

Background Materials for FCIC Commissioner’s Dinner with David Moss and Carmen Reinhart

Historical Lessons from Previous Financial Crises

November 16, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

FCIC Office, Main Board Room

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Speaker Biographies
Historical Lessons from the Financial Crisis
November 16, 2009, 7:00pm-9:00pm

David A. Moss is the John G. McLean Professor at Harvard Business School, where he teaches in the Business, Government, and the International Economy unit. Moss graduated from Cornell University (B.A., 1986) and went on to earn an M.A. in economics (1988) and a Ph.D. in history (1992) from Yale University. In 1992 and 1993, he served as a senior economist at Abt Associates, a public policy consulting firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He joined the Business School faculty in July, 1993.

Professor Moss's research focuses on economic policy and especially the government's role as a risk manager. He has published three books on these subjects: *Socializing Security: Progressive-Era Economists and the Origins of American Social Policy* (Harvard University Press, 1996), which traces the intellectual and institutional origins of the American welfare state; *When All Else Fails: Government as the Ultimate Risk Manager* (Harvard University Press, 2002), which explores the government's pivotal role as a risk manager in policies ranging from limited liability and bankruptcy law to social insurance and federal disaster relief; and *A Concise Guide to Macroeconomics: What Managers, Executives, and Students Need to Know* (Harvard Business School Press, 2007), a primer on macroeconomics and macroeconomic policy.

In addition to these books, Moss has co-edited two volumes and has published numerous articles, book chapters, and case studies, mainly in the fields of institutional and policy history, financial history, political economy, regulation, and comparative social policy. One recent article, "An Ounce of Prevention: Financial Regulation, Moral Hazard, and the End of 'Too Big to Fail'" (Harvard Magazine, Sept-Oct 2009), grew out of his research on financial regulation and regulatory reform for the TARP Congressional Oversight Panel. He has also created a financial history course in the second year of the Harvard MBA program entitled "Creating the Modern Financial System," which traces major developments in financial markets, institutions, and instruments from the early eighteenth century to today.

Professor Moss is the founder of the Tobin Project, a non-profit research organization, and a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. Recent honors include the Robert F. Greenhill Award, the Editors' Prize from the American Bankruptcy Law Journal, the Student Association Faculty Award for outstanding teaching at the Harvard Business School, and the American Risk and Insurance Association's Annual Kulp-Wright Book Award for the "most influential text published on the economics of risk management and insurance."

Carmen M. Reinhart is Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for International Economics at the University of Maryland. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. Professor Reinhart held positions as Chief Economist and Vice President at the investment bank Bear Stearns in the 1980s, where she became interested in financial crises, international contagion and commodity price cycles. Subsequently, she spent several years at the International Monetary Fund. She is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research and a member of the

Council on Foreign Relations. Reinhart has served on numerous editorial boards, panels, and has testified before congress. She has written and published on a variety of topics in macroeconomics and international finance and trade including: international capital flows, exchange rates, inflation and commodity prices, banking and sovereign debt crises, currency crashes, and contagion. Her papers have been published in leading scholarly journals, including the American Economic Review, the Journal of Political Economy, and the Quarterly Journal of Economics.

Her work has helped to inform the understanding of financial crises for over a decade. In the early 1990s, she wrote (with Guillermo Calvo) about the fickleness of capital flows to emerging markets and the likelihood of abrupt reversals--before the Mexican crisis of 1994-1995. Prior to the Asian crisis (1997-1998), she documented (with Graciela Kaminsky) the international historical links between asset price bubbles and banking crises, and how the latter could lead to currency crashes creating a "twin crisis." She identified (with Ken Rogoff) the possibility of severe economic dislocations from the sub-prime crisis in 2007. Her work is frequently featured in the financial press around the world, including The Economist, The Financial Times, The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. She has appeared in CNN, CSPAN, BBC, and NPR, among others.

Her latest book (with Kenneth S. Rogoff) entitled *This Time is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly* (Princeton Press) documents the striking similarities of the recurring booms and busts that have characterized financial history.

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Author(s): David A. Moss, Cole Bolton, and Eugen Kintgen

Article Title: The Pecora Hearings

Journal Title: Harvard Business School Case 711-046

**Volume and
Issue Number:**

Date: December 2010

Page Numbers:

URL: <http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Pages/item.aspx?num=39736>

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Author(s): David A. Moss

Article Title: An Ounce of Prevention: Financial Regulation, Moral Hazard, and the End of “Too Big to Fail”

Journal Title: Harvard Magazine

Volume and Issue Number: September-October 2009

Date:

Page Numbers: 25-29

URL: <http://harvardmagazine.com/2009/09/financial-risk-management-plan>

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Author(s): Carmen M. Reinhart and Kenneth S. Rogoth
Article Title: The Aftermath of Financial Crisis
Journal Title: American Economic Review
Volume and Issue Number: Vol. 99, No. 2
Date: May 2009
Page Numbers: 466-472
URL: <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/aer99.2.466>