

## Ben Klemens

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben\\_Klemens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Klemens)

I have fifteen years doing math for the greater good, alternating between technical analysis of data and policy analysis based on my technical expertise.

### *Employment*

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- ※ **Senior Statistician, Economist — U.S. Treasury Office of Tax Analysis** 2015–present
  - Designed and built detailed systems for projecting federal tax revenues from corporations, and for use in what-if scenarios for alternative tax policies.
  - Worked in teams redesigning the process of audit selection via ML methods.
  - Provided analyses of the network of corporate ownerships.
  - Provided analysis of income and tax changes due to migration, based on a data set of 1.7 billion observations.
  - Wrote theoretical papers on the intersection of intellectual property and tax policy.
- ※ **Principal Researcher — U.S. Census Bureau Statistical Research Division** 2009–2015
  - Led a group in design and implementation of *Tea*, an R package used for certain aspects of American Community Survey and 2010 Census processing.
  - Finalized development of *Apophenia*, a C library of statistical routines for large-scale, production-quality data analysis, based on a category-theoretic interpretation of statistical modeling. Now available on Debian-derived Linux systems.
  - Oversaw four employees, advising them on their research and helping them to implement Census projects.
- ※ **Senior Statistician — National Institute of Mental Health** 2006–2008
  - Built data analysis infrastructure and did statistical work for a lab doing genome-wide association studies.
  - Found genetic segments statistically indicated to be implicated in bipolar disorder.
- ※ **Nonresident Fellow — Brookings Institution** 2003–2009
  - Wrote a book, law review article, and several op-eds (Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, ...) on the state of intellectual property law.
  - Was a technical advisor on development of the Brookings Weak State Index.
  - Made radio and TV appearances (NPR, Voice of America, ...) discussing tech policy.
  - Organized two conferences on intellectual property issues.
- ※ **Executive Director, End Software Patents project — Free Software Foundation** 2007–2008
  - Made public appearances and wrote on the threats of the expanded scope of patent law and patent trolls.
  - Organized a staff of campaigners.
  - Spoke with media about the campaign and patent policy.
  - Wrote an amicus brief for a Federal Circuit case, with help from legal staff. Most recommendations eventually appeared in the Supreme Court's ruling in *Alice v CLS Bank*.

<b>※ Contractor — World Bank</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Prepared a statistical analysis and report for a survey of why World Bank contractors are so unhappy with their positions.</li> <li>◦ Prepared a report on intellectual property laws in Europe and Central Asia.</li> <li>◦ Developed a method to use satellite data for Guatemala to improve estimates of local poverty rates.</li> <li>◦ Designed, implemented, and calibrated an agent-based model of labor migration through the Europe and Central Asia region.</li> </ul>	2004–5, 2014–15
<b>※ Postdoctoral Fellow — Johns Hopkins University Department of Economics</b>	2004–2005
<b>※ Teaching Assistant — Caltech Humanities &amp; Social Sciences Dept, incl. economics, law, psychology, anthropology</b>	2000–2003
<b>※ Research Assistant — to Michael Chwe of the NYU Dept of Politics</b>	2000
<b>※ Risk Control Analyst — ABN AMRO, Inc</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Oversaw and reported on all of the desks of a regional brokerage firm, including OTC, Forex, pink sheet stocks, options trading, government bonds, and commodity futures</li> <li>◦ Built a reporting system to gather information from all desks, calculate risk metrics, and report daily to management.</li> </ul>	1998–99
<b>※ Research Assistant — to Dali Yang of the U of Chicago Political Science Dept</b>	1992–95

### *Education*

<b>※ PhD in Social Science (Microeconomics and Game Theory) — Caltech</b>	2003
<b>※ Participation in the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Summer Institute — Harvard University Center for Basic Research in the Social Sciences</b>	2002
<b>※ MS in Social Science — Caltech</b>	2001
<b>※ NASD Series 7 certification —</b>	1998
<b>※ BA in Economics — University of Chicago. Included one year at London School of Economics studying mathematics and labor economics; dean’s list.</b>	1996

### *Government*

<b>※ Policy Committee member — Biden presidential campaign</b>	2020
<b>※ Chair — Transportation Committee, DC ANC1B (member 2015–present)</b>	2013–2015

### *Technical papers*

<b>※ Marriage Penalties and Bonuses by Race and Ethnicity: An Application of Race and Ethnicity Imputation, by Rachel Costello, Portia DeFillippes, Robin Fisher, Ben Klemens, and Emily Lin — Treasury Office of Tax Analysis Working Papers</b>	January 2024
<b>※ Measures of the Capital Network of the U.S. Economy — ArXiv</b>	January 2024
<b>※ An Analysis of U.S. Domestic Migration via Subset-stable Measures of Administrative Data — Journal of Computational Social Science</b>	June 2021
<b>※ Valuing patents and trademarks in complex production chains — Journal of the Knowledge Economy</b>	March 2020
<b>※ Intellectual Property Boxes and the Paradox of Price Discrimination — Center for Economic Priorities Working Paper</b>	May 2017

- ※ Unemployment Insurance and worker mobility**, by Ryan Nunn, Laura Kawano and Ben Klemens — Urban/Brookings Tax Policy Center report
 
February 2018
- ※ Estimating local poverty measures using satellite images: A pilot application to Central America**, by Ben Klemens, Andrea Coppola, and Max Shron — World Bank Policy Research Paper #7329
 
June 2015
- ※ A Useful Algebraic System of Statistical Models** — Census Bureau Research Report Series (Statistics)
 
May 2013
- ※ A Peer-based Model of Fat-tailed Outcomes** — Arxiv
 
April 2013
- ※ Mutual Information as a Measure of Intercoder Agreement** — Journal of Official Statistics
 
October 2012
- ※ Tea for Survey Processing** — United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Conference of European Statisticians
 
September 2012
- ※ Finding Optimal Agent-based Models** — Center on Social and Economic Dynamics Working Paper #49
 
September 2007
- ※ A genome-wide association study implicates diacylglycerol kinase eta (DGKH) and several other genes in the etiology of bipolar disorder** — *Molecular Psychiatry*(13:2), pp 197-207, by AE Baum, N Akula, M Cabanero, I Cardona, W Corona, B Klemens, TG Schulze, S Cichon, M Rietschel, MM Nathen, A Georgi, J Schumacher, M Schwarz, R Abou Jamra, S Hofels, P Propping, J Satagopan, NIMH Genetics Initiative Bipolar Disorder Consortium, SD Detera-Wadleigh, J Hardy, and FJ McMahon.
 
