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Personal

Born: September 27, 1977 Citizenship: Canadian

Languages spoken: English and French

Software proficiency: R, Stata, Matlab, Excel, LATEX

Research Interests

Energy and environmental economics, electricity markets, climate policy

Appointments and Affiliations

Assistant Professor, University of Calgary, Economics and School of Public Policy, 2020–present Lab Economist and Moderator, Creative Destruction Lab, 2019–present Research Fellow, University of Calgary, School of Public Policy, 2019–2021 Energy Policy Fellow, C.D. Howe Institute, 2016–2021 Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford University, 2019 Visiting Scholar, Toulouse School of Economics, Fall 2018

Editorial Positions

Co-Editor, Resource and Energy Economics, 2020-present

Employment

University of Calgary, 2020–present Assistant Professor

Various policy advisory roles, 2015-present

Technical Advisor, Canadian Climate Institute, 2021–2022

Policy Advisor, Government of Canada, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, 2018–2022

Expert Advisor, Government of British Columbia, BC Hydro Transformative Review, 2019–2021

Policy Advisor, Government of Alberta, Department of Energy, 2016–2018

Expert Advisor, Government of Alberta Economic Diversification Advisory Committee, 2017 (unpaid)

Expert Advisor, Government of Alberta, Electricity Transition Governance Committee, 2016 (unpaid)

Member, Government of Alberta, Royalty Review Secretariat, 2015–16

Member, Government of Alberta, Natural Gas Expert Panel, 2015–16 (unpaid)

Transalta Corporation, Calgary, AB, 2010–14

Director, Head of Trading, 2012–14 Senior Power Trader, 2010–11

Barclays Capital, New York, NY, 2007-10

Senior Power Trader

Lehman Brothers, New York, NY, 2006-07

Power and Gas Trader

Powerex Corp. (BC Hydro), Vancouver, BC, 1999-2006

Manager of Analytics, 2003–06 Term Power Trader, 2001–02 Spot Power Trader and Analyst, 1999–01

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Calgary, 2014–2018

Dissertation: Three Essays on Electricity Demand

*Selected as the University of Calgary's nominee in the category of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences for the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Distinguished Dissertation Award

Committee: Dr. Trevor Tombe (Supervisor), Dr. Lucija Muehlenbachs, Dr. Ken McKenzie

Examiners: Dr. Max Auffhammer (External), Dr. Pamela Campa (Internal)

M.Phil. Economics, University of Cambridge, 2002–2003

Masters Thesis: Road congestion charging: A preliminary analysis of the London scheme

Supervisor: Dr. Georgina Santos, Examiner: Dr. David Newbery

Graduated with merit; achieved Ph.D. continuation level

B.Sc. (Hons) Environmental Sciences, Queen's University, 1995–2000

Honours Thesis: Mine Reclamation in the Canadian Arctic: An Analysis of Policy Alternatives Graduated with 1st class distinction

Exchange year, University of Melbourne, 1997

Received letter of distinction in Philosophy

Publications

Journal Articles

Shaffer, B., Quintero, D. & Rhodes, J. (2022). Changing sensitivity to cold weather in Texas power demand. *iScience*, 25(4).

Mays, J., Craig, M., Kiesling, L., Macey, J., Shaffer, B. & Shu, H. (2022). **Private Risk and Social Resilience in Liberalized Electricity Markets**. *Joule*, 6(2), 369-380.

Shaffer, B., Samaras, C. & Auffhammer, A. (2021). Make electric vehicles lighter to maximize climate and safety benefits. *Nature*, 598, 254-256 (Editor-reviewed *Comment*).

Tabari, M. & Shaffer, B. (2020) Paying for performance: The role of policy in energy storage deployment. *Energy Economics*, 92.

Leach, A., Rivers, N. & Shaffer B. (2020). Canadian electricity markets during the COVID-19 pandemic: An initial assessment. *Canadian Public Policy*, 46(S2).

