Dariusz Filar was born in 1950 in Gdynia, Poland.

In 1973 he graduated from the University of Gdańsk with a degree in Economics, Department of Foreign Trade. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Gdańsk (1976). In 1989 he did the postdoctoral lecturing degree (habilitation) with the thesis "Income Distribution Debate in Advanced Capitalist Economies", published by the University of Gdańsk Press. In 1992 he has been appointed Professor of Economics at the University of Gdańsk. His current research lies in the fields of macroeconomics, monetary policy and international management (functioning of transnational companies).

In the years 1992-1995 he lectured as the visiting professor in the Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, USA. In the years 1998-2001 he taught Economics at the Central European University. From 1988 he has been a member of the editorial council of the quarterly "Przegląd Polityczny". He has been also writing economic comments for the leading Polish dailies – "Rzeczpospolita" and "Gazeta Wyborcza".

In 1999 he took up the position of the Chief Economist at the Bank Pekao SA. As the Chief Economist of the Bank he was a member of the European Council of Economists at the Conference Board – Europe. He held the position at the Bank Pekao SA until February 2004, when he was appointed a member of the Monetary Policy Council of the National Bank of Poland. He held this position until February 2010.