


# Michael A. Clemens

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## Affiliations

May 2026–	Johns Hopkins University (Washington, DC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ <i>Full Professor with tenure, and founding faculty member, School of Government &amp; Policy</i></li><li>▸ <i>Professor of Economics (courtesy)</i></li></ul>
2023–May 2026	Dept. of Economics, George Mason University (Fairfax, VA); <i>Full Professor with tenure</i>
2023–	Peterson Institute for International Economics (Washington, DC); <i>Non-Resident Senior Fellow</i>
2014–	IZA–Institute of Labor Economics (LISER, Luxembourg); <i>Research Fellow</i>
2025–	<i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> (American Economic Association); <i>Associate Editor</i>
2021–	<a href="#">Centre for Research &amp; Analysis of Migration</a> (CReAM), Rockwool Fdn. (Berlin); <i>Research Fellow</i>
2025–	Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR, UK); <i>Invited Member, Research &amp; Policy Network on the <a href="#">Political Economy of Migration</a></i>
2023–	Center for Global Development (Washington, DC); <i>Distinguished Non-Resident Fellow</i>
2026–	<a href="#">Fulcrum Project</a> (UCSD and Dartmouth); <i>Mentor</i>
2021–2023	US Agency for International Development; <i>Expert Development Economist</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ <i>Office of the Administrator, TS security clearance</i></li></ul>
2002–2023	Center for Global Development (Washington, DC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ <i>Director for Migration, Displacement, &amp; Humanitarian Policy, 2019–2023</i></li><li>▸ <i>Co-Director for Migration, Displacement, &amp; Humanitarian Policy, 2017–2019</i></li><li>▸ <i>Research Fellow, 2002–2010; Senior Fellow, 2010–2023; Research Manager, 2011–2017</i></li></ul>
2022	Georgetown University (SFS & McCourt School); <i>Adjunct Professor</i>
2016–2022	<i>Journal of Population Economics</i> (Springer); <i>Associate Editor</i>
2016–2020	<i>World Development</i> (Elsevier); <i>Associate Editor</i>
2011	Dept. of Economics & Wagner School, New York University; <i>Visiting Scholar</i>
2003–2010	McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University; <i>Affiliated Associate Professor</i>
2000–2002	Center for International Development, Harvard University; <i>Research Fellow</i>
1998–2000	World Bank; <i>Consultant, environmental economics</i>
1999	Bain & Company (Istanbul, Turkey); <i>Associate Consultant</i>
1996 & 1997	World Bank; <i>Summer Assistant, environmental economics</i>
1994–1995	Thomas J. Watson Foundation; <i>Watson Fellow</i> in Bogotá, Colombia & Cuiabá, Brazil

## Academic Journal Articles

2026	“ <a href="#">The effect of low-skill immigration restrictions on US firms and workers: Evidence from a randomized lottery</a> ”, <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , forthcoming (with Ethan G. Lewis). <i>{Pre-pub. version at <a href="#">NBER</a>, <a href="#">IZA</a>, <a href="#">CReAM</a>, <a href="#">CESifo</a>, and <a href="#">CGD</a>}</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ <a href="#">Summary for VoxEU</a>; Featured in the <a href="#">NBER Digest</a>, December 2022; Referenced by White House Council of Economic Advisers in <a href="#">Economic Report of the President</a>, March 2023</li></ul>
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Academic Journal Articles, *continued*

