David Brooks

Author, The Social Animal
New York Times Columnist

Major political and social analyst.

David Brooks has a gift for bringing audiences face to face with the spirit of our times with humor, insight and quiet passion. He is a keen observer of the American way of life and a savvy analyst of present-day politics and foreign affairs.

He holds several prestigious positions as a commentator:

Bi-weekly Op-Ed columnist for The New York Times
Regular analyst on PBS NewsHour and NPR’s All Things Considered

David’s current book (now in paperback), The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement, uses the story of a fictional American couple to explain the importance of neuroscience and sociology in understanding America’s politics, culture, and future. It turns out that the unconscious mind is most of the mind — not a dark, vestigial place but a creative and enchanted one, where most of the brain’s work gets done. This is the realm of emotions, intuitions, biases, longings, genetic predispositions, personality traits, and social norms: the realm where character is formed and where our most important life decisions are made. David turns these discoveries into a moving and nuanced intellectual adventure, a story of achievement and a defense of progress.

His previous books, Bobos in Paradise and On Paradise Drive are in a style he calls "comic sociology" — descriptions of how we live and "the water we swim in" that are as witty and entertaining as they are revealing and insightful. Bobos in Paradise was a New York Times bestseller.

David is currently teaching a course at Yale University. He holds honorary degrees from Williams College, New York University, Brandeis University, Occidental College, among others. In 2010, Brooks became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

David Brooks has worked at The Weekly Standard, joining the magazine at its inception and serving as senior editor. He has been a contributing editor at Newsweek and the Atlantic Monthly. He worked at The Wall Street Journal for nine years in a range of positions, including op-ed editor.

Credentials

- Jackson Senior Fellow, Yale University
- Weekly political commentator, PBS NewsHour
- Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Regular commentator on NPR
- Former writer, editor or columnist for Wall Street Journal, Atlantic Monthly, Newsweek, The Weekly Standard, and other major print media