

# Six Degrees of Paul Krugman?

*The Web now contains everything you always wanted to know about economics and much more. These sites, the personal products of distinguished economists, especially tickled my fancy. — P.P.*

## PAUL KRUGMAN

[www.wws.princeton.edu/~pkrugman/](http://www.wws.princeton.edu/~pkrugman/)  
Unofficial site: [www.pkarchive.org/](http://www.pkarchive.org/)

Everyone, it seems, either loves Paul Krugman, or loves to hate him. One reason is that he gets amazing exposure through his Op-Ed column in *The New York Times*. Another is that he writes better than any economist since Keynes. Yet a third is that he doesn't suffer fools (or knaves) easily – which often makes his opinion pieces a gas to read. His own Web site contains a sampling of his work, including some striking analytic pieces. But his unofficial site, run by Krugman groupies, is a whole lot more complete, and a whole lot more fun. It includes a lot of material about Krugman as well as stuff by him.



## XAVIER SALA-I-MARTIN

[www.columbia.edu/~xs23/home.html](http://www.columbia.edu/~xs23/home.html)

Some economists are smart. A few are funny. A very few, including Columbia University's Xavier Sala-i-Martin are smart and funny. Who else, after all, would grace his home page with a picture of Miss Piggy in her pigs-in-space getup, and a pair of floating eyeballs that follow your cursor around the site? Check out the picture of his favorite supermodel. Or his link to a live webcam shot of downtown Barcelona (Sala-i-Martin is a Catalan). Then use the site to browse macroeconomist Sala-i-Martin's distinguished and extensive research.



## ROBERT SHILLER

[aida.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/](http://aida.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/)

Robert Shiller of Yale University caught the zeitgeist with *Irrational Exuberance* (Princeton University Press), his book about the psychological underpinnings of the stock market. A sample chapter is on his Web site, along with chapters from his other books and pretty much everything technical he's written in the last decade. I like his statistics section, which provides a ton of data used in testing hypotheses about what drives the markets.

## RICHARD FREEMAN

[www.nber.org/~freeman/](http://www.nber.org/~freeman/)

I'll confess there is nothing special about Richard Freeman's Web site – it's just a well organized site containing a fine sampling of this Harvard University labor economist's research. But I was happy to have the excuse to advertise Freeman's work. He's an interesting scholar and an able defender of left-center views in a world that has drifted to the right.

## RUDI DORNBUSCH

[web.mit.edu/rudi/www/](http://web.mit.edu/rudi/www/)

Rudi Dornbusch has been teaching macroeconomics and international finance at MIT since Gerry Ford was in the White House. But his views on public policy are as fresh – and as edgy – as ever. Don't mistake his skepticism for conservatism just because he has a PhD from the University of Chicago; he really belongs to the take-no-prisoners school of economics. The site includes a lot of his more accessible opinion pieces, plus some excellent reading lists prepared for his graduate courses.

**NOURIEL ROUBINI**

[www.stern.nyu.edu/globalmacro/](http://www.stern.nyu.edu/globalmacro/)

Roubini, who teaches at New York University's Stern School of Business, may not qualify as a famous economist. But he certainly knows his way around policy circles, having spent time at the IMF, World Bank, U.S. Treasury and the White House. He maintains a wonderful Web site that serves as a clearinghouse for news, data and analysis of international financial issues. Indeed, it would make a nice home page/portal for those who work in international economics. The neatest part: an in-depth bibliography on the Asian financial crisis.

**BERT ELY**

[www.ely-co.com/default.asp](http://www.ely-co.com/default.asp)

Bert Ely runs his own private consulting firm specializing in financial policy and banking. Ely's a very public character, though, who's bursting with interesting ideas about everything from inflation to bank deposit insurance to mortgage credit risk. And just about everything he's ever written is available on his well-organized Web site.

**RAY FAIR**

[fairmodel.econ.yale.edu/](http://fairmodel.econ.yale.edu/)

Macroeconomic forecasting has long been out of fashion in academia. Most of the macro computer models used today are maintained by private forecasting businesses and government agencies. Ray Fair of Yale University is the exception – a rigorous academic who takes forecasting seriously. What's more, he's a natural born teacher, maintaining a unique Web site that allows visitors to plug their own assumptions into his sophisticated computer models of the U.S. economy and the global economy, and grind out do-it-yourself forecasts. The process takes some knowledge of economics and a bit of hard work to learn. But it's just a fab resource for those who want to understand what lies beneath the numbers.

**BRAD DELONG**

[www.j-bradford-delong.net/](http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/)

You may remember Brad DeLong as a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton administration, or as Larry Summers's sometime alter ego. Since 1997, he has been on the faculty at the University of California (Berkeley), where he struts his stuff both as a first-rate scholar with eclectic interests and as an evangelist for post-liberal economic policy. His Web site is just chock-full of ideas, including most of his recent writing, sample chapters from his macroeconomics textbook, revealing graphs, weird links, and even semi-weekly musings in his personal journal.

**JOEL SLEMROD**

[taxpolicyresearch.umich.edu/](http://taxpolicyresearch.umich.edu/)

Joel Slemrod, an expert's expert on the economics of taxation, directs the University of Michigan Business School's Office of Tax Policy Research. Strictly speaking, this Web site is the Office's, not Slemrod's. But this marvelous source of info on tax policy is obviously Slemrod's baby. Use it to keep up with current events in tax policy, or mine the ambitious World Tax Database that includes numbers on localities ranging from Alabama to Zimbabwe.

**STEPHEN ROACH**

[www.morganstanley.com/about/gef/team.html#ssr](http://www.morganstanley.com/about/gef/team.html#ssr)

Wall Street economists don't get no respect. And understandably so: they are all too often skills for whatever lines their employers are peddling. But there are exceptions, and Stephen Roach, the chief economist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, is a big one. He heads a solid analytical team, which puts out a daily commentary on economic policy and events called the "Global Economic Forum." It's an excellent site for those interested in macroeconomics – one that bridges the gap between academic and business economists.