Shaffer, B. (2020). Misunderstanding nonlinear prices: Evidence from a natural experiment on residential electricity demand. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 12(3).

Rivers, N. & Shaffer, B. (2020). Stretching the duck: How rising temperatures will change the level and shape of future electricity consumption. *The Energy Journal*, 41(5).

Shaffer, B. (2019). Location Matters: Daylight saving time and electricity demand. Canadian Journal of Economics, 52(4).

Santos, G. & Shaffer, B. (2004). **Preliminary results of the London congestion charging scheme**. *Public Works, Management and Policy*, 9(20): 164–181.

Journal Articles (outside Energy and Economics)

Lang, R., Benham, J.L., Atabati, O., Hollis, A., Tombe, T., Shaffer, B., Kovacs Burns, K., MacKean, G., Leveille, T., McCormack, B., Sheikh, H., Fullerton, M., Tang, T., Boucher, J-C., Constaintinescu, C., Mourali, M., Manns, B., Marshall, D. & Oxoby, R. (2021). Attitudes, behaviours and barriers to public health measures for COVID-19: a survey to inform public health messaging. *BMC Public Health*, 21, 765.

Benham, J., Omid Atabati, Robert J Oxoby, Mehdi Mourali, Blake Shaffer, Hasan Sheikh, Jean-Christophe Boucher, Cora Constantinescu, NM Ivers, SC Ratzan, MM Fullerton, T Tang, BJ Manns, DA Marshall, J Hu, R Lang (2021). COVID-19 Vaccine Attitudes and Beliefs: A Canadian National Cross-Sectional Survey and Cluster Analysis. *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*, 7(12).

Lang, R., Omid Atabati, Robert J Oxoby, Mehdi Mourali, Blake Shaffer, Hasan Sheikh, Madison M Fullerton, Theresa Tang, Jeanna Parsons Leigh, Braden J Manns, Deborah A Marshall, Noah M Ivers, Scott C Ratzan, Jia Hu, Jamie L Benham (2021). Characterization of non-adopters of COVID-19 non-pharmaceutical interventions through a national cross-sectional survey to assess attitudes and behaviours. *Scientific Reports*, 11, 21751

Policy Papers

A multiple account benefit-cost analysis of coal mining in Alberta (with Jennifer Winter, Megan Bailey, Emily Galley and Chris Joseph), Nov 2021, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Research Paper*, 14(32)

The Role of Hydrogen in Decarbonizing Alberta's Electricity System (with Jordan Neff and Chris Bataille), Nov 2021, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Research Paper*, 14(31)

The Role of Hydrogen in Canada's Transition to Net-Zero Emissions (with Chris Bataille and Jordan Neff), Nov 2021, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Research Paper*, 14(30)

Technical pathways to aligning Canadian electricity systems with net zero goals, Oct 2021, Canadian Institute for Climate Choices

The Price of Power: Comparative Electricity Costs across Provinces (with Grant Bishop and Mariam Ragab), Oct 2020, C.D. Howe Research Paper, no. 582

The Role of Storage in Alberta's Electricity Market: Summary of a School of Public Policy Roundtable Event, Sep 2019, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Summary Paper*, 12(28)

All's Well that Ends Well: Addressing End-of-Life Liabilities for Oil and Gas Wells (with Ben Dachis and Vincent Thivierge), Sep 2017, C.D. Howe Research Paper, no. 492

The Challenge of Integrating Renewable Generation in the Alberta Electricity Market (with G. Kent Fellows and Michal C. Moore), Sep 2016, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Summary Paper*, 9(25)

The Political Economy of Free Allocations (with Mark Purdon and David Houle), Apr 2016, Ecofiscal Commission Position Paper Series on Carbon Pricing Revenue Recycling

Lifting the Hood on the Alberta Royalty Review, Feb 2016, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Briefing Paper*, 9(7)

