

# Bio/CV: BERNARD RIVERS

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## Overview:

Bernard Rivers is a retired economist with dual UK-US nationality. He was born and raised in the UK but has been primarily based in the USA since 1978. He lives with his wife, Karen Rothmyer, in the Catskills, two and a half hours' drive north of New York City. They have two children.

During much of 2013-2014 Bernard was a Distinguished Visitor (i.e. a visiting fellow) at Queens' College, Cambridge University.

From 2002 to 2012 he was founder and first Executive Director of *Aidspan*, an international non-governmental organisation that he founded in New York and later moved to Nairobi, Kenya, and for which he raised nearly \$10 million from donors.

([Aidspan](#) serves as an independent watchdog of the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#). Aidspan seeks to monitor, explain and critique the Global Fund, with the objective of increasing the effectiveness of the Fund and of the implementers of its grants. Aidspan moved from New York to Nairobi in 2007. The organisation is best known for its newsletter *Global Fund Observer*, which has nearly 9,000 subscribers, mostly development professionals. Aidspan covers its million-dollar-plus annual budget through grants from foundations and governments. It does not accept Global Fund money, perform paid consulting work, or charge for any of its products.)

After handing over the leadership of Aidspan to his successor in September 2012, Bernard was an Aidspan Senior Fellow until April 2014.

During his visiting fellowship at Cambridge, Bernard researched and wrote *Options for Reforming the Global Fund Board*, published by Aidspan in April 2014. (Available in English and French at [www.aidspan.org/node/2044](http://www.aidspan.org/node/2044).)

During and after his visiting fellowship, Bernard also conducted an in-depth analysis of some trends and inconsistencies in how Cambridge University awards First Class Honours and Upper-Second Class Honours degrees. He [published](#) this analysis in February 2015, with a second edition in February 2016 and a third edition in June 2017.

Prior to founding Aidspan, Bernard founded, grew to 15 staff and eventually sold the New York-based company *Riverside Software, Inc.*, which became the world's leading company developing software to help foundations administer proposals received from and grants awarded to NGOs. The software was used by over 650 US and UK foundations.

In addition, Bernard has been a senior executive of *Blackbaud*, the leading developer of fundraising software for NGOs, and of *AppNet*, the then leading developer of web sites for large NGOs; he has been a consultant to several UN agencies and NGOs; he is an experienced public speaker and writer; he and two colleagues were named *Journalist of the Year* in the British Press Awards for an exposé of illegal activities in Africa by Western oil companies; and he has served on several for-profit and non-profit boards. He has a BA/MA in mathematics and economics from Cambridge University.

## Employment History:

- From 2015: **Retired.**
- 2013 to 2014: **Distinguished Visitor** (i.e. a visiting fellow) at *Queens' College, Cambridge University.*
- 2012 to 2014: **Senior Fellow** at *Aidspan*, a Kenya-based international NGO that serves as an independent watchdog of the *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.*
- 2002 to 2012: **Founder and Executive Director** of *Aidspan* and Editor of its *Global Fund Observer* newsletter, with nearly 9,000 subscribers in 170 countries. Built the organization to 10 staff and raised nearly \$10 million for it.
- 2001 to 2002: **Independent consultant** on the economics of AIDS. Clients included *UNDP* and several nonprofit organizations in the USA and Africa.
- 2000 to 2001: **Director, Nonprofits, US Northeast and UK**, of *AppNet, Inc.* Led a team that developed web sites and provided related consulting services for large nonprofit organizations in the US Northeast and UK.
- 1997 to 2000: **CEO, RivCom, Inc.**, a 12-person UK-US company providing large clients with services and technology regarding use of XML, a new web standard.
- 1996: **Vice President for Data Services, Blackbaud, Inc.** (Charleston, SC), the leading supplier of software to nonprofit organizations. In charge of ventures for providing clients with access to data and services via the web.
- 1990 to 1995: **CEO, founder and owner, Riverside Software, Inc.** (New York, NY), the leading developer of software for grant-making foundations and corporations. Built the company to 15 staff and 650 foundation clients in US and UK, then sold it to Blackbaud, Inc.
- 1984 to 1990: **Director of Software Development, Grants Management Group, Inc.** (New York, NY). Wrote the world's first PC-based grants-management software package.
- 1980 to 1983: **Research Director** (half-time), *Shipping Research Bureau* (Amsterdam, Netherlands, and New York, NY), a nonprofit organization that researched and published reports on how oil was getting to South Africa during the apartheid years. Worked simultaneously as a **consultant** on related issues to the *United Nations* and the *Organization of African Unity.*
- 1978 to 1979: **Research Director, Council on Economic Priorities** (New York, NY). Supervised the work of 10 staff researching the social impact of US corporations.
- 1973 to 1978: **Freelance journalist, lecturer and consultant**, mostly on energy politics in Africa.
- 1969 to 1973: **Economic planner (operations research), British Airways** (London, UK).

**Education:** Cambridge University, UK: BA/MA in mathematics and economics.

**Nationality:** Dual UK-US citizenship.

**Awards:** *Journalist of the Year* (jointly with two colleagues) in the British Press Awards, 1978, and *Investigative Journalist of the year* (jointly with one colleague) in the UK's 'What the Papers Say' Awards, 1978.

**Profile in Science magazine:** [www.sciencemag.org/content/321/5888/524.full.pdf](http://www.sciencemag.org/content/321/5888/524.full.pdf)

**Selected writings:** [www.bernarddrivers.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Bernard-Rivers-articles.doc](http://www.bernarddrivers.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Bernard-Rivers-articles.doc)