



**Dennis Eggers, The 2016-2017
Open Gateway Fellow
at International House, UC Berkeley**



I grew up in a small rural town near St. Gallen, Switzerland. Spending a year abroad on a Rotary Youth Exchange in Australia during high school, I experienced a new culture and forged longstanding friendships within an intercultural community. This prompted a truly cosmopolitan worldview. After a gap year of extended travels in Latin America, a stint as a journalist and as a German language teacher in a centre for asylum seekers, I embarked on my undergraduate studies in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University.

Throughout my studies, I engaged in activities relating to international development. I attended worldwide Model United Nations conferences as both delegate and director. As part of the Oxford Microfinance Initiative (a student-run pro-bono consultancy), I conducted market analysis in collaboration with local students for Manna Project International Ecuador, an NGO. After completing my degree at Oxford, I worked in development policy research for the NGO Bread For All.

I graduated with distinction from the MSc Economics at the London School of Economics last summer and have spent this year as a full-time research assistant to Daniel Sturm and Stephen Redding. My research interests include trade, economic geography and the economics of growth and development and I hope to pursue those further as part of my PhD in Economics at UC Berkeley. I am honoured to have been offered the Open Gateway Fellowship and am looking forward to immersing myself in the diverse community at International House. I speak German, English, French and Spanish. As an active and engaged resident, I hope to contribute to its vibrancy. Interacting with and learning from others, I hope to broaden my intercultural horizon even further.



The Open Gateway Fellowship was established by multiple donors to support a term endowment fund for US or international first-year incoming Ph.D. student with demonstrated financial need.