

# Simon Kuper

## Journalism Idol

### Biography

Simon Kuper was born in Kampala, Uganda in 1969, though his official nationality is British. Throughout his life, he has lived in numerous countries, including England, Netherlands, US, Sweden, Jamaica, Germany, and currently, France. He has studied at some of the world's most prestigious schools: Oxford University, Harvard University, and Technische Universität of West Berlin. Simon Kuper's journalism and book-writing careers started the same year: 1994. That year, he joined the Financial Times' staff as Daily Currencies writer, and had his first book published: *Football Against The Enemy*. His main writing topics are sports, human interest/culture, and economics.

### Career Achievements

Simon Kuper has worked for a variety of publications, including...

- ▶ The Observer (England)
- ▶ The Guardian (England)
- ▶ De Pers (Netherlands)
- ▶ Vrij Nederland (Netherlands)

Currently, he works as a sports columnist for the Financial Times. He has held this position since 2002. He typically covers football (soccer), though he also writes about lifestyle, culture, and economics during the football off-season.

Simon has written numerous books on sports, including: *"Why England Lose: and Other Curious Phenomena Explained," "Soccernomics," "Soccer Men," "Ajax, The Dutch, The War: Football in Europe During The Second World War,"* and his inaugural book, *"Football Against The Enemy."*

### Revolutionizing Soccer Journalism

Simon Kuper, being a sports journalist, might not be the obvious choice for "journalism idol". He hasn't covered world-changing news events, pandemics, civil wars, social uprisings; rather, his is the domain of FIFA World Cups and Premier League matches. However, Kuper has been instrumental to his field of journalism, and continues to make valid contributions in other fields to this day. Within soccer journalism, he uses multiple social and political lenses to examine the sport, the players, and the history of the game. In his many books, he has taken both a sympathetic and critical lens towards footballers ('Soccer Men') and football ('Soccernomics') itself.

Simon Kuper can teach us many lessons applicable to our own journalism coursework. Simon applies in-depth analysis to a field that can sometimes be plagued with endless stats and soundbytes. He brings the "serious thought" and analysis of sociology, anthropology, and economics to a less traditionally serious topic, such as sports. For aspiring music journalists, sports journalists, arts journalists, etc, this could prove key. As well, due to his upbringing Simon is well acquainted with multiple nations and cultures, providing him a more balanced and informed world viewpoint. A good global viewpoint is a necessary tool for a fair, impartial news or culture reporter; we should all try to attain this.

## Further Reading By Simon Kuper

"Soccernomics: Why England Loses, Why Germany and Brazil Win, and Why The U.S., Japan, Australia, Turkey -- and Even Iraq -- Are Destined To Become The Kings of The World's Most Popular Sport,"

"Soccer Men: Profiles of the Rogues, Geniuses, and Neurotics Who Dominate The World's Most Popular Sport,"

Read his Financial Times columnist work at: <http://www.ft.com/intl/life-arts/simon-kuper>

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"Q & A: Simon Kuper (World's Leading Writer On Football, FT Columnist & Soccernomics Co-Author)". *Fieldoo Magazine*. Nov 13, 2012. Web. ([blog.fieldoo.com/2012/11/simon-kuper-worlds-leading-writer-on-football-ft-columnist-soccernomics-co-author/](http://blog.fieldoo.com/2012/11/simon-kuper-worlds-leading-writer-on-football-ft-columnist-soccernomics-co-author/))

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