

Michael A. Clemens

Center for Global Development *Phone* (+1) 202 416 4000
2055 L Street NW, 5th floor *Email* mclemens@cgdev.org
Washington, DC 20036 USA *Web* <http://mclem.org>

Affiliations

2010–present	Senior Fellow , Center for Global Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">▷ <i>Director for Migration, Displacement, & Humanitarian Policy, 2019–present</i>▷ <i>Co-Director for Migration, Displacement, & Humanitarian Policy, 2017–2019</i>
2014–present	Research Fellow , IZA–Institute of Labor Economics (Bonn, Germany)
2021–present	External Research Fellow , Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), Department of Economics, University College London
2021–present	Expert Development Economist , Office of the Administrator, USAID <ul style="list-style-type: none">▷ <i>Security clearance TS</i>
Spring 2022	Adjunct Professor , Georgetown University (SFS & McCourt School)
2012–present	Affiliate , Financial Access Initiative, New York University
2016–2022	Associate Editor , <i>Journal of Population Economics</i> (Springer)
2016–2020	Associate Editor , <i>World Development</i> (Elsevier)
2011	Visiting Scholar , Dept. of Economics & Wagner School, New York University
2003–2010	Affiliated Associate Professor , McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University
2002–2010	Research Fellow , Center for Global Development (<i>Research Manager 2011–2017</i>)
2000–2002	Research Fellow , Center for International Development, Harvard University
1998–2000	Consultant , environmental economics, World Bank
1999	Associate Consultant , Bain & Company (Istanbul, Turkey)
1996 & 1997	Summer Assistant , environmental economics, World Bank
1994–1995	Watson Fellow , Thomas J. Watson Foundation (Bogotá, Colombia & Cuiabá, Brazil)

Academic Journal Articles

2022	“ The economic and fiscal effects on the United States from reduced numbers of refugees and asylum seekers ”, <i>Oxford Review of Economic Policy</i> , 38 (3): 449–486. <i>⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA and CGD⟩</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▷ Covered in <i>Marketwatch</i>, <i>Forbes</i>, <i>El País</i>, <i>NewsNation</i>, <i>Dziennik Gazeta</i>
2022	“ Migration on the Rise, a Paradigm in Decline: The Last Half-Century of Global Mobility ”, <i>AEA Papers & Proceedings</i> , 112: 257–261. <i>⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA, CReAM, and CGD⟩</i>
2022	“ The effect of seasonal work visas on native employment: Evidence from U.S. farm work in the Great Recession ”, <i>Review of International Economics</i> , 30 (5): 1348–1374. <i>⟨Pre-pub. versions at IZA and CGD⟩</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▷ Covered in the <i>Washington Post</i> (bis), <i>Fortune</i>, <i>News & Observer</i>▷ Referenced in U.S. Congress debate (video)

Academic Journal Articles, *continued*

- 2022 “A Pacific Skills Visa: Improving Opportunities for Skilled Migration Throughout the Pacific Region”, *Asia & the Pacific Policy studies*, forthcoming (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 in *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 in 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 in 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 on VoxEU
 ▶ Covered in *New York Times*; *Bloomberg*; *Wall Street Journal*; *The Economist* (bis); *Washington Post*; *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 on VoxEU
 ▶ Covered in *New York Times* (bis); *The Economist* (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 in *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 in *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⟩*
- 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⟩*

Academic Journal Articles, *continued*

- 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 in *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 in *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 in 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>*
- 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 in *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 in the *New York Times*; *The Economist* (bis); *Fortune*; *Forbes* (bis); *The Atlantic*; *Salon*; NPR
 - 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 in the *Financial Times*; *New York Times* (bis); *The Economist*; *Nature* (bis); *Daily Mail*

Academic Journal Articles, *continued*

- 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 in *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〉](#)
- 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).

Books

- 2023 [The Walls of Nations](#), New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming.
- 1991 [Geometry for the Classroom](#), New York: Springer-Verlag (with C. Herbert Clemens).