Reports

Defining and describing energy poverty in British Columbia: The distribution of households' energy expenditure (with Jennifer Winter), Report prepared for the BC Basic Income Panel led by David Green, Jonathan Rhys Kesselman and Lindsay Tedds, Dec 2020

Long-term resource adequacy in Alberta's electricity system (with Frank Wolak), Report prepared for the Ministry of Energy, Alberta, July 2019

Policy Notes

Why are power prices so darn high? (with David Brown and Andrew Eckert), April 20, 2022, School of Public Policy, Energy & Environmental Policy Trends

Building on Canada's electrical advantage (with Jason Dion), January 14, 2022, Policy Options

Dead Weight Loss (with Max Auffhammer), October 25, 2021, Energy Institute Blog, UC Berkeley

The Climate Policy Certainty Gap and How to Fill It (with Dale Beugin), June 4, 2021, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Valuing Alberta's renewable electricity program (with Sara Hastings-Simon), Mar 18, 2021, School of Public Policy, Energy & Environmental Policy Trends

Three Fixes for Canadian Energy Policy to Avoid Texas' Energy Troubles (with Joshua Rhodes), Feb 19, 2021, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Cheap renewables have arrived (with Nick Schumacher, Victoria Goodday and Jen Winter), Nov 22, 2020, School of Public Policy, Energy & Environmental Policy Trends

Other Options for Time-of-Use Electricity Pricing in Ontario (with Grant Bishop and Mariam Ragab), Nov 3, 2020, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

As Electricity Demand Sinks, Ontario Power Costs Rise 24 Percent With More to Come (with Grant Bishop), Apr 21, 2020, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Power demand in the time of COVID-19 (with Andrew Leach and Nic Rivers), Apr 16, 2020, School of Public Policy, Energy & Environmental Policy Trends

Using forward contracts to deliver reliable and affordable power, Oct 18, 2019, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Will electric vehicle subsidies spur widespread adoption?, May 23, 2019, School of Public Policy, Energy & Environmental Policy Trends

You get what you pay for: Considering cost and value in renewables procurement, Dec 18, 2018, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

To change or not to change? The daylight saving debate won't die, Mar 6, 2018, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Alberta's renewable auction sets a new low for prices, but tweaks are needed in the future, Dec 14, 2017, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

What's the Real Deal with Keystone XL?, Nov 21, 2017, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Smooth transitions: Shifting from cap-and-trade to a carbon tax (with Trevor Tombe and Dale Beugin), Nov 15, 2017, *Ecofiscal Commission*

On Site C: Dam(ned) if you do, dam(ned) if you don't, Nov 3, 2017, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

An Ontario surprise: A good idea about electricity pricing, Sep 10, 2017, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Does Daylight Saving Time Reduce Energy Consumption (with Nic Rivers), Part 1 & Part 2, Mar 7 & 8, 2017, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Reconciling pipelines with Canada's climate goals (with Trevor Tombe), Dec 8, 2016, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

What does a capacity market mean for Alberta? Nov 24, 2016, C.D. Howe Intelligence Memo

Popular Media

Alberta steps closer to ending coal power, faster than many expected. But then comes the hard part, Dec 30, 2021, CBC

If you got an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, you made the right decision, according to economics (with Stephen Gordon, Andrew Leach, Christine Neill, Tammy Schirle and Trevor Tombe), May 12, 2021, Globeandmail

Comment le Canada peut fournir une énergie propre et fiable grâce aux macroréseaux électriques (with Brett Dolter, Kent Fellows and Nic Rivers), March 4, 2021, *The Conversation Canada*

Why Canada should invest in 'macrogrids' for greener more reliable electricity (with Brett Dolter, Kent Fellows and Nic Rivers), Feb 24, 2021, *The Conversation Canada*

Lessons for Alberta from the Texas power blackout (with Joshua Rhodes), Feb 17, 2021, CBC

