# Marc Klemp

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Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen
Research Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research
marc.klemp@econ.ku.dk ORCID: 0000-0003-4076-6353
web.econ.ku.dk/klemp

## Research profile

I study economic growth, economic history, and long-run development. My research combines theory, empirical analysis, and new measurement approaches to examine how culture, population dynamics, technology, and historical conditions shape economic change.

## Current positions

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| Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen | 2022–present |
| Research Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research | 2024–present |

## Education

### Graduate education

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|---|---|
| PhD in Economics, University of Copenhagen | 2013 |
| MSc in Economics (cand.polit), University of Copenhagen | 2011 |

### Undergraduate education

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|---|---|
| BSc in Mathematics, University of Copenhagen | 2024 |
| BSc in Economics, University of Copenhagen | 2008 |

## Previous positions

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|---|---|
| Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen | 2017–2022 |
| Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research | 2017–2024 |
| Visiting Scholar, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (~12 months) | 2017–2018 |
| Visiting Researcher, Department of Economics, New York University (~2 months) | 2015 |
| Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen | 2014–2017 |
| Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University | 2013–2022 |
| Visiting Research Fellow, Graduate School, Brown University (~4 months) | 2011 |

## Awards and fellowships

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|---|---|
| UCPH Forward Fellowship Programme, University of Copenhagen | 2026–2027 |
| Weatherhead Scholars Program, Harvard University | 2017 |
| Sapere Aude Research Talent, Danish Council for Independent Research | 2013 |

## Working papers

Cultural Evolution (with Oded Galor and Daniel C. Wainstock). NBER Working Paper 35656, 2026.

Measuring the Culture of Useful Knowledge and the Roots of Innovation. CEPR Discussion Paper 21769, 2026.

What Oral Traditions Are About and What They Say. CEPR Discussion Paper 21720, 2026.

Roots of Inequality (with Oded Galor and Daniel C. Wainstock). NBER Working Paper 31580, revised 2025.

The Power of a Diverse Mindset in Shaping Prosperity (with Oded Galor and Daniel C. Wainstock). CESifo Working Paper 10937, 2024.

## Books

*Forklaring og forudsigelse: Økonomiens videnskabsteori og teorihistorie* (English: *Explanation and Prediction: The Philosophy of Science and the History of Economic Thought*). Djøf Forlag, forthcoming January 2027.

## Economics publications

Human Colonization of Earth and Diverse Societal Developments (in Danish). *Danish Journal of Economics*, 2022.

Historical Instruments and Contemporary Endogenous Regressors (with Gregory Casey). *Journal of Development Economics*, 149, 102586, 2021.

The Ancient Origins of the Wealth of Nations (with Quamrul H. Ashraf and Oded Galor). *Handbook of Historical Economics*, pp. 675–717, 2021.

Diversity and Conflict (with Cemal E. Arbatlı, Quamrul H. Ashraf, and Oded Galor). *Econometrica*, 88(2), 727–797, 2020.

Natural Resource Access and Local Economic Growth (with Mark Gradstein). *European Economic Review*, 127, 103441, 2020.

Human Genealogy Reveals a Selective Advantage to Moderate Fecundity (with Oded Galor). *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 3(5), 853–857, 2019.

Fecundity, Fertility and the Formation of Human Capital (with Jacob Weisdorf). *Economic Journal*, 129(618), 925–960, 2019.

Further Evidence of Within-Marriage Fertility Control in Pre-Transitional England (with Francesco Cinnirella and Jacob Weisdorf). *Demography*, 56(4), 1557–1572, 2019.

Malthus in the Bedroom: Birth Spacing as Birth Control in Pre-Transition England (with Francesco Cinnirella and Jacob Weisdorf). *Demography*, 54(2), 413–436, 2017.

Post-Malthusian Dynamics in Pre-Industrial Scandinavia (with Niels F. Møller). *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 118(4), 841–867, 2016.

Picking Winners? The Effect of Birth Order and Migration on Parental Human Capital Investments in Pre-Modern England (with Chris Minns, Patrick Wallis, and Jacob Weisdorf). *European Review of Economic History*, 17(2), 210–232, 2013.

The Lasting Damage to Mortality of Early-Life Adversity: Evidence from the English Famine of the Late 1720s (with Jacob Weisdorf). *European Review of Economic History*, 16(3), 233–246, 2012. Editor's Choice.

Prices, Wages, and Fertility in Pre-Industrial England. *Cliometrica*, 6(1), 63–77, 2012.

## Health publications

Inferring Glaucoma Status from Prescriptions, Diagnoses, and Operations Data: A Danish Nationwide Study (with A. Horwitz, J. Rovelt, H. Horwitz, C. Torp-Pedersen, and M. Kolko). *PLOS ONE*, 18(12), e0292439, 2023.