Papers Under Review

- 2022 “[The effect of low-skill immigration restrictions on US firms and workers: Evidence from a randomized lottery](#)”, NBER Working Paper 30589. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research (with Ethan G. Lewis). [〈Co-released with IZA, CReAM, and CGD〉](#)
- 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 in *Forbes*
- 2021 “[Labour Mobility with Vocational Skill: Australian Demand and Pacific Supply](#)”, CGD Working Paper 593, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Satish Chand). [〈Co-released with IZA〉](#)
- 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〉](#)

Papers Under Review, *continued*

- ▷ Covered in *Bloomberg*

2020 “Migration from Developing Countries: Selection, Income Elasticity, and Simpson’s Paradox”, CGD Working Paper 539, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Mariapia Mendola). *⟨Co-released with IZA and Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano⟩*

▷ Covered in *The Economist*; *United Nations Dispatch*; *Bistandsaktuelt*; *IZA Newsroom*
- 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⟩*

▷ Covered in *The Economist*; *IZA Newsroom*; *The Correspondent*; *Foreign Policy*; *Washington Examiner*; *Kehityys-Utveckling*
- 2019 “Human Capital Investment under Exit Options: Evidence from a Natural Quasi-Experiment”, CGD Working Paper 152, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Satish Chand). *⟨Co-released with IZA⟩*

▷ Covered in *The Economist* and *The Atlantic* (bis)
- 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 in *India Times*; *Khaleej Times*; *Gulf News*; *The National*

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 in *The Economist*; *New York Times*; *Foreign Policy*; *Der Spiegel*; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*
- 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.

Book Chapters, *continued*

- 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

- 2022 “[Do Cash Transfers Deter Migration?](#)”, CGD Policy Paper 270, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development, Oct. 19.
- 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.
- 2021 “[Australia needs more Pacific mid-skill migration: Here’s how to facilitate it](#)”, *DevPolicy*, Oct. 15 (with Satish Chand and Helen Dempster).
- 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 in *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 in *New York Times*
- 2021 “[The Missing Piece in Biden’s Plan for Central America: Bilateral Labor Agreements](#)”, CGD blog, Feb. 9.

Policy Writings, *continued*

- 2021 [“Should the Threat of Pandemics End the Age of Mobility?”](#), *Think Global Health*, Jan. 28 (with Thomas Ginn).
- 2020 [“How economic development shapes migration: Facing the emigration life cycle”](#), *Migration Policy Practice*, 10 (4): 31–34 (with Cassandra Zimmer).
- 2020 [“Restricting Mobility Will Not Stop the Next Pandemic”](#), CGD Commentary and Analysis, Dec. 10 (with Thomas Ginn and Reva Resstack).
- 2020 [“Harnessing Northern Triangle Migration for Mutual Benefit”](#), *White House and the World Policy Brief*, Dec. 3 (with Reva Resstack and Cassandra Zimmer).
- 2020 [“How economic development shapes emigration”](#), *VoxDev* (commissioned), Sep. 21.
- 2020 [“Emigration Rises Along with Economic Development. Aid Agencies Should Face This, but Not Fear It”](#), CGD blog, Aug. 18.
- 2020 [“The Future of Legal Migration: Labour Migration Pathways Between Europe and Africa”](#), in Matteo Villa, ed., *The Future of Migration to Europe*, Milan: ISPI Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (with Helen Dempster and Katelyn Gough).
- 2020 [“Migration and household finances: How a different framing can improve thinking about migration”](#), *Development Policy Review*, 38 (1): 3–27 (with Timothy N. Ogden). *(Pre-pub. version at CGD)*
- 2020 [“Shared Border, Shared Future: A U.S.-Mexican Bilateral Worker Agreement”](#), in Alex Nowrasteh and David J. Bier, eds., *12 New Immigration Ideas for the 21st Century*, Washington, DC: Cato Institute.
- 2019 [“Three Facts You Haven’t Heard Much About Are Keys to Better Policy Toward Central America”](#), CGD blog, Nov. 1 (with Jimmy Graham).
 ▶ Covered in *Mother Jones*
- 2019 [“Promoting New Kinds of Legal Labour Migration Pathways Between Europe and Africa”](#), CGD Policy Brief (with Helen Dempster and Katelyn Gough).
- 2019 [“The President Has Mostly Wiped out US Refugee Resettlement. Other Countries Aren’t Picking up the Slack”](#), CGD blog, Feb. 6.
- 2019 [“La migración es lo que hacemos de ella”](#), *Política Exterior*, No. 187. Jan./Feb. (with Cindy Huang, Jimmy Graham, and Kate Gough).
- 2018 [“A Tool to Implement the Global Compact for Migration: Ten Key Steps for Building Global Skill Partnerships”](#), CGD Brief, Dec. 4.
- 2018 [“Migration as a form of development: New kinds of regulations to create shared benefits”](#), *Migration Policy Practice*, 8 (3): 6–11.
- 2018 [“The Economic and Fiscal Effects of Granting Refugees Formal Labor Market Access”](#), CGD Working Paper 496 (with Cindy Huang and Jimmy Graham).
 ▶ Covered in *Politico*, *Apolitical*
- 2018 [“Countries should train migrants coming to work—before they arrive”](#), *Apolitical*, June 29 (with Kate Gough).
- 2018 [“Migration Is What You Make It: Seven Policy Decisions that Turned Challenges into Opportunities”](#), CGD Note, May 30 (with Cindy Huang, Jimmy Graham, and Kate Gough).
- 2018 [“Can Development Assistance Deter Emigration?”](#), CGD Policy Brief, Feb. 12 (with Hannah Postel).
- 2018 [“The Best Ideas for Making Migration Work”](#), *Refugees Deeply*, Jan. 25 (with Katelyn Gough).

