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Academic History

Harvard University
Ph.D., Economics

Cambridge, MA
June 2002

The Johns Hopkins University
M.A., Economics and Environmental Management

Baltimore, MD
February 1997

California Institute of Technology (“Caltech”)
B.S., Engineering and Applied Science

Pasadena, CA
June 1994

Fields of Interest

- Economic growth and development
- International migration
- Economic history
- International public finance

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Michael A. Clemens and Gabriel Demombynes (2011), “[When Does Rigorous Impact Evaluation Make a Difference? The Case of the Millennium Villages](#)”, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, forthcoming.

Michael A. Clemens (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).

Michael A. Clemens and Lant Pritchett (2008), “[Income Per Natural: Measuring Development for People rather than Places](#),” *Population and Development Review* 34 (3): 395-434.

Michael A. Clemens and Gunilla Pettersson (2008), “[New data on African health professionals abroad](#),” *Human Resources for Health* 6:1.

Michael A. Clemens, Charles Kenny, and Todd J. Moss (2007), “[The trouble with the MDGs: Confronting expectations of aid and development success](#)”, *World Development* 35(5): 735-751.

Michael A. Clemens and Todd J. Moss (2007), “[The ghost of 0.7%: Origins and relevance of the international aid target](#)”, *International Journal of Development Issues* 6(1): 3-25.

Michael A. Clemens and Todd J. Moss (2006), "[Le mythe des 0,7% : origines et pertinence de la cible fixée pour l'aide internationale au développement](#)," *Afrique Contemporaine* 219: 173-201.

Michael A. Clemens and Jeffrey G. Williamson (2004), "[Wealth Bias in the First Global Capital Market Boom, 1870-1913](#)," *Economic Journal* 114 (April): 311-344.

Michael A. Clemens and Jeffrey G. Williamson (2004), "[Why Did the Tariff-Growth Correlation Change after 1950?](#)" *Journal of Economic Growth* 9 (1): 5-46.

Kirk Hamilton and Michael Clemens (1999), "[Genuine Savings Rates in Developing Countries](#)," *World Bank Economic Review* 13(2): 333-356.

Michael Clemens, Charles R. ReVelle, and Justin Williams (1999), "[Reserve Design for Species Preservation](#)," *European Journal of Operational Research* 112(2): 273-283.

CW Lehman, M Clemens, DK Worthylake, JK Trautman, and D Carroll (1993), "[Homologous and illegitimate recombination in developing *Xenopus* oocytes and eggs](#)," *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 13(11): 6897-6906.

Currently under review

Michael A. Clemens and Jeffrey G. Williamson (2011), "Why were Latin America's tariffs so much higher than Asia's before 1950?"

Michael A. Clemens (2010), "[The Roots of Global Wage Gaps: Evidence from Randomized Processing of U.S. Visas](#)", CGD Working Paper 212.

Samuel Bazzi and Michael A. Clemens (2010), "[Blunt Instruments: On Establishing the Causes of Economic Growth](#)", CGD Working Paper 171.

Michael A. Clemens (2009), "[Skill Flow: A fundamental reconsideration of skilled-worker migration and development](#)", background paper for United Nations *Human Development Report 2009*.

Michael A. Clemens, Claudio Montenegro, and Lant Pritchett (2008), "[The Place Premium: Wage differences for identical workers across the US border](#)", CGD Working Paper 148.

Michael A. Clemens, Steven Radelet, Rikhil R. Bhavnani, and Samuel Bazzi (2004), "[Counting chickens when they hatch: The short-term effect of aid on growth](#)", CGD Working Paper 44.

Other Publications

Michael Clemens (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, Volume II: Property Rights and Economic Prosperity* (Beloit, WI: Beloit College Press)

Michael Clemens (2010), "[Is Your Citizenship Worth \\$1 Million? An Alternative to Obama's Proposal on Immigration](#)", *The Huffington Post*, July 6.

