

SIMON DAVIES

Full Name and Address: Simon Davies, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit 3, AFTP3, The World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20433, United States

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Date and Place of Birth: February 6, 1980; Winchester, United Kingdom

Nationality: British

Honors:

Full PhD university scholarship, 2005-2008

Masters scholarship, Coripe, Italy, 2004-05

Undergraduate class prize in Economics, 2003

Undergraduate class prize in French, 2003

Key Qualifications:

An economist by training with a focus on development issues. A highly competent micro-econometrician with publications in several areas of development economics and with a large amount of on-the-ground experience both in a rural African setting and within Government.

Currently employed on the [Young Professionals Program](#) of the [World Bank](#) and am working in the [Poverty Reduction and Economic Management](#) (PREM) Unit within the [African Regional Vice Presidency](#).

Previous employment as an [ODI Fellow](#) working in the Macroeconomic Policy and Management Unit of the [Ministry of Finance and Development Planning](#) in [Lesotho](#) give a strong background to practical macroeconomic management including coordinating Medium Term Fiscal and Economic Frameworks and Financial Programming modules. In addition, am able to use the macro data to provide high-level policy advice and recommendations. Succeeded in building strong working and trusting relationships with both key private sector informants and other Government department officials in order to ensure regular updating of the macroeconomic data.

With a strong university teaching background, have also succeeded in building capacity within the [Ministry of Finance](#) in Lesotho in areas of technical analysis and policy advice and communication. Have always aimed to bridge academic/book-learning and understanding the 'real world'.

Have strong written and oral communication skills evidenced by teaching experience and policy advice, as well as a wide range of publications and policy documents. Have worked and am comfortable working with a wide range of different people including (high-ranking) Government officials; academics; consultants; researchers; NGO and donor staff; the (African) business community; and rural African communities including key gatekeepers such as local chiefs and large farmers or businessmen, and believe that communication across groups is a key factor in understanding development issues.

Education:

2005 - 2009. PhD in Economics at the [University of Bath](#), United Kingdom. [Thesis](#) uses cross-sectional and panel data to analyze the extent to which remittances can help insure household and community shocks in developing countries. Also draws on psychological theory to study the behavior changing nature of remittances with respect to consumption/savings/investment decisions in Malawi. Four publications drawn from thesis now either accepted or under revise-and-resubmit. Awarded full university scholarship.

2004 - 2005. Masters (MSc) in Economics at [CORIPE](#), Piedmont, Italy with a final grade of A (24.7/30). Dissertation on the impact of relative gender influence in the household on consumption. Resulting [paper](#) now accepted for publication.

2003 - 2004. Masters (MA) in International, Development and Transition Economics, [University of Paris 1](#) (The Sorbonne), France with *mention*.

1998 - 2003. First class Hons. in Economics with French, [University of Dundee](#), Scotland.

2001 - 2002. Licence (BA) with mention in Political Economy, [University of Grenoble 2](#), France.

Professional Experience:

2010-present. Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, World Bank, Washington, D.C., United States. Currently employed on the Young Professional Program working in the Africa division of the [PREM Unit](#).

2009-10. Coordinator, Survey on Sexual Attitudes amongst University Students in Lesotho. Organized funding for research project which aimed to understand attitudes towards sexual behavior. Worked with academic partners at the University of Lesotho and Trinity College Dublin to undertake survey and process data. Currently working on econometric research papers using the data collected.

2009-10. Consultant, World Bank. Short-term consultancy to analyze and report on the Gender and Business in Lao PDR using the [Enterprise Survey](#). Results indicate large differences between male and female owned enterprises in Lao in terms of characteristics and obstacles faced to doing business. The difference between the two groups in terms of obstacles tend to disappear when firm characteristics are controlled for.

2008-2010. Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Fellow. Based in the Macroeconomic Policy and Management unit of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in **Lesotho, southern Africa**. Became responsible for the Medium Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) and Financial Programming (FP) within the ministry. Role included regularly liaising and building up strong working relationships with other Government departments/ministries and with major private sector players in order to update and ensure the accuracy of the MTFF and FP; used the MTFF and FP to provide high-level advice to the Minister of Finance and others within the ministry as well as to donors. Introduced new forecasting methodology to the MTFF and FP to improve fiscal and economic estimates. Regularly called upon to produce policy documents with tight deadlines and at short notice.