- ▶ Covered by [Wall Street Journal](#) [bis], [NPR](#), [NBC](#), [CNN](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Bloomberg Law](#) [bis], [Forbes](#), [IZA Newsroom \(Auf Deutsch\)](#), [Macro Roundup](#)
- 2024 “Migration from Developing Countries: Selection, Income Elasticity, and Simpson’s Paradox”, forthcoming in *Journal of Development Economics* (with Mariapia Mendola). *⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA, CGD, and Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano⟩*
- ▶ [Research Summary](#) for [VoxDev](#) at [CEPR](#)  
 ▶ Covered by [The Economist](#); [United Nations Dispatch](#); [Bistandsaktuell](#); [IZA Newsroom](#)
- 2023 “Human Capital Investment under Exit Options: Evidence from a Natural Quasi-Experiment”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 163: 103112 (with Satish Chand). *⟨Pre-pub. versions at CGD and IZA⟩*
- ▶ Covered by [The Economist](#), [The Atlantic](#) (bis), [Guardian Nigeria](#)
- 2023 “Labour Mobility with Vocational Skill: Australian Demand and Pacific Supply”, *Australian Ec. Rev.* 56 (4): 462–486 (with Satish Chand). *⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA and CGD⟩*
- 2022 “The economic and fiscal effects on the United States from reduced numbers of refugees and asylum seekers”, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 38 (3): 449–486. *⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA and CGD⟩*
- ▶ Covered by [Boston Globe](#), [Marketwatch](#), [Forbes](#), [El País](#), [NewsNation](#), [Dziennik Gazeta](#)
- 2022 “Migration on the Rise, a Paradigm in Decline: The Last Half-Century of Global Mobility”, *AEA Papers & Proceedings*, 112: 257–261. *⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA, CReAM, and CGD⟩*
- 2022 “The effect of seasonal work visas on native employment: Evidence from U.S. farm work in the Great Recession”, *Review of International Economics*, 30 (5): 1348–1374. *⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA and CGD⟩*
- ▶ Covered by the [Washington Post](#) (bis), [Fortune](#), [News & Observer](#)  
 ▶ Referenced in [U.S. Congress debate](#) (video)
- 2022 “A Pacific Skills Visa: Improving Opportunities for Skilled Migration Throughout the Pacific Region”, *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, 9 (3): 430–446 (with Satish Chand and Helen Dempster). *⟨Pre-pub. version at CGD and IZA⟩*
- 2021 “Violence, development, and migration waves: Evidence from Central American child migrant apprehensions”, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 124 (July): 103355. *⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA and CGD⟩*
- ▶ Covered by [New Yorker](#); [Washington Post](#) (bis); [Wall Street Journal](#); [The Atlantic](#); [American Prospect](#); [Forbes](#); [PolitiFact](#)
- 2019 “The Place Premium: Bounding the Price Equivalent of Migration Barriers”, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 101 (2): 201–213 (with Claudio Montenegro and Lant Pritchett). *⟨Pre-pub. versions at CGD, Harvard University⟩*
- ▶ Covered by the [New York Times](#); [The Economist](#) (bis); [The Atlantic](#); [Axios](#); [El País](#); [Quartz](#); [Vox](#)  
 ▶ Replication code at DOI:10.7910/DVN/DHZUOT
- 2019 “The New Economic Case for Migration Restrictions: An Assessment”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 138: 153–164 (with Lant Pritchett). *⟨Pre-pub. versions at CGD, IZA, and Harvard University⟩*
- ▶ Covered by the [New York Times](#) and [The Economist](#)  
 ▶ Replication code and data at DOI:10.7910/DVN/HFTDQZ
- 2019 “The Labor Market Effects of Refugee Waves: Reconciling Conflicting Results”, *ILR Review*, 72 (4): 818–857 (with Jennifer Hunt). *⟨Pre-pub. version; Co-released with CGD, LSE, IZA, and CEPR⟩*
- ▶ [Summary for VoxEU](#)

Academic Journal Articles, *continued*

- ▷ Covered by *The Atlantic*, *NPR Planet Money*; *New York Times*; *Bloomberg*; *Wall Street Journal*; *The Economist* (bis); *Washington Post*; *CNBC*; *U.S. News*; *Miami New Times*; *Huffington Post*; *Bloomberg Surveillance* (1:20:15)
- 2018 “Immigration Restrictions as Active Labor Market Policy: Evidence from the Mexican *Bracero* Exclusion”, *American Economic Review*, 108 (6): 1468–1487 (with Ethan G. Lewis and Hannah M. Postel). *⟨Pre-pub. versions at NBER, CGD, and IZA⟩*

  - ▷ Summary for VoxEU
  - ▷ Covered by *New York Times* (bis); *The Economist* (bis, bis); *WSJ*; *AP*; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; *Vox*; *El Diario*; *Newsweek*; *NY Daily News*; *Bloomberg*; featured by *NBER Digest*
  - ▷ Replication code and data at <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/bracero>
- 2018 “Why don’t remittances appear to affect growth?”, *Economic Journal*, 128 (612): F179–F209 (with David McKenzie). *⟨Pre-pub. version; Co-released with World Bank⟩*

  - ▷ Covered by *The Economist*
- 2018 “Deterring Emigration with Foreign Aid: An Overview of Evidence from Low-Income Countries”, *Population and Development Review*, 44 (4): 667–693 (with Hannah M. Postel). *⟨Pre-pub. version; Co-released with GLM-LIC and IZA⟩*

