



Augusto Lopez-Claros

**Senior Fellow at the School of Foreign Service,
Georgetown University**

Augusto Lopez-Claros was chief economist and director of the Global Competitiveness program at the World Economic Forum in Geneva. He specialises in areas of global institutions and cooperation and broader globalisation and development.

Augusto's biography

For the 2018-19 academic year Augusto is on leave from the World Bank as a Senior Fellow at the Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

From 2011 to 2017 he was the Director of the Global Indicators Group in DEC, the unit leading the Bank's research and analytical work. The Indicators Group is the department responsible for the Bank's Doing Business report and other international benchmarking studies such as Enabling the Business of Agriculture and Women, Business and the Law.

Earlier in his career he was the Chief Economist and Director of the Global Competitiveness Program at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland. In this capacity he traveled widely and engaged with senior policymakers in government and the business community on the policy and institutional requirements associated with improvements in the business environment. For many years he was the editor of the Forum's Global Competitiveness Report.

He has a degree in mathematical statistics from Cambridge University, England, and a Ph.D. in [economics](#) from Duke University in the United States. Before joining the Forum in 2003 he was Executive Director and Senior International Economist with Lehman Brothers International in London. During his 5-year stay with Lehman he wrote extensively on a broad range of economic and financial topics. As part of this research work and to meet with Lehman clients he traveled extensively in Europe, North and South America, the Middle East and Asia.

He is a frequent commentator on economic and financial issues, having given well over 150 TV interviews during the past two decades on all the major networks. Before Lehman he worked as an

economist with the International Monetary Fund in Washington, an organization he joined in the mid-1980s.

During his years of service at the Fund his assignments included being country economist for Spain; working in the Fund's main policy making department, where he focused on a range of economic development issues and begun to work on transition issues in Eastern Europe. In the 1990s he was Resident Representative for the IMF in the Russian Federation, where he was responsible for program implementation issues in the context of the IMF's multibillion dollar program of assistance to the Russian Federation. His stay in Russia was followed by a one-year sabbatical in Moscow, an opportunity he used to do research (subsequently published by the IMF) and to travel extensively throughout Russia to gain a broader perspective on the transition.

Prior to his service with the IMF, he was Professor of Economics at the University of Chile, Santiago, where, in addition to his teaching duties, he also headed a research team financed by the Ministry of Health examining economic aspects of alcohol abuse in Chile.

Dr. Lopez-Claros has written and lectured extensively on a wide range of topics in his field, including European economic integration, the determinants of competitiveness, reform issues in transition economies, the European Monetary System, private sector development, investment [climate](#) issues, gender equality and on a broad range of financial and macroeconomic issues affecting emerging markets.

Augusto Lopez-Claros is a much sought-after international speaker, having lectured in the last several years at:

- European Parliament;
- World Trade Organization;
- Law Society of London;
- House of Lords;
- American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow;
- Writers' Union in Sofia, Bulgaria;
- Oxford Business School;
- Darwin and Corpus Christi Colleges at Cambridge University;
- RAND Business School in California;
- European Central Bank in Frankfurt;
- Bank of Spain;
- Central Bank of Chile;
- Imperial College in London;
- Royal Institute of International Affairs in London;
- Center for Strategic and International Studies;
- Friends' Meeting House in Canterbury;
- Shakespeare Library in Moscow;
- India Economic Summits in New Delhi;
- China Business Summits in Beijing;
- Arab Economic Summits in Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt;
- Latin American Business Summit in Sao Paulo;
- Marlborough House in London;
- New York Stock Exchange;
- Aspen Institute in Washington DC;
- Australian Leadership Retreat;
- International Leadership Forum in Kuala Lumpur;
- Annual meetings of the World Economic Forum in Davos;
- Microsoft's Government Leaders Forum for Europe in Edinburgh and the Americas in Cartagena, Miami, Washington DC, and Mexico City over the period 2007-2010;
- European Business School;
- The Economist's Emerging Markets Summit;

- James Martin 21st Century School at the University of Oxford;
- Stanford University;
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology;
- Harvard University;
- Georgetown University;
- Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris;
- Graduate Institute in Geneva;
- Stockholm School of Economics;
- OECD;
- EBRD;
- Confederation of German Industries;
- International Bar Association;
- Interparliamentary Union;
- Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences;
- Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum; as well as keynote presentations for Microsoft in several countries, among many others.

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