

David Roodman

1231 C St. NE
Washington, DC
davidroodman.com

david@davidroodman.com
Twitter & Skype: davidroodman
202-670-0467

Education

University of Cambridge , independent study in economics and public policy	1990–91
Harvard College , A.B., theoretical mathematics, <i>magna cum laude</i>	1986–90
Binghamton High School , valedictorian	1984–86

Skills and expertise

- Expertise in global development and environmental issues
- High quantitative aptitude
- Talent for examining problems from many angles and devising synthetic analytical attacks
- History of entering new fields of inquiry and moving to the fore
- Self-teacher
- Good writer

Work

GiveWell, San Francisco 2015–

Senior Advisor

- Translator of social science and policy research for a non-profit working closely with a new foundation.

Independent consultant, Washington, DC 2014–

Social science and quantitative research for philanthropies and charities. Clients:

- GiveWell, in its capacity as advisor to the new foundation GoodVentures (social science literature synthesis)
- bgC3 (research support for thegatesnotes.com)
- Center for Global Development (project advisor, author of working paper on ODA definition)
- Global Development Network (project advisor)
- Oxfam America (background research on pharmaceuticals, intellectual property, trade treaties, poverty, and access to medicine)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Washington, DC 2013–14

Senior Economic Advisor

- Translator of social science and policy research. Topics included: “data revolution,” measurement of foreign aid, impacts of health on wealth, determinants of fertility.
- Served on board of International Institute for Impact Evaluation (3ie).

Center for Global Development, Washington, DC 2002–13

Senior Fellow (7/10–), Research Fellow (7/03–6/10), Research Associate (3/02–6/03)

- Thought leader on microfinance, position achieved through widely praised book and popular blog. Wrote book in public through blog—with almost no precedent in history. Post on P2P microlending site Kiva went viral and led to *New York Times* story and greater transparency at Kiva.
- Director and chief architect of annual Commitment to Development Index, the only comprehensive ranking of wealthy nations on help for poorer ones, covering seven major policy areas; CGD’s most-visited initiative. Work requires familiarity with diverse policy areas, skills in data processing, math, writing, and media work.
- Master of sections of econometrics despite lack of training; ranked by one algorithm among top 10 young economists in world, thanks in part to programming and pedagogic writing.
- Authority on cross-country analysis of foreign aid effectiveness. Wrote survey for Bill Gates.
- Cited in 3 new academic papers/day according to Google Scholar.
- Most-downloaded author on cgdev.org.

Georgetown University, Public Policy Institute, Washington, DC

Affiliated Associate Professor

Worldwatch Institute, Washington, DC

1993–2002

Senior Researcher (1/97–9/98, 7/99–2/02), Research Associate (1/95–12/96), Research Assistant (1/93–12/94)

- Authored monographs and book on green building design, subsidies and the environment, environmental taxes and other market mechanisms, third world debt.

World Bank, Hanoi

1999

Consultant on industrial pollution policy in Vietnam

Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA

1988

Summer software engineer

Honors

Inaugural editors' prize, <i>Stata Journal</i>	2012
#6 on RePEc list of top young economists in world (mainly for coding & pedagogic writing)	December 2011
Fulbright Scholar, Vietnam, on environment and development	1998–99
Herchel Smith Harvard Scholarship (for study at Cambridge)	1990
Phi Beta Kappa	1990

Books

Due Diligence: An Impertinent Inquiry into Microfinance (Center for Global Development, 2012)

- “It is, quite simply, the best book I have ever read about microfinance.”—Alex Counts, CEO, Grameen Foundation
- “Roodman has been the most consistent and articulate analyst of microcredit in recent years.” — Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize laureate
- “Roodman is a remarkable scholar, equally at ease collecting information in the slums of Bangladesh as writing complex computer code, and *Due Diligence* is a very good book not just on microcredit but on development more generally.”—Alex Tabarrok, Marginal Revolution (blog)

The Natural Wealth of Nations: Harnessing the Market for the Environment (W.W. Norton, 1998). Also in UK, Italian, and Japanese editions.