  - ▷ Covered by *Financial Times*; *New York Times*; *The Economist*; *Washington Post*; *The Guardian*; *Mother Jones*; *CS Monitor*; *Die Welt*; *El País*; *De Standaard*; *CQ Researcher*; *Vox*
- 2018 “Testing for repugnance in economic transactions: Evidence from guest work in the Gulf”, *Journal of Legal Studies*, 47 (S1): S5–S44. *⟨Pre-pub. version; Co-released with IZA⟩*

  - ▷ Covered by the *Washington Post*
- 2017 “Split Decisions: Household Finance When a Policy Discontinuity Allocates Overseas Work”, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99 (3): 531–543 (with Erwin R. Tiongson). *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*

  - ▷ Replication code and data at DOI:10.7910/DVN/2DO8QP
- 2017 “The Meaning of Failed Replications: A Review and Proposal”, *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 31 (1): 326–342. *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*
- 2017 “Temporary Work Visas as U.S.-Haiti Development Cooperation: A Preliminary Impact Evaluation”, *IZA Journal of Labor & Development*, 6: 4 (with Hannah Postel). *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*

  - ▷ Replication code and data at DOI:10.7910/DVN/J6P2KT
  - ▷ Covered by *The Economist* (bis, ter); *Washington Post*; *Reuters*; *NBC*; *CNN*; *UPI*; *Miami Herald*; *La Opinión*
- 2016 “The New Role for the World Bank”, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30 (1): 53–76 (with Michael Kremer). *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*

  - ▷ Covered by *Vox*
- 2016 “Losing Our Minds? New research directions on skilled migration and development”, *International Journal of Manpower*, 37 (7): 1227–1248. *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*

  - ▷ Covered by the *Financial Times*
- 2015 “Global Skill Partnerships: A proposal for technical training in a mobile world”, *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, 4:2. *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*

  - ▷ Proposal endorsed by the UN Secretary General and the UN Marrakesh Compact for Migration, Objective 18. Covered by *Inter Press Service*; *El País*
- 2015 “Skill Development and Regional Mobility: Lessons from the Australia-Pacific Technical College”, *Journal of Development Studies*, 51 (11): 1502–1517 (with Colum Graham and Stephen Howes). *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*

Academic Journal Articles, *continued*

- 2014 “A case against taxes and quotas on skilled emigration”, *Journal of Globalization and Development*, 5 (1): 1–39. [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 2014 “Migration and Development Research Is Moving Far Beyond Remittances”, *World Development*, 64: 121–124 (with Çağlar Özden and Hillel Rapoport). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 2013 “Why Do Programmers Earn More in Houston than Hyderabad? Evidence from Randomized Processing of U.S. Visas”, *American Economic Review, Papers & Proceedings*, 103 (3): 198–202. [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- Covered by *Bloomberg* and *Slate*
- 2013 “Blunt Instruments: Avoiding Common Pitfalls in Identifying the Causes of Economic Growth”, *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 5 (2): 152–186 (with Sami Bazzi). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 2012 “Counting chickens when they hatch: Timing and the effects of aid on growth”, *Economic Journal*, 122 (561), 590–617 (with Steven Radelet, Rikhil Bhavnani, and Sami Bazzi). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- Paper awarded the *Royal Economic Society Prize*
- 2012 “Why were Latin America’s tariffs so much higher than Asia’s before 1950?”, *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History*, 30 (1): 12–39 (with Jeffrey G. Williamson). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 2011 “Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk?”, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 25 (3): 83–106. [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- Covered by the *New Yorker*; *New York Times*; *The Economist* (bis, bis); *Fortune*; *Forbes* (bis); *The Atlantic*; *Salon*; NPR, *Deseret News*
  - Subject of the American Economic Association’s *inaugural Research Highlight 2015*
- 2011 “When Does Rigorous Impact Evaluation Make a Difference? The Case of the Millennium Villages”, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 3 (3): 305–339 (with Gabriel Demombynes). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- Replication code and data at DOI:10.7910/DVN/28146
  - Covered by the *Financial Times*; *New York Times* (bis); *The Economist*; *Nature* (bis); *Daily Mail*
- 2008 “Income Per Natural: Measuring Development for People rather than Places”, *Population and Development Review*, 34 (3): 395–434 (with Lant Pritchett). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- Covered by *The Economist* and *The Atlantic*
- 2008 “New data on African health professionals abroad”, *Human Resources for Health*, 6:1 (with Gunilla Pettersson).
- Replication code and data at DOI:10.7910/DVN/28161
- 2007 “The trouble with the MDGs: Confronting expectations of aid and development success”, *World Development*, 35 (5): 735–751 (with Charles Kenny and Todd J. Moss). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 2007 “The ghost of 0.7%: Origins and relevance of the international aid target”, *International Journal of Development Issues*, 6 (1): 3–25 (with Todd J. Moss). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 2004 “Wealth Bias in the First Global Capital Market Boom, 1870-1913”, *Economic Journal*, 114 (495): 304–337 (with Jeffrey G. Williamson). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 2004 “Why Did the Tariff-Growth Correlation Change after 1950?”, *Journal of Economic Growth*, 9 (1): 5–46 (with Jeffrey G. Williamson). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)
- 1999 “Genuine Savings Rates in Developing Countries”, *World Bank Economic Review*, 13 (2): 333–356 (with Kirk Hamilton). [〈Pre-pub. version〉](#)