- Michael Clemens (2010), "[The year when shrinking was good](#)", *Foreign Policy*, June 21.
- Michael Clemens (2010), "[Let Haitians come to the U.S.: The best way to help Haiti rebuild is through immigration](#)", *Global Post*, February 26.
- Michael Clemens (2010), "[Let them leave: Why migration is the best solution for Haiti's recovery](#)", *Foreign Policy*, January 27.
- Michael A. Clemens (2010), "[To help Haiti's earthquake victims, change U.S. immigration laws](#)", *Washington Post*, January 24, page B2.
- Michael A. Clemens (2010), "[Heath Worker Migration: Disease or Symptom?](#)" *Global Health*, Winter issue.
- Michael A. Clemens (2009), "[Thesis of a rigid revivalist: Review of *Dead Aid* by Dambisa Moyo](#)", *Finance and Development*, 46 (3): 53-54.
- Michael A. Clemens (2007), "[Smart Samaritans: Is There a Third Way in the Development Debate?](#)" *Foreign Affairs* 86(5, Sept./Oct.): 132-140.
- Steven Radelet, Michael Clemens, and Rikhil Bhavnani (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).
- Michael Clemens (2006), "A first look at the consequences of African health professional emigration", in Treasury of Australia and Reserve Bank of Australia, *Workshop on Demographic Challenges and Migration: Sydney, 27-28 August 2005* (Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia).
- Michael A. Clemens, Steven Radelet, and Rikhil Bhavnani (2005), "[Aid and Growth: New evidence shows that aid flows aimed at growth have produced results](#)", *Finance and Development* 42 (3): 16-20.
- Michael A. Clemens, Todd J. Moss, and Charles Kenny (2005), "[Interpréter les OMD](#)", *Courrier de la Planète* 76 : 18-21.
- Michael A. Clemens (2003), "[Paul Streeten, Globalisation: Threat or Opportunity?](#)" *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 52 (1): 243-245.
- Michael Clemens and Steven Radelet (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).
- Kirk Hamilton and Michael Clemens (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).
- Arundhati Kunte, Kirk Hamilton, John Dixon and Michael Clemens (1998), *Estimating National Wealth: Methodology and Results*, Environmental Economics Series, Paper Number 57. World Bank, Washington, DC.

Kirk Hamilton and Michael Clemens (1997), “Creating and Maintaining Wealth,” in [Expanding the Measure of Wealth: Indicators of Environmentally Sustainable Development](#), Environmentally Sustainable Development Studies and Monographs Series, No. 17. World Bank, Washington, DC.

Michael Clemens and Thayer Scudder (1997), “The Hidrovia Paraguay-Parana: A Review and Analysis of the Feasibility Studies and Environmental Assessment in the Context of Regional Development,” in [The Hidrovia Paraguay-Parana Navigation Project: Report of an Independent Review](#). Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and Fundação Centro Brasileiro de Referência e Apoio Cultural (CEBRAC), Washington, DC.

C. Herbert Clemens and Michael Clemens (1991), [Geometry for the Classroom](#). Springer-Verlag, New York.

Unpublished Writings

“[Skilled emigration and skill creation: A quasi-experiment](#)”, CGD Working Paper and Australian National University Crawford School Working Paper 08-05 (2008, with Satish Chand).

“[The long walk to school: Development goals in historical perspective](#)” CGD Working Paper 37 (2004).

“[Do visas kill? Health Effects of African Health Professional Emigration](#)”, CGD Working Paper 114 (2007).

“[Costs and Causes of Zimbabwe's Crisis](#)”, CGD Note, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC (2005, with Todd Moss).

“Inequality, Institutions and Long-Term Growth in Colombia” (2004, with William Easterly and Carlos Esteban Posada).

“[Closed Jaguar, Open Dragon: Comparing Tariffs in Latin America and Asia before World War II](#),” Working Paper 9401, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA (December 2002, with Jeffrey Williamson).

“[World Bank Capital Neither Complements Nor Substitutes for Private Capital](#),” Working Paper 20, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC (2002).

“[Do Rich Countries Invest Less in Poor Countries Than the Poor Countries Themselves?](#)” Working Paper 19, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC (2002).

“[Who Protected and Why? Tariffs the World Around 1870-1938](#),” (2003, with Christopher Blattman and Jeffrey Williamson).

Peer reviews

Referee reports for *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Economic Development and Cultural*

Change, Journal of International Economics, World Bank Economic Review, International Migration Review, Population and Development Review, World Development, Journal of Globalization and Development, European Economic History Review, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Review of World Economics, National Science Foundation, Oxford University Press, MIT Press, Zed Books, Berkeley Electronic Press Journal of Economics and Growth of Developing Areas, Health Affairs, Human Resources for Health, Financial History Review, Georgetown University Public Policy Review.

Teaching Experience

Affiliated Associate Professor (Spring 2003 to present), “Macroeconomics” (master’s) and master’s thesis advising, Georgetown University Public Policy Institute.

Two-day PhD course on empirical strategies for studying foreign aid effectiveness, Institute of Economics, University of Copenhagen, as part of two-week workshop by Prof. Finn Tarp.