- “Required reading for legislators around the world.”—Richard Cooper, Professor of Economics, Harvard, in *Foreign Affairs*

Academic publications

Roodman (2015), “A Replication of ‘Counting Chickens When They Hatch’ (*Economic Journal*, 2012),” *Public Finance Review*.

Tamás Bartus and Roodman (2014), “Estimation of Multiprocess Survival Models with `cmp`,” *Stata Journal* 14(4): 756–77.

Roodman and Jonathan Morduch (2014), “The Impact of Microcredit on the Poor in Bangladesh: Revisiting the Evidence,” *Journal of Development Studies*.

Roodman (2013), “Armageddon or Adolescence? Making Sense of Microfinance’s Recent Travails,” in Doris Köhn, ed., *Microfinance 3.0: Reconciling Sustainability with Social Outreach and Responsible Delivery* (Springer Open).

Owen Barder, Julia Clark, Alice Lépissier, Liza Reynolds, and Roodman (2013), “Europe Beyond Aid: Assessing Europe’s Commitment to Development,” *Journal of International Development* 25(6): 823–53.

Roodman (2012), “Doubts about the Evidence That Foreign Aid for Health Is Displaced into Non-health Uses,” letter, *Lancet* 380 (9846): 972–73.

Roodman (2011), “Fitting Fully Observed Recursive Mixed-Process Models with `cmp`,” *Stata Journal* 11(2): 159–206.

Roodman (2011), “Composite Indices,” *Journal of Economic Inequality* 9(3): 483–84.

- Roodman (2009), “A Note on the Theme of Too Many Instruments,” *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics* 71(1): 135–58.
- Roodman (2009), “How to Do xtabond2: An Introduction to Difference and System GMM in Stata,” *Stata Journal* 9(1): 86–136.
- Roodman (2009), “Aid Project Proliferation and Absorptive Capacity,” in George Mavrotas and Mark McGillivray, eds., *Development Aid: A Fresh Look* (Palgrave Macmillan).
- Roodman (2008), “A Tale of Two Indices,” in Silvia Hidalgo, Augusto López-Claros, and Laura Altinger, *The Humanitarian Response Index 2008* (Development Assistance Research Associates).
- Roodman (2007), “Production-weighted Estimates of Aggregate Protection in Rich Countries towards Developing Countries,” *World Economy* 30(6): 999–1028.
- Roodman (2007), “The Anarchy of Numbers: Aid, Development, and Cross-country Empirics,” *World Bank Economic Review* 21(2): 255–77.
- Roodman (2006), “Creditor Initiatives in the 1980s and 1990s,” in Chris Jochnick and Fraser A. Preston, eds., *Sovereign Debt at the Crossroads: Challenges and Proposals for Resolving the Third World Debt Crisis* (Oxford University Press).
- William Easterly, Ross Levine, and Roodman (2004), “Aid, Policies, and Growth: Comment,” *American Economic Review* 94(3): 774–80.
- Roodman (2004), “Comment: Limitations of Econometric Analysis,” *Conflict, Security & Development* 4(3): 369–70.
- Roodman (2001), “Environmental Tax Shifts Are Multiplying,” *Journal of International Taxation* 12(3): 40–42.
- Roodman (2000), “Environmental Taxes—Adopting a ‘Polluter Pays’ Principle,” *Journal of International Taxation* 11(4): 34–49.
- Stephen Bernow et al. (1998), “Ecological Tax Reform,” *BioScience* 48(3): 193–96.