## Academic Journal Articles, *continued*

- 1999 “Reserve Design for Species Preservation”, *European Journal of Operational Research*, 112 (2): 273–283 (with Charles R. ReVelle and Justin Williams).
- 1993 “Homologous and illegitimate recombination in developing *Xenopus* oocytes and eggs”, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 13 (11): 6897–6906 (with Chris W. Lehman, David K. Worthylake, Jonathan K. Trautman, and Dana Carroll).

## Papers in Progress and Under Review

- 2026 “Immigrant-Native Wage Gaps and Immigration Tariffs: Examining the Case for an H-1B Visa Tax”, Discussion Paper 072/26, Center for Research and Analysis of Migration, University College London. Berlin: Institute for the Economy and the Future of Work (RFBerlin). *⟨Co-released with IZA@LISER⟩*
- 2024 “Migration or stagnation: Aging and economic growth in Korea today, the world tomorrow”, Working Paper 24-18, Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics. *⟨Co-released with IZA and CGD⟩*
- Covered by *The Economist*, *Asia Business Daily*
  - Interactive: *Korea faces income losses within half a century without more labor migration*
- 2024 “Partial Legalization and Parallel Markets: The Effect of Lawful Crossing on Unlawful Crossing at the US Southwest Border”, PIIE Working Paper 24-10. Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics. *⟨Co-released with IZA, CReAM/RFBerlin, Mason Econ., and CGD⟩*
- Covered by *The New Yorker*, *LA Times*
- 2021 “The Fiscal Effect of Immigration: Reducing Bias in Influential Estimates”, CGD Working Paper, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development. *⟨Co-released with IZA, CReAM and CESifo⟩*
- Covered by *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*
- 2020 “Global Mobility and the Threat of Pandemics: Evidence from Three Centuries”, CGD Working Paper 560, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Thomas Ginn). *⟨Co-released with IZA⟩*
- Covered by *Bloomberg*
- 2020 “The Emigration Life Cycle: How Development Shapes Emigration from Poor Countries”, CGD Working Paper 540, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development. *⟨Co-released with IZA⟩*
- Cited by the UK Home Secretary and covered by *The Economist*; *IZA Newsroom*; *The Correspondent*; *Foreign Policy*; *Washington Examiner*; *Kehitys-Utveckling*
- 2019 “Measuring the Spatial Misallocation of Labor: The Returns to India-Gulf Guest Work in a Natural Experiment”, CGD Working Paper. *⟨Co-released with IZA⟩*
- Covered by *India Times*; *Khaleej Times*; *Gulf News*; *The National*

## Litigation Work

- 2026 Lead Amicus for ‘Brief of Economists as *Amici Curiae*’, in Markwayne Mullin, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, et al. v. Dahlia Doe, et al. and Donald Trump v. Fritz Emmanuel Lesly Miot, et al. (US Supreme Court, Case Nos. 25-1083 and 25-1084)
- Co-signed by Nobel laureates David Card, Daron Acemoğlu, and Simon Johnson, as well as 16 leading immigration economists

