

Dave Donaldson

CONTACT:

MIT Department of Economics (E52-552), 50 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA
email: ddonald@mit.edu, web: <http://www.dave-donaldson.com/>
phone: (+1) 617 258 6242

PERSONAL:

Citizenship: Canada, UK, US permanent resident
Date of birth: 4 June 1978

EDUCATION:

2003-2009 PhD in Economics, London School of Economics
2001-2003 MSc in Economics, London School of Economics
1997-2001 Masters in Physics (MPhys), University of Oxford, Trinity College

EMPLOYMENT:

2023-present Class of 1949 Professor, MIT, Department of Economics
2023-2024 Centennial Visiting Professor of Economics, London School of Economics
2020-2021 Visiting Professor of Economics, London School of Economics
2017-2023 Professor of Economics, MIT, Department of Economics
2016-2017 Visiting Research Scholar, Humboldt University, Berlin
2014-2017 Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), Stanford, Department of Economics
2013-2014 Gary Loveman Career Development Associate Professor, MIT, Department of Economics
2012 Visiting Professor of Economics, Stanford University, Dept. of Econ. and SIEPR
2011 Visiting Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Department of Economics
2011 Academy Scholar, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies
2011-2013 Gary Loveman Career Development Assistant Professor, MIT, Department of Economics
2009-2011 Assistant Professor, MIT, Department of Economics

EDITORIAL ROLES:

2019-2023 Co-Editor, *Econometrica*
2016-2019 Co-Editor, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*
2015-2018 Board Editor, *Journal of Economic Literature*
2014-2017 Foreign Editor, *Review of Economic Studies*
2014-2018 Associate Editor, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*
2012-2020 Associate Editor, *Journal of International Economics*
2015-2017 Board Editor, *American Economic Review*

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

2025 Keynote Speaker, International Transportation Economics Association Conference
2024 CREi Lecturer in Macroeconomics
2024 Keynote Speaker, Naples Trade & Development Workshop
2024-present Affiliate, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE
2024 Speaker, Nobel Symposium in Economic Sciences, STIAS
2023 Keynote Speaker, European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society
2022 Keynote Speaker, IEFS China Annual Conference
2022 American Enterprise Lecture, Furman University
2022 Harris Lecture, Harvard University
2022 Keynote Speaker, World Bank/IGC Infrastructure for Development Conference
2021 Keynote Speaker, Chinese Economists' Society Annual Meeting
2020-present Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2020 Robert Bradbury Lecture in International Economics, University of Florida
2019 Keynote Speaker, Urban Economics Association annual meeting
2018 Henry George Lecture, University of Scranton
2018 State-of-the-Art Lecture, Annual Conference of Canadian Economics Association
2018 Elmhirst Memorial Lecture, International Association of Agricultural Economists
2018 TW Schultz Award, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
2017-present Research Network Affiliate, CESifo
2017-present Fellow, Econometric Society
2017-present Associate, ThReD (Theoretical Research in Development Economics)
2017 John Bates Clark Medal, American Economic Association
2016-present Fellow, BREAD (Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development)
2015-present Research Fellow, CEPR (Development Economics, and International Trade and Regional Economics programs)
2014-present Research Associate, NBER (International Trade and Investment, Development of the American Economy, and Development Economics groups)
2013, 2014 Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review*
2013-2015 Sloan Research Fellowship
2011-2015 Research Affiliate, CEPR (Development Economics, and International Trade and Regional Economics programs)
2011 PhD Teacher of the Year Award (Top 3), MIT Graduate Economics Association
2011-2016 Affiliate, BREAD (Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development)
2011 Presenter, Young Talent Session, 2011 Royal Economic Society Annual Conference
2010 WTO Young Economist Prize
2010-2014 Faculty Research Fellow, NBER (International Trade and Investment, Development of the American Economy, and Development Economics groups)
2009-2011 Junior Fellow, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)
2008 Econometric Society European Winter Meetings invitee (for job market candidates)
2008-2009 Bagri Fellowship, LSE
2006-2007 Royal Economic Society Fellowship
2003-2005 Outstanding Teaching Award, LSE
1997-2001 McKeown Scholarship for Overseas Undergraduates, Oxford University

RESEARCH GRANTS:

2025-2028	NSF Award 2446994: "Understanding the Incidence of Market Distortions" (with David Atkin and Federico Huneeus)
2023-2026	NSF Award 2242367: "What Are the Consequences and Determinants of Trade Protection?" (with Rodrigo Adao and Arnaud Costinot)
2023-2025	STEG Large Research Grant: "The Incidence of Distortions in the Developing World" (with David Atkin, Tishara Garg and Federico Huneeus)
2020-2022	J-WAFS Grant: "Developing Flexible Estimates of Agricultural Supply Functions for Answering Demand-Side Agricultural Questions"
2017-2019	IGC Grant: "Understanding the Welfare Effects of Reducing Traffic Congestion" (with Josh Blumenstock and Martina Kirchberger)
2016-2019	NSF Award 1559015: "Robust Counterfactual Predictions in Neoclassical Models of International Trade" (with Rodrigo Adao and Arnaud Costinot)
2015-2018	PEDL Major Grant (with Paul Carrillo, Dina Pomeranz and Monica Singhal)
2015-2018	IGC Grant (with Paul Carrillo, Dina Pomeranz and Monica Singhal)
2015-2016	IPA SME Program Competitive Fund (with Paul Carrillo, Dina Pomeranz and Monica Singhal)
2015	SEED Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Developing Economies (with Paul Carrillo, Dina Pomeranz and Monica Singhal)
2013-2016	IZA/DFID Growth and Labor Markets in Low Income Countries Program (with Josh Blumenstock)
2013-2014	MITEI Seed Fund
2012-2013	MIT SHASS Research Fund
2012-2015	NSF Award 1227635: "Gains from Economic Integration: Theory and Evidence from Agricultural Markets" (with Arnaud Costinot)
2012-2015	NSF Award 1156239: "Railroads and American Economic Growth: New Data and Theory" (with Rick Hornbeck)
2009-2011	IGC Grant: "Who's Getting Globalized? Intranational Trade Costs and World Price Pass-Through in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa" (with David Atkin)

PROFESSIONAL ROLES:

2026	Program Chair, Econometric Society North American Winter Meeting (ASSA)
2025-present	American Economic Association (AEA) Honors and Awards Committee, Member
2022-present	The Coase Project, Member
2021-2023	American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Membership Selection Panel
2020	Walras-Bowley Lecturer Selection Committee, Econometric Society
2019	Instructor, American Economic Association (AEA) Continuing Education Program
2018	Frisch Medal Selection Committee, Econometric Society
2017	Economic History Association (EHA) Meetings, Program Committee Member
2016-2023	International Growth Centre (IGC), Co-Director (International Trade program)
2016	American Economic Association (AEA) Meetings, Program Committee member
2015-2016	NBER Summer Institute, International Trade and Investment session co-organizer
2012-present	The History Project, Advisory Committee member

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2026	STEG-PEDL Firms and Development online course (lecturer)
2025	Introduction to Microeconomics, undergraduate level, MIT
2024	Urban Economics Association Summer School
2024	International Trade, PhD level, LSE

2023	BREAD-IGC Firms and Development online course (co-organizer and lecturer)
2020-present	Firms and Trade in Developing Countries, undergraduate/masters level, MIT
2019	Instructor, American Economic Association (AEA) Continuing Education Program
2018-present	Research in Economics, undergraduate level, MIT
2018	CEMMAP Masterclass, UCL/IFS
2017-present	International Trade (2-semester sequence), PhD level, MIT
2017-2019	Advanced Development Economics, undergraduate level, MIT
2017	Introduction to Urban Economics, Bing Overseas Scholars Program, Stanford in Berlin
2014-2016	International Trade, PhD level, Stanford
2012	BREAD Summer School in Development Economics (lectures on International Trade)
2010-2014	International Trade, PhD level, MIT
2009-2014	Introductory Development Economics, undergraduate level, MIT
2009-2014	Advanced Development Economics, undergraduate level, MIT

PUBLICATIONS:

“International trade since the Washington Consensus: the gains and the pains”, chapter in *The London Consensus: Economic Principles for the 21st Century*, 2025, Tim Besley, Irene Bucelli, and Andres Velasco, eds.

Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics (Volume 6), editor (with Stephen Redding).

“Transport Infrastructure and Policy Evaluation”, chapter in the *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics* (Volume 6), 2025, Dave Donaldson and Stephen Redding, eds.

“Putting Quantitative Models to the Test: An Application to the US-China Trade War”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 140(2): 1471-1524, 2025 (joint with Rodrigo Adao and Arnaud Costinot).

“The Textbook Case for Industrial Policy: Theory Meets Data”, *Journal of Political Economy*, 133(5): 1527-1573, 2025 (joint with Dominick Bartleme, Arnaud Costinot and Andres Rodriguez-Clare).

“Ghosting the Tax Authority: Fake Firms and Tax Fraud”, *American Economic Review: Insights*, 5(4): 427-444, 2023 (joint with Paul Carrillo, Dina Pomeranz and Monica Singhal).

“Blending Theory and Data: A Space Odyssey”, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 36(3): 185-210, 2022.

“Imports, Exports, and Earnings Inequality: Measures of Exposure and Estimates of Incidence”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 137(3): 1495-1522, 2022 (joint with Rodrigo Adao, Paul Carrillo, Arnaud Costinot and Dina Pomeranz).

“The Role of Trade in Economic Development”, Chapter 1 in the *Handbook of International Economics* (Volume 5), Gita Gopinath, Elhanan Helpman, Kenneth Rogoff, eds, pp 1-59, 2022 (joint with David Atkin).

“Persistence and Path Dependence: A Primer”, *Regional Science and Urban Economics* (special issue on “Urban Economics and History”), 94, 2022 (joint with Treb Allen).

