William Easterly
Author and Professor of Economics, New York University

THE TYRANNY OF EXPERTS:
Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor

Monday, April 14, 2014
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
A-301, Collins Center
UCLA Anderson School of Management

Join Professor Sebastian Edwards and the UCLA Anderson Center for Global Management in hosting William Easterly, Author and Professor of Economics, New York University who will discuss his just-released new book THE TYRANNY OF EXPERTS: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor. In The Tyranny of Experts, economist William Easterly, bestselling author of The White Man's Burden, traces the history of the fight against global poverty, showing not only how these tactics have trampled the individual freedom of the world’s poor, but how in doing so have suppressed a vital debate about an alternative approach to solving poverty: freedom.

Bag lunch will be provided.

Open to UCLA students, faculty, and by invitation only.

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About the Book
Over the last century, global poverty has largely been viewed as a technical problem that merely requires the right “expert” solutions. Yet all too often, experts recommend solutions that fix immediate problems without addressing the systemic political factors that created them in the first place. Further, they produce an accidental collusion with “benevolent autocrats,” leaving dictators with yet more power to violate the rights of the poor.

In The Tyranny of Experts, economist William Easterly, bestselling author of The White Man’s Burden, traces the history of the fight against global poverty, showing not only how these tactics have trampled the individual freedom of the world’s poor, but how in doing so have suppressed a vital debate about an alternative approach to solving poverty: freedom. Presenting a wealth of cutting-edge economic research, Easterly argues that only a new model of development—one predicated on respect for the individual rights of people in developing countries, that understands that unchecked state power is the problem and not the solution —will be capable of ending global poverty once and for all.

“In this impassioned book, William Easterly draws on a wealth of examples from history and from around the world to support his forceful call for a radical transformation in the way the world views development. Easterly shows that many of the contemporary debates about the nature of development have their roots in history and he argues that the rights of the individual and democratic values should not be trampled on by those seeking faster economic growth.”
- Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize Winner, Professor of Economics at Columbia University

“Easterly delivers a scathing assault on the anti-poverty programs associated with both the United Nations and its political and private sector supporters....A sharply written polemic intended to stir up debate about the aims of global anti-poverty campaigns.”
- Kirkus

“This book is deeply radical and thought-provoking, and brilliantly entertaining. Easterly invokes Kahneman, Hayek, Hirschman; the free cities of 12th century Genoa and 18th century New York; the Erie Canal, Fujian and Benin; the “prison” of the nation state; the new generation of econometrics applied to human history, and more in making his argument: It is individual rights and political freedoms that safeguard spontaneous, shared and sustained development, and the prevailing technocratic approach subverts those rights at great cost to the global poor its adherents would help. Development insiders will, with some justification, complain about one-sidedness and exaggeration. But no one who starts this book will be able to put it down, or be able to undo its influence on her thinking about the deep determinants of development progress.”
- Nancy Birdsall, President, Center for Global Development

“Bill Easterly is simply the most interesting and provocative economist writing on development topics today.”
- Francis Fukuyama, Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University

**Speaker's Biography**

**WILLIAM EASTERLY** is Professor of Economics at New York University and Co-director of the [NYU Development Research Institute](https://www.nyu.edu/developmentresearch), which won the 2009 BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge in Development Cooperation Award. He is the author of three books: *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor* (forthcoming, March 3, 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 has also published more than 60 peer-reviewed academic articles, and ranks among the top 100 most cited economists worldwide. He has written columns and reviews for
the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, New York Review of Books, and Washington Post. He has served as Co-Editor of the Journal of Development Economics and as Director of the blog Aid Watch. He is a Research Associate of NBER, senior fellow at BREAD, and nonresident Senior Fellow at Brookings. Foreign Policy Magazine named him among the Top 100 Global Public Intellectuals in 2008 and 2009. He is also the 11th most famous native of Bowling Green, Ohio.