## Litigation Work, *continued*

- 2025 | Lead *Amicus* for ‘[Brief of Economists as Amici Curiae](#)’, in *Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security et al. vs. National TPS Alliance, et al.* (US Supreme Court, [Docket No. 25A326](#), [Case No. 25-5724](#))  
 ▶ Also Lead *Amicus* in a [follow-up brief](#) for the US Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit ([25-5724](#), [Nov. 12, DktEntry: 43.1](#)), considering an expanded immigration population
- 2025 | Signatory to ‘[Brief of Social Science Scholars as Amici Curiae](#)’, in *State of Washington et al. v. Donald J. Trump et al.* (US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, [2:25-cv-00127-JCC](#))
- 2023–2024 | Expert witness on behalf of the defendant in *State of Arizona et al. v. Merrick Garland et al.* (US District Court, Western District of Louisiana, [6:22-cv-01130](#))  
 ▶ Case against the defendant [dismissed](#)
- 2020 | Declaration on behalf of the plaintiff in *Human Rights First v. Chad F. Wolf et al.* (US District Court DC, [1:20-cv-03764](#))  
 ▶ Rule challenged by the plaintiff enjoined by *Pangea Legal Services v. DHS* ([3:20-cv-09253-JD](#))

## Regulatory Comments

- 2026 | ‘[Economic Effects of Employment Authorization Reform for Asylum Applicants](#)’, Comment on “Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Employment Authorization Reform for Asylum Applicants” (91 *Fed. Reg.* 8616), US Citizenship & Immigration Services, Dept. of Homeland Security, Docket USCIS-2025-0370, RIN 1615-AC97 (with Amy Nice and Natalia Rigol).
- 2025 | ‘[Comment challenging cost estimate provided by the Department of Homeland Security Request to Withdraw NPRM proposing a Wage Level Lottery for H-1B Selection](#)’, Comment on “Notice of Proposed Rule Making Establishing a Weighted Selection Process for Registrants and Petitioners Seeking to File Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions” (90 *Fed. Reg.* 45986), US Citizenship & Immigration Services, Dept. of Homeland Security, Docket USCIS-2025-0040, RIN 1615-AD01 (with Jeremy Neufeld and Amy Nice).
- 2025 | ‘[Very high cost to the nation in deterring international STEM graduate students and postdocs if rule finalized as proposed](#)’, Comment on “Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media” (90 *Fed. Reg.* p. 42070 to 42115) posted Aug 28, 2025 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau, Dept. of Homeland Security, Docket ICEB-2025–0001, RIN 1653-AA95 (with Jeremy Neufeld and Amy Nice).

## Books

- 2027 | *The Walls of Nations*, New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming.
- 1991 | *Geometry for the Classroom*, New York: Springer-Verlag (with C. Herbert Clemens).

## Book Chapters

- 2015 | ‘[Does Development Reduce Migration?](#)’, in Robert E. B. Lucas, ed., *International Handbook on Migration and Economic Development*, Northampton, Mass.: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 152–185. [{Pre-pub. version}](#)  
 ▶ Covered by *The Economist*; *New York Times*; *Foreign Policy*; *Der Spiegel*; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