“Comparative Advantage and Agricultural Trade (Elmhirst Memorial Lecture)”, *Agricultural Economics*, 50(11): 29-40, 2019.

“The More We Die, the More We Sell? A Simple Test of the Home-Market Effect”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 134(2): 843-894, 2019 (joint with Arnaud Costinot, Margaret Kyle and Heidi Williams).

“The Elusive Pro-Competitive Effects of Trade”, *Review of Economic Studies*, 1(1): 46-80, 2019 (joint with Costas Arkolakis, Arnaud Costinot and Andres Rodriguez-Clare).

“Railroads of the Raj: Estimating the Impact of Transportation Infrastructure”, *American Economic Review*, 108(4-5): 899-934, 2018.

“Nonparametric Counterfactual Predictions in Neoclassical Models of International Trade”, *American Economic Review*, 107(3): 633-689, 2017 (joint with Rodrigo Adao and Arnaud Costinot).

“The View from Above: Applications of Satellite Data in Economics”, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30(4): 171-198, 2016 (joint with Adam Storeygard).

“Railroads and American Economic Growth: A ‘Market Access’ Approach”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131(2): 799-858, 2016 (joint with Rick Hornbeck).

“Evolving Comparative Advantage and the Impact of Climate Change in Agricultural Markets: Evidence from 1.7 Million Fields Around the World”, *Journal of Political Economy*, 124(1): 205-248, 2016 (joint with Arnaud Costinot and Cory Smith).

“The Gains from Market Integration”, *Annual Review of Economics*, 7: 619-647, 2015.

“Comparative Advantage and Optimal Trade Taxes”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2): 659-702, 2015 (joint with Arnaud Costinot, Jon Vogel and Iván Werning).

“Ricardo’s Theory of Comparative Advantage: Old Idea, New Evidence”, *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, 102(3): 453-458, 2012 (joint with Arnaud Costinot).

“What Goods Do Countries Trade? A Quantitative Exploration of Ricardo’s Ideas”, *Review of Economic Studies*, 79(2): 581-608, 2012 (joint with Arnaud Costinot and Ivana Komunjer).

“Can Openness Mitigate the Effects of Weather Fluctuations? Evidence from India’s Famine Era”, *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, 100(2): 449-453, 2010 (joint with Robin Burgess).

Confronting Global Poverty (Expert Group on Development Issues), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aid, Government of Sweden, 2005 (joint with Timothy Besley and Robin Burgess).

WORKING PAPERS:

“A World Trading System For Whom? Evidence from Global Tariffs” (joint with Rodrigo Adao, John Sturm Becko and Arnaud Costinot)

“Why is Trade Not Free? A Revealed Preference Approach”, revise and resubmit at *Econometrica* (joint with Rodrigo Adao, John Sturm Becko and Arnaud Costinot)

"Misallocation in Firm Production: A Nonparametric Analysis Using Procurement Lotteries", revise and resubmit at the *American Economic Review* (joint with Paul Carrillo, Dina Pomeranz and Monica Singhal)

"Transportation Networks, Short-term Mobility, and Pollution Exposure: Evidence from High-Speed Rail in China" (joint with Panle Jia Barwick, Shanjun Li, Yatang Lin and Deyu Rao)

"Persistence and Path Dependence in the Spatial Economy", revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Political Economy* (joint with Treb Allen).

"Who's Getting Globalized? The Size and Implications of Intranational Trade Costs", revise and resubmit at *Econometrica* (joint with David Atkin).

"How Large Are the Gains from Economic Integration? Theory and Evidence from US Agriculture, 1880-1997", revise and resubmit at *Econometrica* (joint with Arnaud Costinot).

"Weather and Death in India" (joint with Robin Burgess, Olivier Deschênes and Michael Greenstone).

"Railroads and the Demise of Famine in Colonial India" (joint with Robin Burgess).

EVENTS (CO-)ORGANIZED:

2026	Program Chair, Econometric Society North American Winter Meeting (ASSA)
2025	NEUDC, Program Committee Member
2024	BREAD-NBER DEV Fall Meeting, Program Committee Member
2024	UEA Summer School, Program Committee Member
2022	IGC/World Bank Infra4Dev, Program Committee Member
2020	NBER conference on "Agriculture Markets and Trade Policy"
2018-2022	IGC/Stanford conference on "Firms, Trade and Development"
2018	NBER conference on "Trade and Agriculture"
2017	IGC conference on "Firms, Trade and Development", Columbia
2017	IGC conference on "FDI, SMEs, Firm Growth and Trade", Nairobi
2017-present	International Economics seminar, MIT
2016	Third IGC/SCID Conference, "Firms, Trade and Development"
2016	SITE, "New Directions in Economic Geography"
2016	PacDev, Stanford
2015	Second IGC/SCID Conference, "Firms, Trade and Development"
2015	West Coast Trade Workshop, Stanford
2014-2017	International Trade seminar, Stanford
2014	First IGC/SCID Conference, "Trade, Productivity and Development"
2009-2014	International Trade seminar, MIT