Mike Konczal

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Professional Summary

Accomplished researcher, writer, and public advocate skilled in bridging the gap between academic experts and the general public. Specializing in economic data analysis and policy research, I've been cited in over 300 press articles, testified before Congress four times, and made over 50 media appearances on platforms like *CBS Sunday Morning* and *Washington Journal*. My written work has been featured in esteemed publications such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Experience

Director, Roosevelt Institute, New York, NY 2010 - current

- **Lead in Macroeconomic Research:** Directs in-depth research and analysis on key economic issues, including inflation and full employment, shaping policy discussions at a leading think tank. Manages a team of researchers and staff to produce original research and meet key deliverables. Acts as a regular consultant to legislators and policymakers.
- **Data Analysis:** Leverages R and Python to automate real-time data analysis, sourcing information from five major governmental databases. Authors regular briefings and white papers on current events to inform strategic decisions and develop talking points.
- **Project Management:** Orchestrated four multi-year research and policy initiatives on pivotal topics such as the Dodd-Frank Act, the Great Recession, economic inequality, and evolving economic paradigms. Authored over 20 white papers and edited four comprehensive report volumes.
- **Inequality and Economics Research:** Co-authored *Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy* (W.W. Norton, 2015), with Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, summarizing the latest research in inequality and policy responses. Managed follow-up work exploring new economic paradigms.
- **Financial Reform:** Led our work on financial reform going into the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act. Written and testified on capital requirements and other major financial reform priorities.
- **Media Outreach:** Collaborated with the communications team to devise engagement strategies for promoting our projects. Served as a go-to expert on economic and policy issues for journalists and writers.
- **Research Funding and Partnerships:** Successfully secured and managed research grants from prestigious organizations, including the Kauffman, Ford, and Hewlett Foundations, as well as Open Philanthropy.

Financial Engineer, Moody's KMV, San Francisco, CA 2007 - 2009

- **Risk Modeling:** Developed testing benchmarks for Moody's KMV credit risk model, recognized as the 2006 "Top Provider in Trading and Banking" by Risk Magazine. Collaborated on five system releases of RiskFrontier software, developing test cases and acceptance criteria for cutting-edge credit risk modeling algorithms.
- **Finance Theory:** Actively participated in discussions on various approaches to credit risk modeling, focusing on the Vasicek-Kealhofer (VK) model derived from the Black-Scholes-Merton framework. Contributed to debates on capital requirements and loss reserving.
- **Algorithm Development:** Prototyped research algorithms using R, SAS, Matlab, and Excel VB to replicate results. Designed and implemented a system that automated the collection, storage, and analysis of significant data sets across four releases, reducing test execution time by 40 percent.

Senior Test Engineer, Motorola, Schaumburg, IL 2001-2005

- **Performance Testing**: Directed performance, load, and stress testing across four major iDEN system releases, earning a Motorola BRAVO Award for "above and beyond performance contribution." Implemented automated data collection and initial analysis to enhance testing efficiency using Perl, Python, and MySQL.
- **Quality Assurance and Team Leadership**: Designed Six Sigma-level test cases based on mathematical models of consumer behavior and trained six employees in testing methods. Coordinated testing cycles across divisions and managed interns and contractors in execution and reporting.

Education

M.S. Finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2007

- Conducted advanced research in finance, including data analysis and hypothesis testing on large datasets like Compustat, using R and SAS.
- Completed rigorous coursework in the graduate-level economics sequence, covering microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics.
- Developed and implemented algorithms for option valuation, including binomial tree, Monte Carlo, and finite difference methods, using C++.
- Served as a Teaching Assistant for Calculus I, responsible for designing quizzes, administering exams, and delivering lectures.

B.A. Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2001

- Focused coursework in Probability, Statistics, Data Structures, Graph Theory, Numerical Methods, and Nonlinear Programming.

Media Appearances and Writings

Quotes and Media Mentions

- Highly experienced in media engagement, cited in over 300 articles and media references.
- Top Outlets: *New York Times* (32), *Washington Post* (23), *Vox* (21), *Bloomberg* (10), *Business Insider* (9), and more.

Published Writing

- Contributed articles to various prestigious publications, including but not limited to: *The Nation* (19 articles), *Dissent* (7), *Vox* (6), *Boston Review* (5), and the *New York Times* (2).
- Authored the financial blog *Rortybomb*, recognized as one of *Time* magazine's "25 Best Financial Blogs" in 2011.
- Published the book *Freedom From the Market* (New Press, 2021), highlighted as a "Summer Book of 2021" in the economics category by the *Financial Times*. Reviews include: *Democracy Journal*, *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *National Review*.

Media Appearances

- Garnered significant media presence with over 25 podcast appearances and 15 TV interviews, and amassed a following of over 48,000 on Twitter.
- Notable Appearances: *The Weeds* podcast (4 times), *Planet Money* (3), *Washington Journal* (2), *CNBC* (2), *CBS Sunday Morning*, and *The Rachel Maddow Show*.

Full C.V. available upon request.