Male Fertility Before and After Androgen Abuse (with J. Windfeld-Mathiasen, K. Dalhoff, J. Andersen, A. Horwitz, and H. Horwitz). *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, 106(2), 442–449, 2021 (online 2020).

Brain Responses to Passive Sensory Stimulation Correlate With Intelligence (with A. Horwitz, H. Horwitz, M. D. Thomsen, E. Rostrup, E. L. Mortensen, M. Osler, M. Lauritzen, and K. Benedek). *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 11, 2019.

Antihypertensive Medication Postpones the Onset of Glaucoma (with A. Horwitz, J. Jeppesen, J. Tsai, C. Torp-Pedersen, and M. Kolko). *Hypertension*, 69(2), 202–210, 2017.

The Prognosis Following Amphetamine Poisoning (with H. Horwitz, K. Dalhoff, A. Horwitz, J. Andersen, and G. Jürgens). *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, 45, 773–781, 2017.

Visual Steady State in Relation to Age and Cognitive Function (with A. Horwitz, M. Thomsen, I. Wiegand, H. Horwitz, M. Nikolic, L. Rask, M. Lauritzen, and K. Benedek). *PLOS ONE*, 12(2), 2017.

## Older working papers

The Out of Africa Hypothesis of Comparative Economic Development: Common Misconceptions (with Quamrul H. Ashraf and Oded Galor). CESifo Working Paper 7453, 2019. Also Brown Working Paper 2018-13.

Interpersonal Diversity and Socioeconomic Disparities Across Populations: A Reply to Rosenberg and Kang (with Quamrul H. Ashraf and Oded Galor). Brown Working Paper 2018-14, 2018.

Roots of Autocracy (with Oded Galor). NBER Working Paper 23301, 2017.

Heterogeneity and Productivity (with Quamrul H. Ashraf and Oded Galor). Brown Working Paper 2015-4, 2015.

The Out of Africa Hypothesis of Comparative Development Reflected by Nighttime Light Intensity (with Quamrul H. Ashraf and Oded Galor). Brown Working Paper 2014-4. MPRA Paper 55634, 2014.

## Dissertation and other book contributions

Empirical Investigations in Unified Growth Theory. PhD dissertation, University of Copenhagen, Department of Economics. PhD Series 157, 2013. ISBN 9788791342783.

Glossary (with Karl Gunnar Persson). In *An Economic History of Europe: Knowledge, Institutions and Growth, 600 to the Present*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 242–249, 2010.

## Conference abstracts

Glaucoma and Cardioprotective Medication (with A. Horwitz, J. Andreasen, H. Horwitz, J. Freiberg, C. Torp-Pedersen, and M. Kolko). Conference abstract, *Acta Ophthalmologica*, 100(S275), 2022. EVER abstract 217.

Incidence and Prevalence of Glaucoma in Native and Immigrant Groups Living in Denmark (with A. Horwitz, C. Torp-Pedersen, and M. Kolko). Conference abstract, *Acta Ophthalmologica*, 96(S261), 53, 2018.

Intelligence Is Predicted by Single-vs-Double-Sensory Brain Responses (with A. Horwitz, H. Horwitz, M. D. Thomsen, E. Rostrup, E. L. Mortensen, M. Osler, M. Lauritzen, and K. Benedek). Conference abstract, *Clinical Neurophysiology*, 128(9), e301, 2017.

## Public writing

The Roots of Cultural Diversity (with Oded Galor and Daniel C. Wainstock). *VoxEU*, 17 August 2023.

Shedding (Night-Time) Light on the Local Resource Curse (with Mark Gradstein). *VoxEU*, 23 June 2017.

The Biocultural Origins of Human Capital Formation and Economic Growth (with Oded Galor). *VoxEU*, 4 October 2014.

## Software

Vips. Open-source Emacs software integrating hosted and locally run language models, machine translation and text-to-speech, 2023.

ESTETA (with Gregory Casey). Stata command for estimating long-run effects using historical instruments. SSC S459035, 2022.

MATLAB OLG Program (with Christian Groth). Numerically solving overlapping generations models, 2009.

## Grants

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|---|---|
| Carlsberg Foundation: Additional Grant | 2017 |
| European Commission: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship | 2017 |
| Asian Dynamics Initiative: Travel Grant | 2015 |
| Danish Council for Independent Research: Sapere Aude Research Talent Grant | 2013 |
| Danish Council for Independent Research: Postdoctoral Grant | 2013 |
| Carlsberg Foundation: Postdoctoral Travel Grant | 2013 |
| Carlsberg Foundation: Postdoctoral Travel Grant | 2013 |
| Euroclear: Travel Grant | 2011 |
| Augustinus Fonden: Travel Grant | 2011 |

## Professional development

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| S4 Winter GIS Institute, Brown University | 2014 |

## Teaching

**University of Copenhagen, Department of Economics**

Philosophy of Science and History of Economic Thought, BSc in Economics.
Macroeconomics A, BSc in Computer Science and Economics.