Book Chapters, *continued*

- 2013 “Seize the Spotlight: A Case for GCC Engagement in Research on the Effects of Labor Migration”. In *Labor Mobility: An Enabler for Sustainable Development*, Abu Dhabi: Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, pp. 103–120. *(Pre-pub. version)*
- 2012 “The Collision of Development Goals and Impact Evaluation”, in Robert Peccoud, ed., *Evaluation and its Discontents: Do We Learn from Experience in Development?*, Proceedings of the 9th AFD-EUDN Conference, Paris: Agence Française de Développement, pp. 169–197.
- 2012 “Income per Natural: Measuring Development for People Rather Than Places”, in Oliver Bakewell, ed., *Migration and Development*, The International Library of Studies on Migration series, London: Edward Elgar Publishing, Ch. 34 (with Lant Pritchett).
- 2011 “The Labor Mobility Agenda for Development”, in Nancy Birdsall and Francis Fukuyama, eds. *New Ideas on Development after the Financial Crisis*, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 260–287.
- 2011 “The Financial Consequences of High-Skill Emigration: Lessons from African Doctors Abroad”, in Sonia Plaza and Dilip Ratha, eds. *Diaspora for Development in Africa*, Washington, DC: World Bank, pp. 165–182.
- 2011 “Genuine Savings Rates in Developing Countries”, in Karl-Gustaf Löfgren and Chuan-Zhong Li, eds. *Green National Accounting And Sustainability*, Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, pp. 653–676 (with Kirk Hamilton).
- 2010 “The Biggest Idea in Development That No One Really Tried”, in Emily Chamlee-Wright, ed., *The Annual Proceedings of the Wealth and Well-Being of Nations: 2009–2010, Volume II*, Beloit, WI: Beloit College Press, pp. 25–50.
- 2006 “Aid and Growth: The Current Debate and Some New Evidence”, in Peter Isard, Leslie Lipschitz, Alexandros Mourmouras, and Boriana Yontcheva, eds., *The Macroeconomic Management of Foreign Aid: Opportunities and Pitfalls*, Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund, pp 43–60 (with Steven Radelet and Rikhil Bhavnani).
- 2006 “A first look at the consequences of African health professional emigration”, in Treasury of Australia and Reserve Bank of Australia, *G-20 Workshop on Demographic Challenges and Migration: Sydney, 27-28 August 2005*, Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, pp. 195–231.
- 2003 “Absorptive capacity: How much is too much?” and “Exit: How long should the MCA commitment last?”, in Steven Radelet, *Challenging Foreign Aid: A Policymaker’s Guide to the Millennium Challenge Account*, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Steven Radelet).
- 2001 “Are we saving enough for the future?”, in Jonathan M. Harris, Timothy A. Wise, Kevin P. Gallagher, and Neva R. Goodwin, eds., *A Survey of Sustainable Development: Social and Economic Dimensions*, Washington, DC: Island Press, pp. 37–41 (with Kirk Hamilton).
- 1997 “Are we saving enough for the future?”, in World Bank, *Expanding the Measure of Wealth: Indicators of Environmentally Sustainable Development*, Environmentally Sustainable Development Studies and Monographs Series, No. 17, Washington, DC: World Bank (with Kirk Hamilton).
- 1997 “The Hidrovia Paraguay-Parana: A Review and Analysis of the Feasibility Studies and Environmental Assessment in the Context of Regional Development”, in Environmental Defense Fund, *The Hidrovia Paraguay-Parana Navigation Project: Report of an Independent Review*, Washington, DC: Environmental Defense Fund and Fundação Centro Brasileiro de Referência e Apoio Cultural/CEBRAC (with Thayer Scudder).

## Policy Writings

- 2026 “[The economic case for a \\$100,000 tax on H-1B visas rests on several errors](#)”, *Realtime Economics*, Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, Mar. 16. [〈Summarizing this research paper〉](#)
- 2025 “[From Root Causes to Shared Gains: Migration Policy for Low-Income Countries in a Labor-Scarce World](#)”, IZA Discussion Paper 18308. Commissioned by the International Monetary Fund. Bonn: IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Dec. 16. [〈Co-released with RFBerlin〉](#)
- 2025 “[Brain Freeze: How International Student Exclusion Will Shape the STEM Workforce and Economic Growth in the United States](#)”, Commissioned by the National Academies for the *Reimagining STEMM Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Career Development Summit*, Washington, DC: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Oct. 22 (with Jeremy Neufeld and Amy Nice).  
 ▶ Covered by *Forbes*
- 2025 “[New US curb on high-skill immigrant workers ignores evidence of its likely harms](#)”. PIIE Realtime Economics, Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, Sep. 22.
- 2025 “[Skilled immigration on the chopping block? Effects of eliminating ‘Optional Practical Training’ in the US](#)”. PIIE Realtime Economics, Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, Apr. 8.
- 2024 “[Modernizing the US Exchange Visitor Skills List](#)”. PIIE Policy Brief, Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, Sep. 5 (with William R. Kerr).
- 2024 “[Expelling Excellence: Exchange Visitor restrictions on high-skill migrants in the United States](#)”, Washington, DC: Institute for Progress, Aug. 8 (with Jeremy Neufeld and Amy Nice). [〈Jointly released by IZA〉](#)
- 2024 “[Offering more lawful pathways for US border crossings reduces unlawful crossings](#)”, Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, Apr. 18.  
 ▶ Covered by *Reason*
- 2024 “[Trump’s proposed mass deportations would backfire on US workers](#)”, Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, Mar. 6.  
 ▶ Covered by *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *US News & World Report* [*bis*], *Reason* [*bis*], *Telemundo*, *Forbes* [*bis*, *bis*], *Washington Monthly*, *Mother Jones*, *Scripps News*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *FranceInfo*
- 2023 “[Why We Won’t Reach a ‘Climate Migrant’ Protection Category—And What We Can Do Instead](#)”, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development, Jun. 8 (with Sam Huckstep).
- 2023 “[Climate Change and Migration: An Omnibus Overview for Policymakers and Development Practitioners](#)”, CGD Policy Paper 292, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development, May 9 (with Sam Huckstep).  
 ▶ Covered by *The Economist*
- 2022 “[Do Cash Transfers Deter Migration?](#)”, CGD Policy Paper 270, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development, Oct. 19. [〈Co-released with IZA〉](#)
- 2022 “[Doing Refugee Integration Better: Three Lessons from the Latest Research](#)”, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development, Oct. 19.
- 2022 “[Pathways for Labor Migration from Northern Central America: Five Difficult but Necessary Proposals](#)”, *North and Central American Task Force on Migration*, World Refugee and Migration Council, Jan. 13. [〈Co-released with CGD and IZA〉](#)
- 2021 “[Australia needs more Pacific mid-skill migration: Here’s how to facilitate it](#)”, *DevPolicy*, Oct. 15 (with Satish Chand and Helen Dempster).