Bridging the electricity gap between Alberta and B.C. makes perfect climate sense (with Mark Jaccard), Dec 22, 2020, CBC

Alberta's shift away from coal power is a climate action success story (with Andrew Leach), Oct 15, 2020, CBC

On the wrong track: Alberta loses \$2.1B on crude-by-rail contracts, Sep 1, 2020, CBC

Alberta's government is using coronavirus as a shield for laying off education workers (with Trevor Tombe), Apr 5, 2020, *Globeandmail*

Beyond pipelines: The nation-building project that could electrify Canada (with Sara Hastings-Simon), Mar 17, 2020, *Globeandmail*

Alberta's carbon-pricing policy is imperfect – but in one significant way, it's actually better than Ottawa's, Oct 29, 2019, *Globeandmail*

Les Canadiens ont les voitures les plus grosses et les plus énergivores au monde, May 13, 2019, *The Conversation Canada* (translation)

When it comes to vehicles, Canada tops the charts for poor fuel economy, May 1, 2019, *The Conversation Canada*

Redwater decision is progress, but environmental liabilities run deep (with Simon Dyer and Chris Ragan), Feb 4, 2019, *Globeandmail*

Canada's new large-emitter pricing system might defeat the carbon tax's own purpose, Nov 5, 2018, *Macleans*

Will LNG Canada increase greenhouse gas emissions? Oct 3, 2018, Macleans

On Policy Durability, Aug 13, 2018, The Hill Times

Why John Horgan deserves credit for going ahead with Site C, Dec 11, 2017, Macleans

Why the B.C. Liberals and NDP are both wrong about bridge tolls, Apr 10, 2017, Macleans

Saskatchewan swallows the fiscal pill Alberta refuses (with Trevor Tombe), Mar 24, 2017, Macleans

Paying for pipelines: How consumers can end up footing the bill, Feb 9, 2017, CBC

Making sense of energy efficiency programs (with Sara Hastings-Simon and Trevor Tombe), Jan 31, 2017, Macleans

Alberta Electricity: There's something happening here, what it is ain't exactly clear, Nov 27, 2016, Calgary Herald

Carbon tax: The real debate is about the revenue, Oct 15, 2016, Globeandmail

Making sense of a \$15 minimum wage in Alberta (with Trevor Tombe), Jul 1, 2016, Macleans

Alberta's climate plan requires serious debate, May 27, 2016, Globeandmail

Making sense of provincial debt downgrades: Why Canadians in all regions should watch mounting provincial debt levels with concern (with Trevor Tombe), Dec 22, 2015, Macleans

Grants and Awards

Natural Resources Canada, Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program, Capacity Building Stream (\$5,000,000, co-PI). *Energy Modelling Institute*, with Madeleine McPherson, Normand Mousseau and Louis Beaumier, 2021–2025

SSHRC Connection Grant (\$24,454, PI). Canadian Electricity Policy Forum, 2022.

SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$66,320, PI). *Accelerating the electric vehicle transition: An empirical analysis of Canadian EV policy*, with David Rapson, Nic Rivers, and Devin Morrison, 2021–2023

Calgary Foundation (\$35,000, co-PI). *Multiple Account Benefit-Cost Analysis of Coal Mining in Alberta*, with Jen Winter, 2021

Sustainable Prosperity Institute (\$10,000, co-Applicant). Environmental Taxes and Energy Poverty in Canada, co-applicant, with Jen Winter [PI], 2021

FES-GRI Joint Research Fund 2020, University of Calgary and University of Alberta (\$86,000, co-PI). *Dynamic Load Control and EV Charging*, with David Brown [co-PI] and Megan Bailey, 2021–2023

Haskayne School of Business Big Idea Seed Research Grant, University of Calgary (\$20,000, co-Applicant). *Central control versus pricing*, with Megan Bailey [PI], David Brown and Frank Wolak, 2021