Policy Writings, *continued*

- 2017 [“Migration is a Form of Development: The Need for Innovation to Regulate Migration for Mutual Benefit”](#), Technical Paper No. 2017/8, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. New York: United Nations.
 ▸ Covered in *El Periódico*
- 2017 [“Regional Security Means Border Security: New Data on Why Central American Children Flee to the United States”](#), *War on the Rocks*, Texas National Security Network, 30 November.
- 2017 [“Migrants will keep coming. We should give them the skills they need to thrive”](#), World Economic Forum *Agenda*, 15 November.
- 2017 [“The Need for a Bilateral Labor Agreement Between the US and Mexico, and the Responsibility for Leadership”](#), Keynote speech at the conference *¿Qué hacer frente a la crisis migratoria? Nuevas visiones y propuestas de acción*, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, jointly sponsored by Colmex and CIDE, 23 October. *(En español)*
- 2017 [“The labour market impact of refugee waves”](#), *CentrePiece* 22 (3, October): 26–28. London: Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics (with Jennifer Hunt).
- 2017 [“The economic effects of refugees are largely down to decisions made by the countries which take them”](#), *American Politics and Policy* blog, LSE United States Centre, Oct. 20.
- 2017 [“Global Skill Partnerships: A Proposal for Technical Training in a Mobile World”](#), CGD Policy Brief, Oct. 11.
- 2017 [“Global Skill Partnerships: A Proposal for Technical Training in Settings of Forced Displacement”](#), CGD Policy Brief, Oct. 11 (with Katelyn Gough).
- 2017 [“Foreign Policy Is Migration Policy: Lessons from the Drivers of Central American Child Migration”](#), CGD Policy Brief, Sep. 13 (with Hannah Postel).
- 2017 [“How Central American Youth Test Outdated U.S. Immigration Laws”](#), *Americas Quarterly*, Aug. 15.
- 2017 [“The Real Economic Cost of Accepting Refugees”](#), *Refugees Deeply*, Aug. 8.
- 2017 [“Trump says banning immigrants helps US workers. A leading economist says he’s wrong”](#), *Vox.com*, Aug. 3.
- 2017 [“The debate over the Mariel boatlift, economics’ most famous immigration controversy, explained”](#), *Vox.com*, Jun. 23.
- 2017 [“Does Kicking Out Mexicans Create Jobs? Here’s what happened the last time an American president promised to create jobs by removing Mexican immigrants”](#), *Politico*, Feb. 15.
- 2017 [“Walling the U.S. Off From Mexico Won’t Work”](#), *U.S. News & World Report*, Feb. 2.
- 2017 [“Don’t despair, innovate—Now is the time to try new forms of development cooperation”](#), *Devex Global Views*, Feb. 23.
- 2016 [Shared Border, Shared Future: A Blueprint to Regulate US-Mexico Labor Mobility](#), Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Ernesto Zedillo and Carlos Gutierrez). *(En español)*
 ▸ Covered by the *New York Times*; *Washington Post* [*bis*]; National Public Radio; *El Universal*; *La Crónica*
- 2016 [“Development Aid to Deter Migration Will Do Nothing of the Kind”](#), *Refugees Deeply*, Oct. 31.
- 2016 [“World Bank’s US dependency has to end: It’s time to choose the institution’s president based on merit rather than geopolitical considerations”](#), *Politico Europe*, September 13.
- 2016 [“Why today’s migration crisis is an issue of global economic inequality”](#), Ford Foundation *Equals Change* blog, July 29.