Other publications

- Victoria Fan, Rachel Silverman, Roodman, and William Savedoff (2014), “Peer Review of Social Science Research in Global Health: A View through Correspondence Letters to *The Lancet*,” CGD Working Paper 371.
- Roodman (2014), “Straightening the Measuring Stick: A 14-Point Plan for Reforming the Definition of Official Development Assistance (ODA),” CGD Policy Paper 44.
- Roodman (2014), “Undue Credit: Donors Are Exploiting Outdated Rules to Inflate Their Aid.” Poverty Matters blog, *The Guardian*, February 13.
- Julia Clark and Roodman (2013), “Measuring Think Tank Performance: An Index of Public Profile,” CGD Policy Paper 25.
- Roodman (2013), “An Index of Constructive External Engagement,” CGD Policy Paper 23.
- Roodman (2013), “Après la Dette, le Déluge? How a Generous Debt Deal in Paris Could Add to an Aid Flood in Myanmar,” CGD Policy Paper 22.
- Roodman (2012), “Microcredit Doesn’t End Poverty, Despite All the Hype,” *Washington Post*, March 8.
- Roodman (2012), “Think Again: Microfinance,” *Foreign Policy*, February 1.
- Roodman (2012), “Due Diligence: An Impertinent Inquiry into Microfinance,” CGD Brief.
- Roodman (2010), “We Must Slow the Spigots That Inflated the [Micro-]Credit Bubble,” letter, *Financial Times*, December 16.
- Roodman (2010), “The Arc of the Jubilee,” CGD Essay.
- Cindy Prieto and Roodman (2010), “Twenty Concrete Steps to Improve the United States’ Commitment to Development,” CGD Brief.
- Roodman (2008), “The Commitment to Development Index for Africa: How Much Do the Richest Countries Help the Poorest Continent?” CGD Brief.
- Roodman (2008), “Through the Looking-Glass, and What OLS Found There: On Growth, Foreign Aid, and Reverse Causality,” CGD Working Paper 137.
- Roodman (annual since 2007), “Commitment to Development Index,” CGD Brief.
- Roodman (2007), “Macro Aid Effectiveness Research: A Guide for the Perplexed,” CGD Working Paper 135.
- Roodman (2007), “How Do the BRICs Stack Up? Adding Brazil, Russia, India, and China to the Environment Component of the Commitment to Development Index,” CGD Working Paper 128.

- Simon Burall and Roodman (2007), "Developing a Methodology for Assessing Aid Effectiveness: An Options Paper," CGD background paper.
- Roodman and Uzma Qureshi (2006), "Microfinance as Business," CGD Working Paper 101.
- Roodman (2006), "Competitive Proliferation of Aid Projects: A Model," CGD Working Paper 89.
- Roodman (2006), "Building and Running an Effective Policy Index: Lessons from the Commitment to Development Index," CGD Essay.
- Scott Standley and Roodman (2006), "Tax Policies to Promote Private Charitable Giving in DAC Countries," CGD Working Paper 82.
- Roodman (2005), "Ranking the Rich," *Science & Spirit* 16(4).
- Roodman (2005), "Rich Country Tariffs and Subsidies: Let's Do the Numbers," CGD Note.
- Todd Moss, Roodman, and Scott Standley (2005), "The Global War on Terror and U.S. Development Assistance: USAID allocation by country, 1998-2005," CGD Working Paper 62.
- Roodman (2004), "An Index of Donor Performance," CGD Working Paper 42.
- Alicia Bannon and Roodman (2004), "Technology and the Commitment to Development Index," CGD background paper.
- Roodman (2004), "Another Take on Free Market Environmentalism: A Friendly Critique," *PERC Reports* 22(1).
- Roodman (2003), "Rich Nations Don't Measure Up in Aid Index," letter, *Australian Financial Review*, June 3.
- Without byline* (annual 2003-06), "Ranking the Rich," *Foreign Policy*.
- Roodman (annual since 2003, with Nancy Birdsall in 2003), "The Commitment to Development Index," background paper.
- Roodman (2002), letter on Easterly article on third world debt, *Foreign Policy*, March/April.
- Roodman (2002), "Looking to Aid in All the Wrong Places," TomPaine.com, January 25.
- Roodman (2001), "On the Bike Path," letter, *Washington Post*, November 21.
- Roodman (2001), *Still Waiting for the Jubilee: Pragmatic Solutions for the Third World Debt Crisis*, Worldwatch Paper 155.
- Roodman (2001), "Rich Nations, Poor Nations," MSNBC.com, July 24.
- Roodman (2001), "Why Bush's Plan for World Bank Grants Will Go Nowhere," letter, *Financial Times*, July 23.
- Roodman (2001), "Easing the Burden of Mozambique's Debt," letter, *Wall Street Journal*, March 26.
- Roodman (2001), "Ending the Debt Crisis," Lester Brown et al., *State of the World 2001* (W.W. Norton).
- Roodman (1999), "Fighting Pollution in Vietnam," *World Watch*, November/December.
- Roodman (1999), "Deep in the Republic of Chevron," letter, *New York Times Magazine*, July 25.
- Roodman (1999), "Building a Sustainable Society," Lester Brown et al., *State of the World 1999* (W.W. Norton).
- Roodman (1997), "The Costs of Subsidies," *Defenders*, fall.
- Roodman (1997), radio commentary, "Earth Matters" show, BBC World Service, May 12.
- Roodman (1997), *Getting the Signals Right: Tax Reform to Protect the Environment and the Economy*, Worldwatch Paper 134.
- Roodman (1997), "Subsidies Destroying the Environment," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, March 30.
- Roodman (1997), "Giant Dam Postponed Indefinitely," *World Watch*, November/December.
- Roodman (1997), "The Faith of an Ecological Economist," *World Watch*, September/October.
- Roodman (1997), "Enviroational," letter, *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.
- Roodman (1997), "Subsidizing Pollution," *The Humanist*, May/June.
- Roodman (1997), "Subsidies Gone Wrong," *Tomorrow*, April-June.
- Roodman (1997), "Subsidy Reform for Sustainability," *Solar Today*, March/April.
- Roodman (1997), "Reforming Subsidies," in Lester Brown et al., *State of the World 1997* (W.W. Norton).
- Roodman (1997), "End Subsidies that Harm the Environment," *Investor's Business Daily*, April 21.
- Roodman (1996), "'Polluter Pays' Reform Puts the Green in Tax Dollars," *Christian Science Monitor*, April 9.
- Roodman (1996), *Paying the Piper: Subsidies, Politics, and the Environment*, Worldwatch Paper 133. Translated and published in Germany and Taiwan.
- Roodman (1996), "Harnessing the Market for the Environment," in Lester Brown et al., *State of the World 1996* (W.W. Norton).
- Roodman (1996), "More Indigenous Lands Condemned," *World Watch*, July/August.
- Roodman (1996), "Green Tax Shifts Begin in Europe," *World Watch*, March/April.
- Roodman (1995), "Public Money and Human Purpose," *World Watch*, September/October.