Natural Resources Canada Research Grant (\$15,000, PI). The value of timely and detailed electricity data, 2021

EEPRN Research Grant (\$37,055, PI), *How do households spend carbon tax rebates?*, with Nic Rivers, 2019–2020

Fulbright Scholar, Canada-US Fulbright Program, Stanford University, 2019
University of Calgary Graduate Student Teaching Award, 2018
Victor Yang Song Graduate Scholarship in Teaching Excellence, 2018
University of Calgary Faculty of Graduate Studies Travel Award, 2018
John D. Petrie, QC Memorial Graduate Scholarship, 2017-19
James D. Gaisford Research Prize (Top 2nd year PhD research paper), 2017
Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship (SSHRC and Vanier National Finalist), 2015–17
Talisman Graduate Scholarship in Energy and Related Studies, 2015–16
Top Macroeconomics Prize, 1st year PhD, 2015
Economics Society of Calgary Scholarship, 2014
Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Graduate Scholarship, 2003
Carl Reinhardt Scholarship in Geological Sciences, 1997
Morley E. Wilson Scholarship in Geological Sciences, 1996
Queen's Applied Science (Engineering) Dean's List, 1996

Proceedings

Conference Presentations and Invited Seminars

Queen's Anniversary Entrance Scholarship, 1995

2022: Globeandmail Panel on Future of Automotive (Feb); Berkeley POWER Conference, University of California at Berkeley (Mar); Canadian Energy Regulator (Apr); Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting (June); 1st Annual Electricity Camp in the Rockies (June); UC Berkeley Energy Institute (June)

2021: University of Calgary Emeriti Association (Jan), Pacific Energy Innovation Association (Feb); Avatar Program (Feb); US Association of Energy Economics, National Capital Area Chapter Annual Conferences (Apr); Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference (June); C.D. Howe Institute (June), UC Berkeley Energy Institute (Oct), Canadian Institute for Climate Choices (Nov), C.D. Howe Institute (Dec)

2020: Canadian Renewable Energy Forum (Nov); Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association Annual Meeting (Oct); AESO Economics Excellence Showcase (Sep); Alberta Power Symposium (Sep); Avatar-YPAC Program (July); AESO Economics Seminar Series (June); TWEEDS, Portland (Postponed); Berkeley POWER Conference, University of California at Berkeley (May); Sustainable Prosperity Institute Annual Symposium, Ottawa (Feb)

2019: Ivey Electricity Workshop, Toronto (Oct); C.D. Howe Energy Council, Toronto (Oct); University of Calgary Environmental Law Society, Calgary (Oct); NBER Electricity Markets and Regulation Workshop, Lake Tahoe (May); Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) Workshop on Mathematical Sciences and Clean Energy Applications, UBC (May); Berkeley Energy Institute, University of California at Berkeley (February)

2018: Toulouse School of Economics, Environmental Economics Seminar (September); World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists, Gothenburg, Sweden (June); Canadian Economics Association 2018 Annual Conference, Montreal (June)

2017: Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics 2017 Annual Meeting, London (September); Toulouse School of Economics, 11th Conference on the Economics of Energy and Climate Change, Toulouse (June)

2016: Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics 2016 Annual Meeting, Banff (October)

Conference Organization

Electricity Camp in the Rockies, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, June 2022. Organized inaugural event involving top scholars, policy makers, and practitioners in electricity for a three day workshop on electricity markets and policy.

A conversation on Canada's Hydrogen Potential with Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, December 2020.

Orphan Wells: Cleaning up Alberta's Liability Management Regime, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary. May 2020.

Market Design in Alberta: A roundtable, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, March 2020. [In-person roundtable postponed. Video webinar convened in lieu.]

The potential for energy storage in Alberta: A roundtable, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, March 2019. Co-organized a roundtable of expert international panelists and attendees on the potential for energy storage in evolving electricity markets.