Policy Writings, *continued*

- 2016 “Global Skill Partnerships: A proposal for technical training in a mobile world”, *OECD Development Centre blog*, April 19.
- 2016 “Time for philanthropists to get on board with migration”, *Alliance* magazine, March.
- 2015 “A Self-Interested Approach to Migration Crises: Push Factors, Pull Factors, and Investing In Refugees”, *Foreign Affairs*, Sept. 27 (with Justin Sandefur).
- 2015 “Gestionar la crisis migratoria desde el interés propio”, *Política Exterior*, November-December (with Justin Sandefur).
- 2015 “Remittances 101 for Populist Politicians”, *Views from the Center* blog, August 24.
 ▶ Covered in *Newsweek* and *ABC News*
- 2015 “Smart policy toward high-skill emigrants”, *IZA World of Labor* 203, November.
- 2015 “Zero Illegal Immigration: A Thought Experiment (with Time Travel)”, *Peregrine*, Issue 1502, Hoover Institution, Oct. 23.
- 2015 “The South Pacific Secret to Breaking the Poverty Cycle”, *Huffington Post: Impact*, Sept. 15.
- 2015 “Global Skill Partnerships: A Proposal for Technical Training in a Mobile World”, in Bertelsmann Stiftung, ed., *A Fair Deal on Talent: Fostering Just Migration Governance*, Gütersloh: Verlag Bertelsmann Stiftung, pp. 297–304.
- 2015 “In Haiti, U.S. rectifies missed opportunity to help”, *The Hill* Congress Blog, Jan. 12 (with Royce Bernstein Murray).
- 2014 “The WHO Global Code of Practice: A Useful Guide for Recruiting Health Care Professionals? Lessons from Germany and Beyond”, CGD Essay (with Steffen Angenendt and Meiko Merda). *⟨Auf Deutsch⟩*
- 2014 “Let the People Go: The Problem With Strict Migration Limits”, *Foreign Affairs*, 93 (1, Jan./Feb.): 152–159 (with Justin Sandefur). *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*
- 2014 “Skilled Migration from Mexico: Trends, Concerns, and Outlook”, CGD Essay. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development. *⟨En español⟩*
- 2013 “Temporary Work Visas: A Four-Way Win for the Middle Class, Low-Skill Workers, Border Security, and Migrants”, CGD Brief, April. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Lant Pritchett).
- 2013 “More Unskilled Workers, Please: The new immigration bill doesn’t do nearly enough to address America’s real labor shortage”, *Foreign Policy*, July 8.
- 2013 “What Nativists Don’t Want You to Know About Immigrants”, *Boston Review*, June 3.
- 2013 “The New Transparency in Development Economics: Lessons from the Millennium Villages Controversy”, *World Economics Journal* 14 (4): 77–97 (with Gabriel Demombynes). *⟨Pre-pub. version⟩*
- 2013 “On the Move: The Highly Skilled (Turning ‘Brain Drain’ into ‘Brain Gain’)”, World Bank Blog, October.
- 2013 “What Do We Know About Skilled Migration and Development?”, Policy Brief No. 3, September. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.
- 2013 “The Big Picture on Global Talent: How to better compete for, and grow talent”. Paper prepared for the Salzburg Trilogue, August 30. Bertelsmann Stiftung (with Christal Morehouse).

