Robert Klitgaard is a University Professor at Claremont Graduate University, in California, where he served as President from 2005 to 2009.

Klitgaard advises countries around the world on government reform and economic strategy, and his consulting work and research have taken him to more than 35 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. His recent international partners range from environmental nonprofits to Supreme Audit Authorities; from the OECD to the World Bank; from the Government of Sonora, Mexico, to the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies in Bhutan; from the International Anti-Corruption Academy to the International Monetary Fund. He has participated in the World Economic Forum as a faculty member and as a member of the Global Agenda Council.

In 2017 he spent a sabbatical first at Oxford and then at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, where the summers of 2010 and 2011 he was the Li Ka-shing Distinguished Chair Visiting Professor.

Before joining CGU, Klitgaard was the Dean of the Pardee RAND Graduate School, America’s leading Ph.D. program in policy research, where he was also the Ford Distinguished Professor of International Development and Security. He has served as the Lester Crown Visiting Professor of Economics at Yale’s School of Management and an Associate Professor of Public Policy at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he also was a half-time Special Assistant to Harvard President Derek Bok.

His eleven books include:

*Adjusting to Reality: Beyond “State versus Market” in Economic Development* (Routledge, 2021; originally ICS Press and International Center for Economic Growth, 1991; translated into Spanish and French), a study of policies to make markets work better, make governments work better, and close the economic gaps among ethnic groups. “Lively and highly readable...goes beyond the abstractions of academia and the slogans of the World Bank to present a step-by-step guide to identifying problems and implementing the recommended policies.” —Journal of Economic Literature.

*The Culture and Development Manifesto* (Oxford University Press, January 2021). With fascinating examples from around the world, this inspiring book shows how to take account of cultural diversity in reshaping economic and political development. “Highly engaging... This is a book that only Klitgaard, with his sharp multidisciplinary lens, wealth of on-the-ground experience, and remarkable penmanship, could have pulled off.” —Dani Rodrik, Harvard University

Tropical Gangsters II: Adventures in Development in the World’s Poorest Places (Amazon Kindle KDP Select, 2013). “A must read for anyone who is concerned about the problems of endemic poverty and understanding the forces that inhibit effective change.” —Timothy Besley, London School of Economics.


Controlling Corruption (University of California Press, 1988; translated into 8 languages), a study of corruption and how to reduce it in the developing countries. “A most worthwhile book, both for its insights into anticorruption policies and for the academic debate about more general questions that it will certainly create.” —American Political Science Review.

Elitism and Meritocracy in Developing Countries (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), an analysis of selection policies (including affirmative action) around the globe. “This groundbreaking book...should be required reading for social scientists, both in universities and outside them, who are seriously interested in the important roles and impacts of education in developing countries.” —Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences.


Choosing Elites (Basic Books, 1985), how educational elites are and should be selected in the United States. Listed in The Harvard Guide to Influential Books. “One of the most comprehensive theoretical and empirical examinations ever undertaken on choosing an elite...Klitgaard’s illuminating tour de force leads the reader to understand the leading philosophies of elite selection, and he does so in the clearest and most thorough exposition yet composed on this subject”—The American Scholar
**Employment**

**Claremont Graduate University.** University Professor, 2005-present. President 2005-2009.

**National University of Singapore.** Li Ka-shing Distinguished Chair Visiting Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Summer 2010 and Summer 2011. Visiting professor, August 2014 and August-December 2017.

**Oxford University.** Visiting Scholar, Nuffield College and Blavatnik School of Government, summer 2017.


**School of Management, Yale University.** 1992. Lester Crown Visiting Professor of Economics.

**University of Natal,** Pietermaritzburg. 1991-2. Visiting Professor of Economics.


**The RAND Corporation,** Santa Monica. Visiting Scholar. 1988-89.

**Ministry of Finance, Equatorial Guinea.** 1986-1988. Economist/Administrator of an economic rehabilitation project funded by the World Bank. Worked with a team of ministers to design a structural adjustment program, reform sectoral strategies, and undertake rehabilitation projects. Managed a budget of about $13 million, approximately one-seventh of the country’s GNP.

**Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.** 1977-1984; on leave 1984-1986. Associate Professor of Public Policy and as Special Assistant to the President of Harvard.


**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books:**


Monica: The RAND Corporation, 2005.


*Controlling Corruption* (University of California Press, 1988; translated into fourteen languages).

*Elitism and Meritocracy in Developing Countries* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986).

*Data Analysis for Development* (Oxford University Press, 1985).


**Monographs:**


*Assessing Cultures*, IRIS Research Report #2, Center for Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector, University of Maryland, February 1993.


*Pricing and Recoupment Policies for Commercially Useful Technology Resulting from NASA Programs* (with others), R-1671-NASA (The RAND Corporation, 1975).


*Achievement Scores and Educational Objectives*, R-1217-NIE (The RAND Corporation, 1974).

Articles and Chapters:


“The Limits of Institutional Reform in Developing Countries,” (book review) Public Administration and Development, 33:5 (December 2013)


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“From Insight to Ideology,” Theoria, 83/4 (October 1994).


“Government Support and Young Academics,” Change, Vol. 12, No. 6 (September 1980).

“Merit and Admissions Policy: Case Studies from Pakistan” (with others), Comparative Education Review, Vol. 23, No. 2 (June 1979).


“Sending Signals,” Foreign Policy, No. 32 (Fall 1978).


Selected Other Articles:


http://www.cgu.edu/PDFFiles/Presidents%20Office/klitgaard%20interview2.pdf

http://www.fairobserver.com/article/tackling-corruption-solution


“What Can Be Done?” The Unesco Courier (Paris, UNESCO), special issue on corruption, June 1996. Also published by UNESCO in many other languages.


“Student Power and Student Politics,” Viewpoint, November 1976.

“Student Merit and Admissions Policy for Pharmacy School,” Manpower Review, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Fall 1975).


Teaching Cases:

Wrote or supervised the preparation of more than twenty teaching cases, in use at Harvard and elsewhere.

EDUCATION

A.B. (philosophy), Harvard College.

M.P.P., Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Ph.D. (public policy), Harvard University.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Married to Elaine van Biljon Klitgaard, four children age 20 to 31.
Speaks Spanish (fluently), French (rusty), Portuguese (rusty), and Urdu (very rusty).