Roodman (1995), “Blueprint for Better Buildings,” *Solar Today*, July/August.
 Roodman and Nicholas Lenssen (1995), “Se om ditt Hus” *Kretslopp* (Sweden), March.
 Roodman and Nicholas Lenssen (1995), *A Building Revolution: How Ecology and Health Concerns Are Transforming Construction*, Worldwatch Paper 124. Also translated and published in Egypt.
 Roodman and Nicholas Lenssen (1995), “Making Better Buildings” in Lester Brown et al., *State of the World 1995* (W.W. Norton).
 Roodman and Nicholas Lenssen (1994), “Our Buildings, Ourselves,” *World Watch*, November/December.
 Roodman (1994), “U.S. Nuclear Budget Grows,” *World Watch*, January/February.
 Roodman (1993), “Power Brokers: Managing Demand for Electricity,” *World Watch*, November/December.
 Roodman (1993), “Pioneering Greenhouse Policy,” *World Watch*, July/August.
 Roodman (1993), “The Obsolescent Incandescent,” *World Watch*, May/June.
 Entries in various editions of Lester Brown et al., *Vital Signs: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future* (W.W. Norton), 1993–2002.

Peer reviews

Science, American Economic Review, European Economic Review, Economic Journal, American Political Science Review, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, World Bank Economic Review, World Development, Economics Letters, Ecological Economics, Journal of Economic Growth, Southern Economic Journal, Berkeley Electronic Press Macro, Stata Journal, Economic Modelling, Public Library of Science Medicine, IMF Staff Papers, Central European Journal of Public Policy, Progress in Development Studies, Health Policy and Planning, Economic Surveys, International Interactions, Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, Journal of Multivariate Analysis, Journal of Environment and Development.

Congressional testimony

Roodman (2010), “What (Not) to Expect of Microfinance in Haiti,” House Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, April 28.