## Supervision

**University of Copenhagen, Department of Economics**

Master's theses (cand.polit/cand.oecon) and bachelor's theses.

**Brown University, Department of Economics**

PhD co-supervisor, one student.

## Service

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| Member, Research Ethics Committee, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Copenhagen | 2025–present |
| Member, PhD application assessment committee, Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen | 2026 |

Member of the committee designing the Department of Economics' new three-section structure, University of Copenhagen.

## Editorial and refereeing activities

Editor of the *New Economics Papers* report in Economic Growth, 2013–present.

Referee for University of Chicago Press (book proposal and manuscript), American Economic Review, Cliometrica, Demography, Economic Change and Restructuring, Economic Inquiry, The Economic Journal, Economics & Human Biology, European Economic Review, European Journal of Management and Business Economics, European Review of Economic History, Evolution and Human Behavior, Explorations in Economic History, Historical Methods, International Review of Economics, International Economic Review, Journal of Bioeconomics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Demographic Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy, Le Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS), Macroeconomic Dynamics, Metroeconomica, Nature Human Behaviour, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Population Studies, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Research in Globalization, Research in Labor Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Royal Society Open Science, Scandinavian Economic History Review, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Scientific Reports, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, South African Journal of Economics, Southern Economic Journal, and Spring Meeting of Young Economists.

## Research presentations

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|---|---|
| Department Brownbag, University of Copenhagen, Denmark | June 2026 |
| Comparative Economic Development Workshop, Athens, Greece | Oct. 2023 |
| 1st International Workshop on Migration and Family Economics, Paris, France | June 2022 |
| Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium | Oct. 2021 |
| The Danish Economic Society's Biannual Meeting, Kolding, Denmark | Jan. 2020 |
| 13th International Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics, London, England | Dec. 2019 |
| Bonn University, Bonn, Germany | Dec. 2017 |
| Hamburg University, Hamburg, Germany | Dec. 2017 |
| ASSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA | Jan. 2017 |
| Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, Copenhagen, Denmark | May 2016 |
| World Economic History Congress, Kyoto, Japan | Aug. 2015 |
| Economic Growth Mini-Workshop, Copenhagen, Denmark | June 2015 |
| Towards Sustained Economic Growth, Barcelona, Spain | June 2015 |
| MEHR Seminar, Copenhagen, Denmark | May 2015 |
| Seminar, Beersheba, Israel | Jan. 2015 |
| CESifo Venice Summer Institute: Demographic Change and Long-Run Development, Italy | July 2014 |
| Warwick Summer Workshop in Economic Growth, England | July 2014 |
| Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada | June 2014 |
| Towards Sustained Economic Growth, Barcelona, Spain | June 2014 |
| Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University, Providence, USA | Sept. 2013 |
| PSTC Colloquium, Brown University, Providence, USA | Sept. 2013 |
| 27th ESPE Conference, Aarhus, Denmark | June 2013 |
| Economic History Workshop, Copenhagen, Denmark | May 2013 |
| 4th Workshop on Growth, History and Development, Odense, Denmark | Mar. 2013 |
| Annual DGPE Workshop, Denmark | Nov. 2012 |
| MEHR Seminar, Odense, Denmark | May 2012 |

**Research presentations (continued)**

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| Spring Meeting of Young Economists, Mannheim (ZEW), Germany | Apr. 2012 |
| 3rd Workshop on Growth, History and Development, Copenhagen, Denmark | Mar. 2012 |
| EPRU Seminar, Copenhagen, Denmark | Mar. 2012 |
| Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University, Providence, USA | Dec. 2011 |
| 2nd Jerusalem Summer School in Economic Growth, Jerusalem, Israel | June–July 2011 |
| 2nd Workshop on Growth, History and Development, Copenhagen, Denmark | Apr. 2011 |
| Issues in Economic History Seminar, Florence (EUI), Italy | Nov. 2010 |
| Towards Sustained Economic Growth: Evidence and Theory, Barcelona, Spain | Oct. 2010 |
| 5th Sound Economic History Workshop, Lund, Sweden | Oct. 2010 |
| PhD Seminar, Copenhagen, Denmark | May 2010 |
| Mini Workshop on Growth and Development, Copenhagen, Denmark | May 2010 |
| MEHR Seminar, Copenhagen, Denmark | Mar. 2010 |
| Workshop on Growth, History and Development, Copenhagen, Denmark | Jan. 2010 |
| Oxford FRESH Meeting, Oxford, England | Dec. 2009 |
| Economic History Seminar, Lund, Sweden | Oct. 2009 |

## Biographical information

Full name: Marc Patrick Brag Klemp. Born 8 May 1985. Nationality: Danish.