Electricity Journalism Workshop, Calgary, May 2018. Co-organized a workshop for journalists to better understand the fundamentals of electricity markets and policy with C.D. Howe Institute, Canada West Foundation and the Pembina Institute.

Integrating renewables into the Alberta electricity market: A roundtable, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Sep 2015. Co-organized a roundtable of 40 stakeholders and experts to discuss policy and operational issues related to integrating renewables into the Alberta electricity market.

Invited Workshops

Berkeley Energy Camp, University of California at Berkeley, June 2022, Oct 2021, June 2020 (Postponed), June 2019. Invited presenter.

NBER Electricity Markets and Regulation Workshop, Lake Tahoe, May 2019. Invited speaker.

1st Annual Innovation Program of ReDeveLoP, an NSERC-funded program under the CREATE Initiative for the responsible development of low-permeability hydrocarbon resources, University of Calgary, Canada, May 2018. Invited speaker.

An Uncommon Dialogue: North American Hydropower, Stanford Steyer-Taylor Centre for Energy Policy and Finance, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, Palo Alto, March 2018. Invited panelist.

Alberta Energy Challenge: An international case competition focussing on the energy sector, University of Alberta, Edmonton, September 2017 (guest speaker). Invited speaker.

Berkeley Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics, University of California at Berkeley, August 2017. Selected attendee.

IASS Expert workshop on coal power, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Germany, November 2016. Invited speaker.

Summer Institute on Field Experiments, University of Chicago, July 2015. Selected as one of 20 global scholars to participate in this inaugural workshop organized by Dr. John List.

Teaching

Courses Taught

ECON 557 - Advanced Microeconomic Theory (Undergraduate), Fall 2022

ECON 429 - Advanced Economics of Electricity Markets (Undergraduate), Winter 2022, Winter 2023

SEDV 623 - Strategic Environmental Planning for Energy Organizations (Masters), Winter 2021

PPOL 611 - Energy Transitions and Policy (Masters), Winter 2020, Fall 2020

ECON 329 - Economics of Electricity Markets (Undergraduate), Fall 2019, Winter 2021

ECON 373 - Game Theory (Undergraduate), Spring 2018 (*awarded Department of Economics Graduate Student Teaching Award)

Student Supervision

Doctoral students

2021- Mallika Sharma

2021- Ali Niaza

Masters students

2022: Sana Ahmadkhani (MA), Aviv Fried (MPP), Christopher Nishiyama (MPP), Supreena Sekhon (MPP), Kristina Pearson (MSc); Andrew Couch (MSc)

2021: Carlo Magnaye (MPP), Ryan Dormer (MPP), Aaraby Mohanathas (MSc), Kayla Brehon (MSc)

2020: Nicholas Schumacher (MPP), Brenda Flores (MPP), Jordan Neff (MPP), Kiana Goddard (MSc), Sounderya Venkatesan (MSc)

Service and Associations

Memberships

Canadian Economics Association (CEA), Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association (CREEA), American Economics Association (AEA), Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AERE), International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE)

Referee Service

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (3); Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists; Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (4); Resource and Energy Economics (2); Energy Economics (4); The Energy Journal (3); Energy Policy (2); Joule; Journal of the European Economic Association; International Journal of Industrial Organization; Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Economic Inquiry; Canadian Public Policy (2); University of Calgary School of Public Policy; C.D. Howe Institute; Ecofiscal Commission; Electric Policy Research Institute; Canadian Institute of Climate Choices

Committee Service

Hiring Committee, School of Public Policy, UCalgary, 2022
Hiring Committee, CERC, UCalgary, 2022
Hiring Committee, Electrical Engineering, UCalgary, 2021
Research Activities Committee, UCalgary, 2021-22
Head's Advisory Committee, UCalgary, 2020-21
Graduate Program Committee, UCalgary, 2020-21
Graduate Admissions Selection Committee, UCalgary, 2020-21

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