Policy Writings, *continued*

- 2021 “Expanding Legal Migration Pathways from Nigeria to Europe: From Brain Drain to Brain Gain”, World Bank-CGD report, Jul. 19 (with Samik Adhikari, Helen Dempster, and Nkechi Linda Ekeator). *Jointly released by World Bank*
- Policy brief: “Why Europe Should Build Legal Migration Pathways with Nigeria”
  - Covered by *Handelsblatt, This Day*
- 2021 “The Real Root Causes of America’s Border Crisis: And How Biden Can Address Them”, *Foreign Affairs*, Jun. 7.
- 2021 “Ethical Recruitment of Health Workers: Using Bilateral Cooperation to Fulfill the World Health Organization’s Global Code of Practice”, CGD Policy Paper 212 (with Helen Dempster), May 27.
- Covered by *New York Times*
- 2021 “The Missing Piece in Biden’s Plan for Central America: Bilateral Labor Agreements”, CGD blog, Feb. 9.
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- 2007 “Smart Samaritans: Is There a Third Way in the Development Debate?”, *Foreign Affairs*, 86 (5, Sept./Oct.): 132–140.
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- 2005 “[Aid and Growth: New evidence shows that aid flows aimed at growth have produced results](#)”, *Finance and Development*, 42 (3): 16–20 (with Steven Radelet and Rikhil Bhavnani).
- 2005 “[Interpréter les OMD](#)”, *Courrier de la Planète*. 76: 18–21 (with Charles Kenny and Todd J. Moss).

## Comments and Reviews

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- 2017 “[Review of Patrick Kingsley, \*The New Odyssey: The Story of the Twenty-First-Century Refugee Crisis\*](#)”, *Population and Development Review*, 43 (2).
- 2015 “[Mapping the Worm Wars: What the Public Should Take Away from the Scientific Debate about Mass Deworming](#)”, Views from the Center blog, July 30 (with Justin Sandefur).
- 2013 “Comments on ‘Gender Equality and Development’ by Esther Duflo”, in Justin Yifu Lin and Claudia Paz Sepúlveda, eds., *Development Challenges in a Post-crisis World*, Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics 2011, Washington, DC: World Bank.
- 2012 “[Concerns about the Millennium Villages project report](#)”, *The Lancet*, 379 (9830): 1945 (with Jesse B. Bump, Gabriel Demombynes, and Lawrence Haddad).  
 ▶ *This comment resulted in a retraction of findings in the critiqued paper.*
- 2012 “[Multisector intervention to accelerate reductions in child stunting: an independent critique of scientific method](#)”, *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 95 (3): 774–775 (with Gabriel Demombynes).
- 2009 “[Thesis of a rigid revivalist: Review of \*Dead Aid\* by Dambisa Moyo](#)”, *Finance and Development*, 46 (3): 53–54.
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## Other Research Papers

- 2011 “[Mobiles and mobility: The Effect of Mobile Phones on Migration in Niger](#)”, Proceedings of the German Development Economics Conference, Berlin 2011 No. 2 (with Jenny Aker and Christopher Ksoll).
- 2007 “[Do visas kill? Health Effects of African Health Professional Emigration](#)”, CGD Working Paper 114, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.
- 2004 “[The long walk to school: Development goals in historical perspective](#)”, CGD Working Paper 37, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.
- 2004 “[Inequality, Institutions and Long-Term Growth in Colombia](#)”, Manuscript (with William Easterly and Carlos Esteban Posada).

