

# Mike Konczal

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## Professional Summary

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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

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**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.

- **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

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### 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

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### *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*.

## Books

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*Freedom From the Market: America's Fight to Liberate Itself from the Grip of the Invisible Hand.* New York: New Press, 2021.

- Named a “Summer Books of 2021: Economics” by Martin Wolf of the *Financial Times*.
- Listed among “The Best Political Economy Books of 2021” by Promarket, The Stigler Center at the University of Chicago.
- Reviews include *Democracy Journal*, *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *National Review*.

*Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy: An Agenda for Growth and Shared Prosperity.* With Joseph Stiglitz, Nell Abernathy, Adam Hersch, and Susan Holmberg. New York: W.W. Norton, 2015.

## Testimony

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[“Power and Profiteering: How Certain Industries Hiked Prices, Fleeced Consumers, and Drove Inflation.”](#) Testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, September 22, 2022.

[“Lending in a Crisis: Reviewing the Federal Reserve’s Emergency Lending Powers During the Pandemic and Examining Proposals to Address Future Economic Crises.”](#) Testimony before the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy, House Committee on Financial Services, September 23, 2021.

[“The Impact of Regulations on Short-Term Financing.”](#) Testimony before the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, House Committee on Financial Services, December 8th, 2016.

## Select Research Papers

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[Prices, Profits, and Power: An Analysis of 2021 Firm-Level Markups.](#) With Niko Lusiani. Roosevelt Institute, June 2022.

- Coverage: [New York Times](#), [Insider](#).

[A New Direction for the Federal Reserve: Expanding the Monetary Policy Toolkit.](#) With J.W. Mason. Roosevelt Institute, November 2017.

- Coverage: [Financial Times](#), [Macro Musings Podcast](#), [New York Magazine](#).

[Declining Entrepreneurship, Labor Mobility, and Business Dynamism: A Demand-Side Approach.](#) With Marshall Steinbaum. Roosevelt Institute, July 2016.

- Coverage: [Wall Street Journal](#), [Politico](#), [The Economist](#).

## Editor

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[Untamed: How to Check Corporate, Financial, and Monopoly Power.](#) With Nell Abernathy and Katy Milani. Roosevelt Institute, June 2016.

[An Unfinished Mission: Making Wall Street Work for Us.](#) With Americans for Financial Reform, November 2013.

*Will It Work? How Will We Know? The Future of Financial Reform.* Roosevelt Institute, October 2010.

*Make Markets Be Markets.* Roosevelt Institute, March 2010.

## Columnist

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<i>The Nation</i> , Economics Columnist.	2014 - current
<i>Dissent</i> , Editorial Board.	2015 - current
<i>Vox</i> , <i>The Big Idea</i> , Monthly Columnist.	2017-2018
<i>Washington Post</i> , <i>Wonkblog</i> , Weekly Columnist.	2013-2014

## Select Op-Eds

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- [“How to Have a Roaring 2020s \(Without Wild Inflation\).”](#) With J.W. Mason. *New York Times*, June 15, 2021.
- [“Why a Biden Administration Needs to Spend Big.”](#) *The Nation*. November 2, 2020.
- [“Democrats Must Become The Party Of Freedom.”](#) With Nell Abernathy. *Talking Points Memo*, November 2018.
- [“Why are Democrats Helping Trump Dismantle Dodd-Frank?”](#) *New York Times*, March 6th, 2018.
- [“The G.O.P. Plan to Unleash Wall Street.”](#) *New York Times*, June 9, 2017.
- [“Frenzied Financialization.”](#) *Washington Monthly*, December 1st, 2014.
- [“The Voluntarism Fantasy.”](#) *Democracy Journal*, March 1st, 2014.

## Select Talks and Interviews

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- [“Are Corporate Profits Driving Inflation?”](#) *CBS Sunday Morning*, July 10th, 2022.
- [“Why Freedom Requires Keeping Us Free From the Market.”](#) The Havens Wright Center for Social Justice, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 14, 2021.
- [“The Federal Reserve’s regulatory issues.”](#) *Vox’s The Weeds* podcast, September 10, 2021.
- [“Freedom From Markets.”](#) *Vox’s The Weeds* podcast, January 22, 2021.
- [“Will the Coronavirus Relief Bill Prevent a Great Depression?”](#) Hammer Museum, April 22nd, 2020.
- [“LOLOLoligarchy.”](#) *Pod Save America: Lovett or Leave It* podcast. June 1, 2018.
- [“How the GOP is weaponizing the tax code.”](#) *Vox’s The Weeds* podcast, December 1, 2017.
- [“Is California’s 15 Minimum Wage Law a Good Idea?”](#) USD Center for Ethics, Economics, and Public Policy, September 22nd, 2016
- [“Let’s Re-imagine the Rules.”](#) Aggie Agora, Texas A&M University, March 1st, 2016.