Teaching Fellow (Fall 2001), “Globalization and History” (undergraduate), Harvard University Department of Economics, Professor Jeffrey G. Williamson

Teaching Fellow (Spring 2001 and 2002), “Economic Development in East Asia” (undergraduate), Harvard University Department of Economics, Professor Dwight H. Perkins

Employment Experience

Center for Global Development Washington, DC
Research Fellow (7/2002-5/2010), *Senior Fellow* (6/2010-Present) July 2002 to Present

- Basic research on the development consequences of Official Development Assistance and the international migration of skilled workers

New York University New York, NY
Visiting Scholar January 2011 to June 2011

- Jointly affiliated with Dept. of Economics and Wagner School of Public Policy

Georgetown University, Public Policy Institute Washington, DC
Affiliated Associate Professor January 2003 to May 2010

- Taught master’s level course on macroeconomics, with a focus on developing countries
- Advised numerous master’s theses on development economics and public policy

Harvard University, Center for International Development Cambridge, MA
Research Fellow May 2000 to June 2002

Basic research on:

- Determinants of private capital flows to developing countries, 1870-1999
- Determinants and consequences of developing country tariffs, 1875-1999
- Optimal international public finance for development
- Cost/benefit analysis of US policy towards developing countries

The World Bank, Environmental Economics and Indicators Unit Washington, DC
Consultant November to December 1999

- In a short-term project, formulated and defended six hypotheses on the environmental impact of financial crises using complex data from SE Asia.

Bain & Company

Associate Consultant

Istanbul, TURKEY

May to September 1999

- Helped major Turkish commercial bank develop competitive strategy in a recently-deregulated, high-inflation financial sector. Managed research assistant team and worked with top levels of client bank.
- Although our recommendations could double profitability, our long-term impact will not be known until the future. But after success in applying our initial findings, the client purchased a new consulting contract worth millions.

The World Bank, ECA Department

Consultant

Washington, DC

September 1998 to February 1999

- Created economic model of optimal land use policy adopted by the Turkey Forest Sector Review (FSR).
- Co-authored major study of the economic value of Turkish forestland, proving conclusively that this value is maximized by concentrating forest management on non-timber goods & services. Primary product of the FSR Global Overlays Program.

The World Bank, AGR Department

Summer Assistant

Washington, DC and Georgetown, GUYANA

May to August 1997

- Created economic model of Indonesian land use and presented resulting forest policy recommendations.
- In Guyana, worked with World Bank team and Guyanese government officials to negotiate legal and institutional coordination issues surrounding implementation of Guyana's first national park.
- Chosen as sole member of team to remain in Guyana, researching cost/benefit analysis of proposed park.

Environmental Defense Fund

Consultant

Oakland, CA

November 1996 to March 1997

- Critically reviewed environmental impact of billion-dollar river development project in South America.
- Worked with team of anthropologists, economists, and environmental scientists from USA, Brazil and Argentina as member of expert panel.
- Co-authored lead article in published EDF volume, cited by a senior official at the World Bank as a major factor in the January 1998 decision by a Brazilian federal judge to terminate Brazilian support for the project.

The World Bank, ENV Department

Summer Assistant

Washington, DC

June to August 1996

- Calculated hypothetical effects of valuing environmental damages within national accounts worldwide.
- Developed and implemented computable models of several global natural resource markets. Co-authored resulting paper in the peer-reviewed journal *World Bank Economic Review*.

The Thomas J. Watson Foundation

Research Fellow

Bogotá, COLOMBIA and Cuiabá, BRAZIL

August 1994 to August 1995

- Full-year resident in low-income areas of Colombia and Brazil.

- Studied the effects of social and ethnic conflicts on performance of United Nations forest conservation projects.

Honors

- Selected by Devex.com as one the “[40 top international development leaders in Washington, DC who are under 40 years old](#)” (September 2010).
- Derek Bok Certificate for Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University (Fall 2001).
Nominated for Levenson Memorial Teaching Award, Harvard University (May 2002).
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Mar. 1996).
- “STAR” Merit Scholarship from the Environmental Protection Agency (Aug. 1996); Three years graduate school tuition and stipend [declined].
- Abel Wolman Merit Scholarship from The Johns Hopkins University Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering (May 1995); One year full tuition and stipend.
- Perfect score on Graduate Record Examination (Nov. 1993), Analytical and Mathematical Reasoning Sections.
- AT&T Leadership Award (April 1993).

Memberships

- American Economic Association
- Royal Economic Society
- Population Association of America