

Dave Donaldson

CONTACT:

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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, <i>American Economic Review</i>
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 Huneus)

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 Huneus)

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 Nottingham International Trade Summer School

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:

“Quantifying the Sensitivity of Quantitative Trade Models” (joint with Habib Ansari and Edward Wiles)

“The Incidence of Distortions” (joint with David Atkin, Baptiste Bernadac, Tishara Garg and Federico Huneus)

"A World Trading System For Whom? Evidence from Global Tariffs", revise and resubmit at the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (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).

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