest condolences to Dr. Penélope Pacheco-López, his wife, and to his children Oliver, Lawrence and Alexandra and his grandchildren Ben, Sam, Lorenzo and Sienna.

**Dr. Ignacio Perrotini Hernández**  
**Editor**

## References

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- Thirlwall, A. P. (1979). The Balance of Payments Constraint as an Explanation of International Growth Rate Differences, *PSL Quarterly Review*, 32 (128), 45-53. <https://doi.org/10.13133/2037-3643/12804>
- Thirlwall, A.P. (2003). *La naturaleza del crecimiento económico: un marco alternativo para comprender el desempeño de las naciones*. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica.