

PROFESSOR RODRIGUE TREMBLAY BIO-2026

Rodrigue Tremblay's Biography



Early life (1939–1960)

Rodrigue Tremblay (October 13, 1939 -) is a [Canadian economist](#), humanist and political figure. He was born on October 13, 1939, in [Matane, Quebec](#), Canada, on the [Gaspé Peninsula](#), along the south shore of the [St. Lawrence River](#).

He is the son of Georges Tremblay and Germaine Saint-Louis, a [catholic](#) family. He is married to [Carole Howard Tremblay](#), author, since September 5, 1964. They have three children, Jean-Paul (teaching), Alain (medicine) and Joanne (communication) as well as seven grandchildren, including Canadian [Ski Cross athlete Phil Tremblay](#), and his brother [Stéphane Tremblay](#) a Canadian [ski-jump athlete](#).

As a young boy between the age of 8 and 12 years old, Rodrigue Tremblay served daily mass in the nearby Chapel of the [Hôpital de Matane](#). Later on, Rodrigue Tremblay was a member of the [Collège de Matane's](#) hockey team.

Tremblay's father was a construction entrepreneur and Tremblay learned to drive trucks and heavy machines at a very young age.

Education and career (1961-2002)

Rodrigue Tremblay completed his primary and secondary education in Matane, Quebec. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from [Laval University](#), which he obtained *magnum cum laude* when he graduated from the Collège de Matane, (1st promotion of 1961, now the [CÉGEP de Matane](#)), a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the [University of Montreal](#) (1963), a Master of Science degree in Economics (1965) and a [Ph.D. in Economics](#) and International Finance (1968) from [Stanford University](#) in California, USA.

He was awarded the [Woodrow Wilson Fellowship](#) in 1963 and the [Ford International Fellowship](#) in 1964. At Stanford, Rodrigue Tremblay was a

Research assistant at the [Center for Research on Employment and Economic Growth](#). He did economic research, especially on international capital movements and the [balance of payments adjustment mechanism](#), with professors [Lorie Tarshis](#) (1911-1993), Emile Despres (1909-1973), [Ronald McKinnon](#) (1935-2014), [Paul A. Baran](#) (1909-1964), Bert Hickman (1924-2019), Edward Shaw (1908-1994) and John Gurley (1920-2020). The title of his Ph.D. thesis at Stanford was "[The Role of International Financial Flows in the International Payments Mechanism](#)", 1967.

Rodrigue Tremblay is renowned to be a prolific author of economic and political books and for his involvement as a public intellectual, in Quebec and Canadian politics.

After his return to Canada in 1967, Rodrigue Tremblay taught at the [University of Montreal](#) from 1967 to 2002. In Quebec, he is credited for writing the first introductory economics textbook in French, in 1969, published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston: [L'économie: Introduction à l'analyse des problèmes économiques](#). The book went through three editions, and in 1975, it was published as two distinct volumes, entitled *L'Économie, Analyse microéconomique*, (HRW) and *L'Économie, Analyse macroéconomique*, (HRW).

During his 60-year academic career in the [Department of Economics](#) at the University of Montreal, Rodrigue Tremblay taught introductory Economics ([macroeconomics](#) and [microeconomics](#)), [international trade](#) and [finance](#), and [public finance](#). He was promoted to assistant professor in 1968, associate professor in 1970, and full professor in 1975. He also served as head of the Department of Economics from 1973 to 1976. He received the title of [professor emeritus](#) in 2002.

His primary teaching and research interests were economic and industrial development, [international economics](#), and economic and financial public policies.

Political career (1976-1981)

Tremblay was an early proponent of the creation of a [North American Free Trade Area](#). He is also a Quebec nationalist who attempted to reconcile the need for [economic integration](#), [economies of scale](#), increased [productivity](#), an active [industrial policy](#), and political and cultural sovereignty for small nations. In 1970, Rodrigue Tremblay published an economic manifesto that influenced Quebec politics for years to come. (1) The title is [Indépendance et marché commun Québec-États-Unis](#), (Éditions du Jour). In that book, he proposed that Canada and the United States form a free trade area, in which Quebec would be independent, along Canada and the United States.

In 1976, Rodrigue Tremblay was invited to enter politics. He took a leave of absence from his academic career to run in the November 15 Quebec election. He was elected in the Gouin riding in Montreal, as a Parti Québécois member of the National Assembly. He was then appointed [minister of Industry and](#)

[Commerce](#) in the Quebec government of René Lévesque (1922-1987), on November 26, 1976.

One of his first legislative measures was to [legalize the sale of wine and cider](#) in Quebec grocery stores, the province of Quebec being the first to do so at the time. However, when he made a public proposal to create a joint public-private Quebec [Business bank](#), in association with private banks, in order to reinforce the Quebec industrial sector, and this was not accepted, he resigned from the cabinet on September 21, 1979. Tremblay sat as an independent member of the National Assembly until 1981, when he returned to university teaching.

In 1979, Tremblay published a manifest for the reform of Canadian federalism entitled [La 3e option](#) (The 3rd Option), which envisaged a greater degree of political autonomy for the French-speaking province of [Quebec](#). In 1987, when the federal government under Prime Minister [Brian Mulroney](#) introduced the [Meech Lake Accord](#), it included some of Tremblay's ideas about political decentralization.

Rodrigue Tremblay was an invited scholar and economic consultant at the [Bank of Canada](#) (1968), the Economic Council of Canada (1974), the Quebec Commission of Inquiry on the Quebec Liquor Trade (1969-1970), and at the [West African Monetary Union](#) (UMOA) (1970-1976). In 1973, he proposed the creation of 'la [Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement](#)' (BOAD), which has been in operation since 1976.

He also did research for the [Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada](#) (MacDonald Commission) (1983-1984), the federal Department of Consumer Affairs and Corporations (1974-1975), and the [United Nations](#) (1975), among others.

Contributions (1980-2003)

Tremblay presided also at the foundation of the [North American Review of Economics and Finance](#) (1986) and was associate editor of the Review [L'Action nationale](#).

Tremblay has published in the [Canadian Journal of Economics](#), the [North American Review of Economics and Finance](#), the [Atlantic Economic Journal](#), the [Journal of Economic Literature](#), the [Canadian Journal of Regional Science](#), The [India Economy Review](#), [Global Research](#), [Policy Options](#), [L'Action Nationale](#), [l'Actualité Économique](#), la revue [Vigile Québec](#), and in the financial weekly [Les Affaires](#).

Rodrigue Tremblay is a public intellectual who is known for his contributions to the understanding of international, Canadian and Quebec politics. His political analyses have been published in many newspapers, such as [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), [The Globe and Mail](#), in French-language newspapers such as [Le Devoir](#), [La Presse](#), [Le Soleil](#), and several other

publications. He writes an [international blog](#) about economics, finance, politics and geopolitics, in many languages.

In 1986, when Prime Minister [Brian Mulroney](#), a politician from [Quebec](#), announced that his Progressive Conservative government would formally propose a [Free Trade Agreement](#) with the United States, Tremblay became president of a committee of Canadian economists to support the measure. The committee rallied a large number of Canadian economists behind the policy, and it met with Prime Minister Mulroney on April 25, 1988.¹

However, Tremblay, for one, had some misgivings about the finalized free trade agreement, because it included a chapter that allowed for acquisitions of Canadian companies by larger American firms without sufficient Canadian protection from predatory U.S. industrial and commercial practices, thus making it difficult for the Canadian government to implement an effective industrial policy.

Later, Tremblay opposed the creation of a [North American Union](#), (NAU) which would have further deepened the economic integration of Canada to the United States, and could have placed Canadian independence at risk.

He was selected as a member of the Trade Dispute Settlement Committee established under the [Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement](#) (NAFTA) (1989-1993), which was signed by the American administration of President [Ronald Reagan](#) (1911-2004) and by the Canadian federal government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (1939-2024).

From 1999 to 2004, Rodrigue Tremblay published four books about politics and geopolitics.

The first, in 1999, ([Les grands enjeux politiques et économiques du Québec](#)) reproduced a series of articles published in the financial weekly Les Affaires. In 2002, Rodrigue Tremblay published a book of political philosophy entitled [L'Heure Juste](#) (The Way It Is).

In 2003, his book entitled [Pourquoi Bush veut la guerre. Religion, politique et pétrole dans les conflits internationaux](#), published more than one month before the event, dealt with the March 20, 2003 American-led invasion of Iraq. That latter book was later published in English, in French and in Turkish, under the title [The New American Empire](#).

Professional activities, Research and Academic Career (1967-2002)

Among his professional activities, Rodrigue Tremblay served as president of the '[Société canadienne de science économique](#)'. (1974-1975), president of the North American Economics and Finance Association (NAEFA: 1986-1987), founding and first director of the [North American Journal of Economics and Finance](#) (1986), and vice-president of the International Association of French-Speaking Economists (AIELF) (1999-2005), whose Meeting he presided in Montreal, in 2001.

Throughout a busy professional career, Rodrigue Tremblay has functioned as economist, professor, statesman, writer, columnist and, increasingly, as a philosopher and a humanist. His versatility in all of these areas has resulted in well over 100 scholarly academic articles and more than 200 general public articles written under his name.

A [prolific author](#), Rodrigue Tremblay also published more than 30 books, primarily dealing with economic, financial and political issues, but some also tackling moral and societal issues.

In 2024, [Academia](#), located in San Francisco, CA, an organization that follows academic papers mentioned or read in 16076 universities around the world, found 1079 [academic papers](#) mentioning 'professor Rodrigue Tremblay, University of Montreal'.

The ten top academic papers by professor Tremblay mentioned were:

- 1- "L'équilibre de la balance des paiements dans un contexte d'équilibre général".
- 2- "La politique commerciale fédérale et l'économie québécoise".
- 3- "Évaluation De La Théorie Des Coûts Comparés et Du Libre Échange Entre Les Pays."
- 4- "The 'export-import' effect and economic growth".
- 5- Mobilité internationale des facteurs de production en situation de chômage et de libre-échange".
- 6- "Les facteurs déclencheurs des crises financières internationales".
- 7- "Investissements directs étrangers et stratégies industrielles et commerciales : le dilemme canadien".
- 8- "La « transflation », ou l'inflation par les transferts de pouvoir d'achat".
- 9- "Mobilité internationale des facteurs de production en situation de chômage et de libre-échange".
- 10- "Les grands cycles économiques".

Ethics: Rodrigue Tremblay as a humanist (2009-)

In 2009 (in French) and in 2009 and in 2010 (in English), Tremblay published [The Code for Global Ethics](#), with a preface by American humanist Dr. [Paul Kurtz](#) (1925-2012).

The book codifies in a pedagogical way the most fundamental humanist principles of rational ethics with the objective of reconciling private and general interests in human interactions.

The Code for Global Ethics proposes a progressive and modern code of global ethics that is summarized under 10 general and simple humanist rules or principles.

The themes range from human dignity, human life, tolerance, the need to share, and the requirement to avoid domination and superstition, to the preservation of

the Earth's natural environment, the issue of violence and wars, the question of political and economic democracy, the separation of Church and State, and the central role of education and knowledge as gateways to personal happiness, independence, and individual freedom.

The book is also a critique of many religion-based ethical rules and raises the issue of moral dilemmas.

[Critiques](#) of Tremblay's book about ethics have hailed it as either a “solid, historical argument and proposals for integrating humanist philosophy into both our everyday lives, and our social institutions” (David Koepsell) and as “a rational jumping-off point toward a new society” ([Victor J. Stenger](#)), or rather, as being a “very ambitious” project (Jan Czekajewski).

In 2003 he was one of the signers of the manifesto [Humanism and Its Aspirations](#).

Tremblay's ten principles for global humanism

The ten personal and social rules of rational humanism for a more harmonious and just world:

1. [Dignity](#): *Proclaim the natural dignity and inherent worth of human beings.*
2. [Respect](#): *Respect the life and property of others.*
3. [Tolerance](#): *Be tolerant of others' beliefs and lifestyles.*
4. [Sharing](#): *Share with those who are less fortunate.*
5. No [domination](#): *Do not dominate through lies or otherwise.*
6. No [superstition](#): *Rely on reason, logic and science to understand the Universe and to solve life's problems.*
7. [Conservation](#): *Conserve and improve the earth's natural environment.*
8. No [war](#): *Resolve differences and conflicts without resorting to war or violence.*
9. [Democracy](#): *Rely on political and economic democracy to organize human affairs.*
10. [Education](#): *Develop one's intelligence and talents through education and effort.*

Honors

- [Bourse de l'Université de Montréal](#), 1961
- [Woodrow Wilson Fellow](#), 1963
- [Ford International Fellow](#), Stanford University, 1964
- [Prize for excellence in teaching](#), Université de Montréal, 1998
- [Emeritus professor](#), 2002
- [Prix Condorcet](#), 2004
- [Prix Richard-Arès](#) pour le meilleur essai en 2018

<https://recherche.umontreal.ca/english/our-researchers/directory-of-professors/researcher/is/in29321/>

Philanthropy

Since 2010, professor Tremblay has contributed about a half-million dollars to create a special fund that awards three [University scholarships of excellence](#) annually to the most deserving graduates of his alma mater, the Cégep de Matane.

General

Rodrigue Tremblay has travelled extensively in Europe, in the Middle East, in North and East Africa and in sub-Saharan Africa, in China and in South America.

Archives

Rodrigue Tremblay's [archives](#) are housed at the Government of Quebec's National Library and Archives, in Montreal, Quebec.

The [Rodrigue Tremblay Archives](#) document his career as an economist, author and his time in provincial politics. The documents in the collection reveal Rodrigue Tremblay's thinking on the Quebec and Canadian economies, reflect his teaching, and document his professional activities. They also document his political involvement as Minister of Industry and Commerce in René Lévesque's government from 1976 to 1979, and then as an independent Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gouin, from 1979 to 1981. Finally, the collection reflects Rodrigue Tremblay's views on the 1980 referendum question.

The collection comprises the following series:

S1 The Individual, S2 The Activist, S3 The Member of the National Assembly, S4 The Minister. The collection contains lecture notes, correspondence, working documents, texts of speeches and addresses, reports, memoirs, manuscripts of books and articles, press clippings, photographs and audiovisual documents.

Books by Rodrigue Tremblay

- *The Role of International Financial Flows in the International Payments Mechanism*, University Microfilms, Stanford University, 1967, USA
- *La science économique*, soft cover, 1967 Université de Montréal
- [L'Économie, une introduction à l'analyse des problèmes économiques de toute société](#), 1969 (HRW, Montreal)
- [Indépendance et marché commun Québec-États-Unis](#), 1970 (Éd. du Jour, Montreal)
- [Afrique et intégration monétaire](#), 1970 (HRW, Montreal)
- *L'Économie, problèmes et exercices*, 1970 (HRW, Montreal)
- *La théorie du commerce international*, soft cover 1971

- *La théorie monétaire internationale*, soft cover 1972
- *L'Économie, Analyse microéconomique*, 1975 (HRW, Montreal)
- *L'Économie, Analyse macroéconomique*, 1975 (HRW, Montreal)
- [*L'Économie québécoise*](#), 1976 (Presses de l'Univ. Du Québec, Montreal)
- [*L'Indépendance économique du Canada français*](#), 1977 (Éd. La Presse, Montreal)
- [*La 3^e Option*](#), 1979 (France-Amérique, Montreal)
- [*Le Québec en crise*](#), 1981 (Sélect, Montreal)
- *Économie et finances publiques*, soft cover, 1982
- [*Issues in North American Economics and Finance*](#), 1987 (NAEFA)
- *Le rôle des exportations dans la croissance et le développement économique*, Institut de recherches politiques, 1990
- [*Macroéconomie moderne, théories et réalités*](#), 1992 (HRW, Montreal)
- *Économie et finances publiques*, soft cover, 1997
- *Politique et Économie*, soft cover, 1998
- [*Les Grand enjeux politiques et économiques du Québec*](#), 1999 (Éd. Intercontinentales, Montreal)
- [*L'heure juste*](#), 2001 (Stanké, Montreal)
- [*Pourquoi Bush veut la guerre*](#), 2003 (Les Intouchables, Montreal)
- [*Le Nouvel Empire Américain*](#), 2004 (L'Harmattan, Paris)
- [*The New American Empire*](#), 2004 (Infinity, USA)
- *Yeni Amerikan Imparatorlugu*, 2007, Nova Publishing, Ankara Turkey
- [*Le Code pour une éthique globale*](#), 2009 (Liber, Montréal)
- [*The Code for Global Ethics*](#), 2010 (Prometheus Books, Buffalo USA)
- [*La Régression tranquille du Québec*](#), 1980-2018, 2018 (Fides, Montreal)

Academic Papers and Journal Articles by Rodrigue Tremblay

<https://econpapers.repec.org/RAS/ptr36.htm>

<https://independent.academia.edu/RODRIGUETREMBLAY>

Note

¹ The province of Quebec in Canada played a crucial role during the November 21, [1988 Canadian federal election](#) that gave a majority to the pro-free trade [Progressive Conservative Party](#). Indeed, the PC received a majority of the popular vote in only two provinces, Quebec

(52.7% with 63 seats) and Alberta (51.8% with 25 seats). For Canada as a whole, the PC received only 43.0% of the popular vote but won 169 seats out of 295, or 57.3% of total seats.

References

- 1) https://alchetron.com/Rodrigue-Tremblay#google_vignette
 - 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v55k3Yv8F4>
 - 3) [Rodrigue Tremblay, professeur émérite, Université de Montréal](#)
 - 4) [Rodrigue Tremblay, blogue international en français : https://rodriguettremblay.blogspot.com/](#)
 - 5) [Rodrigue Tremblay, international blog in English: http://rodriguettremblay100.blogspot.com/](#)
 - 6) <https://sceco.umontreal.ca/english/departement-directory/emeritus-professors/emeritus-professor/in/in29321/sg/Rodrigue%20Tremblay/>
 - 7) <https://independent.academia.edu/RODRIGUETREMBLAY>
 - 8) <https://econpapers.repec.org/RAS/ptr36.htm>
-

Most recent books:

[Le Code pour une éthique globale, Éditions Liber, Montréal, 2009](#)

[The Code for Global Ethics, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, N.Y. 2010](#)

[La Régression tranquille du Québec, 1980-2018, 2018, Fides](#)

http://pistard.banq.qc.ca/unite_chercheurs/description_fonds?p_anqsi_d=200702122255012358&p_centre=06M&p_classe=P&p_fonds=785&p_numunide=905460

[https://entities.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39PBJxm\]v3X8WJRGyYrbwG8md.html](https://entities.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39PBJxm]v3X8WJRGyYrbwG8md.html)

References

- 1) https://alchetron.com/Rodrigue-Tremblay#google_vignette
- 2) https://everything.explained.today/Rodrigue_Tremblay/#google_vignette

- 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v55k3Yv8F4>
- 4) [*Rodrigue Tremblay, professeur émérite, Université de Montréal*](#)
- 5) [*Rodrigue Tremblay, blogue international en français :https://rodriguetremlay.blogspot.com/*](#)
- 6) [*Rodrigue Tremblay, international blog in English:http://rodriguetremlay100.blogspot.com/*](#)

Most recent books:

[*Le Code pour une éthique globale, Éditions Liber, Montréal, 2009*](#)

[*The Code for Global Ethics, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, N.Y. 2010*](#)

[*La Régression tranquille du Québec, 1980-2018, 2018, Fides*](#)

http://pistard.banq.qc.ca/unite_chercheurs/description_fonds?p_anqid=200702122255012358&p_centre=06M&p_classe=P&p_fonds=785&p_num_unide=905460

<https://entities.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39PBJxmJv3X8WJRGyYrbwG8md.html>

Tremblay, Rodrigue 1939-

Overview

Works: 107 works in 284 academic publications in 3 languages and 1,498 library holdings