## Other Research Papers, *continued*

- 2003 “[Who Protected and Why? Tariffs the World Around 1870–1938](#)”, Harvard Institute of Economic Research Discussion Paper No. 2010, Dept. of Economics, Harvard University (with Christopher Blattman and Jeffrey G. Williamson).
- 2002 “[World Bank Capital Neither Complements Nor Substitutes for Private Capital](#)”, CGD Working Paper 20, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.
- 2002 “[Do Rich Countries Invest Less in Poor Countries Than the Poor Countries Themselves?](#)”, CGD Working Paper 19, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.
- 1998 “[Estimating National Wealth: Methodology and Results](#)”, Environmental Economics Series, Paper Number 57, Washington, DC: World Bank (with Arundhati Kunte, Kirk Hamilton, and John Dixon).

## Teaching

- 2026 **Short Course on the Economics of Immigration and Innovation** (PhD), Institute for Progress
- 2023–present **Economic Problems and Public Policies** (Undergrad.), George Mason University
- 2022 **How Migration Policy Shapes Economies, Local and Global** (Master’s), Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy and Walsh School of Foreign Service
- 2003–2010 **Macroeconomics and Thesis Advising** (Master’s), Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy
- 2005 **Foreign Aid Effectiveness** (Ph.D.), University of Copenhagen
- 2002 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning, Harvard Univ.
- 2001–2002 **Economic Development in East Asia** (Undergrad.), Harvard Univ. Dept. of Economics
- 2001 **Globalization and History** (Undergrad.), Harvard Univ. Dept. of Economics

## Education

- 2002 **Ph.D., economics**, Harvard University Dept. of Economics, Cambridge, MA  
 ▷ *NSF Graduate Research Fellowship; Derek Bok certificate of distinction in teaching*  
 ▷ *Fields: Economic history, development economics, public economics*
- 1997 **M.S., econ. & environmental management**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD  
 ▷ *Abel Wolman Merit Scholarship*
- 1994 **B.S., engineering and applied science**, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA

## Peer Reviews

Referee reports for *American Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Economic Literature*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *ILR Review*, *Labour Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Science*, *Science Advances*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Journal of International Economics*, *World Development*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Public Choice*, *European Economic Review*, *The Lancet*, *International Migration Review*, *Population and Development Review*, *Journal of Globalization and Development*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Journal of Economic Surveys*, *European Economic History Review*, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, *Review of World Economics*, *Journal of Iberian and Latin American History*, *Journal of International Money and Finance*, *Economic Notes*, National Science Foundation, World Bank Research Committee, Princeton University Press, Oxford University Press, MIT Press, Stanford University Press, Zed Books, *Journal of Economics and Growth of Developing Areas*, *Health Affairs*, *Human Resources for Health*, *Financial History Review*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Georgetown University Public Policy Review*, numerous external academic tenure reviews.

## Honors

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2013      | <a href="#">Royal Economic Society Prize</a> for best paper published in the <i>Economic Journal</i> in 2012 (with co-authors Steven Radelet, Rikhil Bhavnani, and Sami Bazzi). |
| 2010      | Invited for 15 <sup>th</sup> <a href="#">Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture</a> , Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.  |
| 2010      | Devex.com “ <a href="#">40 young leaders shaping the way international relief and development assistance are being delivered</a> ”.   |
| 1996–2000 | National Science Foundation <a href="#">Graduate Research Fellowship</a> .  |

## Influence

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|---------------------|--|
| <i>Research</i>     | Academic citation statistics at: <a href="#">Google Scholar</a>   <a href="#">SSRN</a>   <a href="#">RePEc IDEAS</a>   <a href="#">ResearchGate</a><br>Invited to <a href="#">IOM Migration Research Leaders Syndicate</a> , 2017<br><a href="#">Top 0.57% of academic economists</a> on RePEc IDEAS citations (398 out of 70,287 economists), for publications in the last ten years: Jan. 2015–Jan. 2025<br>Replication data and code: <a href="https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/mclem">https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/mclem</a><br>“ <a href="#">Six Vital Voices on the Economics of Migration</a> ”, by <i>NewsDeeply</i> |
| <i>Social media</i> | “ <a href="#">20 most influential think tank experts on Twitter</a> , 2017” by ESGlobal.<br><i>Foreign Policy</i> magazine “ <a href="#">Who’s who of the foreign policy Twitterverse</a> ” <a href="#">2012</a> and <a href="#">2013</a> .  |

## Personal

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|-----------|--|
| Languages | English (native); Spanish (advanced)<br>Portuguese, French, Turkish (intermediate) |
|-----------|--|