2005-2008 (Part time). Tutor, University of Bath, United Kingdom. Courses taught on: Second Year Econometrics; Second Year Development Economics; Introductory Macroeconomics; Introductory Microeconomics; Introductory Statistics. Completed numerous courses from Bath University's "Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education" program and consistently received very positive feedback from students and other lecturers. Grading and invigilation also undertaken. Several short term consultancies undertaken during the course of my PhD (see below for details).

March to May 2008. Various short term work through [Metroeconomica](#) (consultancy firm) for the [UK Environment Agency](#) on "Household and economy-wide impacts of changing environmental behaviors". Used British household data to understand the likely effects of subsidizing certain environmentally-friendly goods on general household consumption patterns, and therefore overall pollution.

February 2008. Short term consultancy to update [UK Department for International Development \(Dfid\)](#) database regarding recommendation of export licenses to developing countries (Criterion 8) based on various economic, social and development indicators.

January to April 2007. Study of economic impact of a Dfid-funded emergency cash aid program implemented by the NGO, [Concern Worldwide](#). Spent several months in **rural Malawi** interviewing small and medium sized businesses (including local private and state schools, and private and public health clinics) to collect quantitative and qualitative data to estimate the impact of the program using a regional multiplier. Involved building strong relationships with local 'key informants' and 'gatekeepers' and winning trust of local businessmen and women. In the report, "Making the Most of It: A Regional Multiplier Approach to Estimating the Impact of Cash Transfers on the Market", I reported both quantitative findings including the main 'secondary beneficiaries' of the program, the regional multiplier (calculated using input-output tables, and regression analysis), and complementary qualitative findings from the interviews I conducted.

October 2006 to January 2007. Project for South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) coordinated by [Professor John Hudson](#), University of Bath, "Future Economic Activity in the South West's Rural Areas and Smaller Settlements". The aim was to understand potential regional policy in order to assist the development of rural areas. My role included interviewing local businesses and organizing and analyzing census data to understand the impact of various factors on rural development.

Summer 2004. Business Vision Market Research, Cranfield, England. Conducted market research for corporate clients regarding customer satisfaction of Business-to-Business services. Roles included data analysis of results and completion of reports for corporate clients.

Key Publications:

Published and Forthcoming:

"What Motivates Gifts? Intra-Family Transfers in Rural Malawi", forthcoming, *Journal of the Family and Economic Issues*.

"Income, Gender and Consumption in Urban Malawian Households", 2011, *Journal of Developing Areas*. 44(2): 1-25.

“Crime and Happiness amongst Heads of Households in Malawi”, 2010, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 11(4): 457-476 (with Tim Hinks).

“Do Shocks have a Persistent Impact on Consumption? The Case of Rural Malawi”, 2010, *Progress in Development Studies*, 10(1):75-79.

Book Chapter: **Why do people give? Motivations for remitting in rural Malawi**. 2010. Ch.3 (pp.41-58), Economic Themes I, Ed. J.Roufagalas, ISBN: 978-960-6672-86-6.

“Mental Accounting and Remittances: A Study of Malawian Households”, 2009, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 30(3):321-334 (with Joshy Easaw and Atanu Ghoshray).

“Life Satisfaction in Malawi and the Importance of Gender, Polygamy and Religion”, 2008, *Journal of International Development*, 20: 888-904 (with Tim Hinks).

“A Regional Multiplier Approach to Estimating the Impact of Cash Transfers on the Market”, 2008, *Development Policy Review*, 26(1): 91-111 (with James Davey).

Working Papers:

“Are Natural Resources Really a Curse? A Study of Firms in Developing Countries”, 2008, *Research Paper*, Currently under Revise and Resubmit (with Richard Record).

“Remittances as Insurance for Household and Community Shocks in an Agricultural Economy: The Case of Rural Malawi”, 2007, Currently under Revise and Resubmit.

“Determinants and Impact of Private Sector Investment in Malawi: Evidence from the 2006 Investment Climate Survey”, 2007, *Research Paper* (with Richard Record).

Languages:

English	Mother tongue
French	Near native
Italian	Very good

Certification:

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, these data correctly describe me, my qualifications, and my experience.

Simon Davies

September 15, 2010