May 2007
- ※ Social Influences and Smoking Behavior** — Brookings Report to the American Legacy Foundation
 
February 2006
- ※ An Efficient Network Generation Method: Interpersonal Networks and the Distribution of Links** —
 
December 2005
- ※ Dissertation: Information Aggregation** — California Institute of Technology
 
May 2003

## Books

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- ※ Topology: The interesting parts** — Bandcamp.com
 
March 2025
- ※ 21st Century C** — O'Reilly Media
 
September 2012
- ※ Modeling with Data** — Princeton University Press
 
October 2008
- ※ Math You Can't Use: Patents, Copyright, and Software** — Brookings Institution Press
 
November 2005

## Popular press articles

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- ※ Overlooked No More: James Sakoda, Whose Wartime Internment Inspired a Social Science Tool** — New York Times, with Liz Landau
 
8 May 2023
- ※ Mastodon—and the pros and cons of moving beyond Big Tech gatekeepers** — Ars Technica
 
January 2023
- ※ Keeping science reproducible in a world of custom code and data** — Ars Technica
 
November 2021
- ※ An Inclusive, Cyberpunk Future Is In the Cards** — Wired, with Liz Landau
 
February 2021
- ※ The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle of Social Science Modeling** — Scientific American
 
7 July 2020
- ※ Software patents poised to make a comeback under new patent office rules** — Ars Technica
 
10 January 2019

※ <b>The Beauty Contest: How Cities are Shaped by What We Think Others Think,</b> with Erica C Barnett — Strong Towns	November 2018
※ <b>5 Q's for Census Statistics Expert Ben Klemens</b> — Interview with The Center for Data Innovation	October 2014
※ <b>Copyright Law and the Progress of Science and the Useful Arts</b> by Alina Ng — Science and Public Policy	May 2012
※ <b>U.S. expanding the law - domestic and foreign - to benefit corporations</b> — San Francisco Chronicle, 17 February 2008 p E	February 2008
※ <b>Proposal to Add Emoji Symbol for FALAFEL to Unicode</b> — Unicode Consortium	April 2018
※ <b>The Rise of the Information Processing patent</b> — Boston University Journal of Science and Technology Law	14:1 pp 1–37
※ <b>U.S. Patent Imperialism Hurts American Interests</b> — Washington Post, 25 August 2006	August 2006
※ <b>Net neutrality fosters competition between technologies</b> — Op-ed distributed by Scripps-Howard News Service, 17 August 2006	August 2006
※ <b>The Supreme Court's Patent Trilogy: An Analysis</b> — Brookings Institution	May 2006
※ <b>The Gravity of the U.S. Patent Swindle</b> — Wall Street Journal, 25 March 2006, p A9	March 2006
※ <b>New Legal Code</b> — IEEE Spectrum, pp 60-62	August 2005
※ <b>Software Patents Don't Compute</b> — IEEE Spectrum, pp 56-59	July 2005
※ <b>The Computer-shaped Hole in the Patent Reform Act</b> — Brookings Institution	July 2005
※ <b>Shadowing Bush</b> — Brookings Institution	November 2004
※ <b>Social Norms and Voter Turnout</b> — Brookings Institution	January 2004

#### *Live events*

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※ <b>Workshop Co-organizer</b> — Agent-Based Models for Exploring Public Policy Planning, Lorentz Center at University of Leiden	July 2019
※ <b>A Simulation of Nonresponse and Imputation</b> — 2013–14 Program on Computational Methods in Social Sciences (CMSS)	August 2013
※ <b>Designing a cross-paradigm modeling framework</b> — Neyman Seminar at the University of California, Berkeley, Department of Statistics, 8 May 2013; invited talk at Stanford University Department of Statistics 14 May 2013.	May 2013
※ <b>Appearance in <i>Patent Absurdity</i>, a documentary</b>	2010
※ <b>Co-producer and speaker for Brookings Conference, “The Limits of Abstract Patents in an Intangible Economy”</b> —	January 2009
※ <b>Speaker, NISS exploration workshop on agent-based modeling</b>	November 2008
※ <b>Interview by David Levine on Stanford Radio's Hearsay Culture</b>	10 August 2007
※ <b>Panelist: Tech Policy Week</b>	5 May 2007
※ <b>DNA Pooling for GWAS with Illumina Infinium Assays</b> — Poster by Amber E. Baum, Nirmala Akula, Ben Klemens, Imer Cardona, Winston Corona, Andrew Singleton, John Hardy, Sevilla Detera-Wadleigh, Francis J. McMahon	October 2006
※ <b>The Kojo Nnamdi Show: “The Legal Battle over Software” (National Public Radio discussion)</b> —	January 2006

※ Producer and moderator for “Software and Law: Is Regulation Fostering or Inhibiting Innovation?” December 2005

※ Taught graduate class on networks and information — Johns Hopkins Econ dept Feb-May 2005