Policy Writings, *continued*

- 2012 “L’affrontement entre les objectifs de développement et l’évaluation d’impact”, *Revue d’économie du développement*, 26 (4): 175–205.
- 2012 “Crossing borders to escape natural calamities is no easy option”, *The Guardian*, Aug. 23.
- 2012 “How the Training of Emigrant Professionals Can Be Financed by Destination Countries”, Presentation at the Global Economic Symposium, 2012, Rio de Janeiro, October 16–17.
 ▶ *First public discussion of the Global Skill Partnership proposal*
- 2011 “Putting solutions on trial: Impact Evaluation and the Millennium Villages Experiment in Africa”, *Boston Review*, June 16.
- 2011 “Memo to the WHO: Blocking health worker migration is not the answer”, *AidWatch* blog, April 26 (with Amanda Glassman).
- 2010 “The year when shrinking was good”, *Foreign Policy*, Jun. 21.
- 2010 “Let Haitians come to the U.S.: The best way to help Haiti rebuild is through immigration”, *Global Post*, Feb. 26.
- 2010 “Let them leave: Why migration is the best solution for Haiti’s recovery”, *Foreign Policy*, Jan. 27.
- 2010 “To help Haiti’s earthquake victims, change U.S. immigration laws”, *Washington Post*, Jan. 24, p. B2.
- 2010 “Health Worker Migration: Disease or Symptom?”, *Global Health*, Winter issue.
- 2009 “Migrants Count: Report of the Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research and Policy”, Washington: Center for Global Development (with Patricia A. Santo Tomas and Lawrence H. Summers). (*Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish*)
- 2009 “Skill Flow: A fundamental reconsideration of skilled-worker migration and development”, background paper for the *Human Development Report 2009*, New York: United Nations Development Program.
- 2009 “Think Again: Brain Drain—The movement of skilled workers from poor countries to rich ones is nothing to fear. In the long run, it will benefit both.”, *Foreign Policy*, Oct. 22 (with David McKenzie).
- 2008 “Immigrants are an Engine of Prosperity”, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov. 27.
- 2007 “Smart Samaritans: Is There a Third Way in the Development Debate?”, *Foreign Affairs*, 86 (5, Sept./Oct.): 132–140.
- 2006 “Le mythe des 0,7% : origines et pertinence de la cible fixée pour l’aide internationale au développement”, *Afrique Contemporaine*, 219: 173–201 (with Todd J. Moss).
- 2005 “The Millennium Development Goals, Aid Targets, and the Costs of Over-Expectations”, *Sustainable Development Law & Policy*, 6 (1): 58–84 (with Charles J. Kenny and Todd J. Moss).
- 2005 “Costs and Causes of Zimbabwe’s Crisis”, CGD Note, Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (with Todd J. Moss).
- 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

- 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.
- 2003 “Paul Streeten, *Globalisation: Threat or Opportunity?*”, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 52 (1): 243–245.

Other Research Papers

- 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).
- 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).

Education

- 2002 **Ph.D., economics**, Harvard University Dept. of Economics, Cambridge, MA
 ▶ NSF Graduate Research Fellowship; Derek Bok certificate of distinction in teaching
- 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

Influence

<i>Research</i>	<p>Academic citation statistics at: Google Scholar SSRN RePEc IDEAS ResearchGate</p> <p>Invited to IOM Migration Research Leaders Syndicate, 2017</p> <p>Top 0.4% of academic economists on RePEc IDEAS (221/61709), March 2011–March 2021</p> <p>Replication data and code: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/mclem</p> <p>“Six Vital Voices on the Economics of Migration”, by <i>NewsDeeply</i></p>
<i>Social media</i>	<p>“20 most influential think tank experts on Twitter, 2017” by ESGlobal.</p> <p><i>Foreign Policy</i> magazine “Who’s who of the foreign policy Twitterverse” 2012 and 2013.</p>

Teaching

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.

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*, several external academic tenure reviews.

Honors

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2013 | Royal Economic Society Prize 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 th Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture , Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. |
| 2010 | Devex.com “ 40 young leaders shaping the way international relief and development assistance are being delivered ”. |
| 1996–2000 | National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship . |

Personal

Languages	English (native); Spanish (advanced); Portuguese, French, Turkish (intermediate)
-----------	--

Updated October 25, 2022