Past memberships and affiliations

Affiliate, Financial Access Initiative, New York University
 Member, Replication Program Advisory Group, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
 Member, Peer Review Committee, Humanitarian Response Index, DARA, Madrid

Selected media interviews & citations

New York Times, Washington Post, Economist, Boston Globe, Los Angeles Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Christian Science Monitor, Science News, Guardian, La Vanguardia, El Mundo, Energy Daily, Popular Science, People’s Daily, Xinhua Daily Telegraph, Time, Associated Press, Reuters, Gannett, Deutsche Press-Agentur, Agence France Presse, Scripps Howard News Service, CNN, NPR, PBS, American Public Media (Marketplace), Koyo Nnamdi Show, CBS radio, ABC radio, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, CBC, VOA, UN Radio, Radio Free Asia.

Selected keynote and plenary speech events

European Research Conference on Microfinance, Kristiansand, Norway, 6/10/13.
 German Stata Users Group meeting, Potsdam, Germany, 6/7/13.
 Interview with David Roodman, Microfinance 3.0—Reconciling Sustainability with Social Outreach and Responsible Delivery, Financial sector symposium, KfW, Berlin, 11/29/12.
 International Seminar in Microfinance in Latin America and China, People’s Bank of China and Inter-American Development Bank, Hainan, China, 11/2/12.
 Jonathan Morduch in Conversation with David Roodman, Financial Access Initiative, New York, 10/20/12.
 Responsible Finance Forum, China Europe International Business School, Shanghai, 7/2/12.
 Does Microfinance Work? What Does “Work” Mean? A Rigorous Review of Theories and Evidence, Finance Canada, Ottawa, 6/21/12.

Microfinance Centre annual conference, Tblisi, 5/29/12.
UK Department for International Development, internal seminar, London, 2/23/12.
Measuring the Scope, Defining the Limits: Weighing the Evidence on Microfinance, All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development, Houses of Parliament, London, 2/22/12.
Microfinance—A Comprehensive Evaluation, London International Development Centre-International Initiative for Impact Evaluations, 2/22/12.
A Conversation with David Roodman, Silicon Valley Microfinance Network, San Francisco, 1/12/12.
Does Microfinance “Work,” and How Can It Be Made to Work Better? Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, Seattle, 1/11/12.
Clients at the Center Convening Event, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, Washington, DC, 12/1/11.
Second European Research Conference on Microfinance, Groningen, Netherlands, 6/16/11.
Guest lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School, Lant Pritchett class, 3/28/11.
Microfinance India Summit, New Delhi, 11/15/10.
What Ever Happened to the Jubilee, Center for Global Development, 9/29/10.
Aid Transparency and Development Finance, PLAID database launch conference, Oxford, 3/22/10.
Co-hosted closed roundtable of microfinance practitioners and researchers, Center for Global Development, 2/26/10.
Legatum Prosperity Symposium, Broomfield Hall, Hertfordshire, UK, 6/21/08.
Round Table on Human Rights Measurement IDRC & CIDA, Ottawa, 1/17/06.
Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, Naples, 2/27/05.
Institutional Approaches to Policy Coherence for Development, Development Assistance Committee, Paris, 5/18/04.
Annual conference, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Gummersbach, Germany, 11/23/03.
Health as Foreign Policy: A U.S.–German Dialogue on Governance and Global Health, Fulbright conference, Berlin, 11/21/03.
Succeeding in the LOHAS [Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability] Market, Natural Business Communications, Broomfield, CO, 6/21/01.
Sustainable Development and Ukraine: Environmental Policy for New Millennium, U.S. Agency for International Development, Kiev, 10/20/00.
Leveling the Playing Field: A Forum on Subsidies for Materials Use and Disposal, Recycling Association of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 10/11/00.
Sustainable Industrial Development conference, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment, and World Bank, Hanoi, 6/10/99.
Earth Day celebration, William and Mary College, Williamsburg, VA, 4/22/00.
From Consumer Society to Sustainable Society: Towards Sustainable Production and Consumption, Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Soesterberg, Netherlands, 1/31/99.
Svenska Arkitekters Riksförbund EkoDag 1996, Stockholm, 9/27/96.

Personal

Live with wife and two boys in Capitol Hill. Classical and ragtime pianist. English folk dancer. House is a net source of electricity.