



NYU
DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

CITIES AND DEVELOPMENT: URBAN DETERMINANTS OF SUCCESS

2014 Annual Conference

November 18, 2014

Rosenthal Pavilion, NYU Kimmel Center

Program

8:30am–9:00am: Registration and Coffee

9:00am–9:10am: Conference Introduction by NYU Provost
David W. McLaughlin

9:10am–10:10am: Paul Romer
“The Power of the Grid”

10:10am–11:10am: William Easterly and Laura Freschi
“A Long History of a Short Block: Four Centuries of Development
Surprises on a Single Stretch of a New York City Street”

11:10am–11:30am: Coffee Break

11:30am–12:30pm: Edward Glaeser
“Cities in the Developing World”

12:30pm–1:30pm: Lunch

1:30pm–2:30pm: Alain Bertaud
“The Effects of Top-Down Design vs. Spontaneous Order on Housing
Affordability: Examples from Southeast Asia”

2:30pm–3:30pm: Nassim Nicholas Taleb
“Small is Beautiful—but Also Less Fragile”

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Alain Bertaud is a senior research scholar at the NYU Stern Urbanization Project. He previously held the position of principal urban planner at the World Bank. Prior to joining the World Bank he worked as a resident urban planner in Bangkok, San Salvador (El Salvador), Port au Prince (Haiti), Sana'a (Yemen), New York, Paris, Tlemcen (Algeria), and Chandigarh (India). Bertaud's research, conducted in collaboration with his wife Marie-Agnès, aims to bridge the gap between operational urban planning and urban economics. He earned the Architecte DPLG diploma from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He is currently working on a book about urban planning that is tentatively titled *Order Without Design*.

William Easterly is Professor of Economics at New York University and Co-director of the NYU Development Research Institute. He is a Research Associate of NBER, senior fellow at BREAD, and nonresident Senior Fellow at Brookings. He has authored three books: *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor* (2014), *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Harm and So Little Good* (2006), which won the FA Hayek Award from the Manhattan Institute, and *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics* (2001). He was named among the Top 100 Global Public Intellectuals in 2008 and 2009 by *Foreign Policy Magazine*, as well as one of Highly Cited Researchers of 2014 by *Thomson Reuters*. He is also the 11th most famous native of Bowling Green, Ohio.



Laura Freschi is Managing Director and Research Scholar at NYU Development Research Institute, and Deputy Managing Director for the Financial Access Initiative at NYU Wagner. Her work at DRI has included co-writing the *Aid Watch* blog, and an economic development history of one New York City block, with Professor William Easterly. She has been published in the *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, the *New York Review of Books*, *The Lancet*, and *Alliance Magazine*. She holds an MA from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies. In December of 2014, Laura will move on from NYU to take on the role of Director of Partnerships at Reboot, a New York-based social enterprise firm.



Edward Glaeser is the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, where he has taught since 1992. He is Director of the Rappaport Institute of Greater Boston. He regularly teaches microeconomic theory, and occasionally urban and public economics. He has published dozens of papers on cities, economic growth, and law and economics. In particular, his work has focused on the determinants of city growth and the role of cities as centers of idea transmission. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1992.

Paul Romer, an economist and policy entrepreneur, is University Professor at New York University, the founding director of the NYU Stern Urbanization Project, and the Director of NYU's Marron Institute of Urban Management. He is a Research Associate at the NBER and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a non-resident scholar at both the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C. and the Macdonald-Laurier Institute in Ottawa, Ontario. He was named one of America's 25 Most Influential People by *Time Magazine* in 1997, and in 2002 was awarded the Horst Claus Recktenwald Prize in Economics for his work on the role of ideas in sustaining economic growth. *Foreign Policy* selected him among its Top 100 Global Thinkers of 2010. He earned a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago.



Nassim Nicholas Taleb is Distinguished Professor of Risk Engineering at the New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering. He is the author of the *Incerto* (2001-2010) – a 4-volume essay on uncertainty (*Antifragile*, *The Black Swan*, *Foiled by Randomness*, *The Bed of Procrustes*), and two technical books: *Dynamic Hedging* (1997) and the mathematical version of the *Incerto* – *Silent Risk* (2014). He has held senior positions with major financial institutions: Credit Suisse First Boston, UBS, BNP-Paribas, Indosuez (now Calyon), and Bankers Trust (now Deutsche Bank). He also worked as an independent pit trader and ran his own derivatives firm for 6 years. Since starting his academic career, he has written more than 35 scholarly papers on risks and probability. In 2011, he was listed among *Bloomberg's* 50 Most Influential Persons in the World (policy makers, bankers, corporate leaders) in Finance.