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KEVIN SIMMT

- Interests** Comparative Political Economy, Canadian Politics, Quantitative Methods
- Citizenship** Canadian
- Education** Ph.D., Political Science, The Ohio State University, *Expected (ABD)*: 2020.
Dissertation: *A Theory of Planned Inefficiency*
Exams: Comparative Politics and Quantitative Methods
M.A., Political Economy of Development, University of Toronto, 2013.
Coursework in Economics and Political Science, emphasis on statistical policy analysis
GPA: 3.85
B.A., Political Science, Queen's University (Kingston, ON), 2011
Dean's Honour List With Distinction (graduated in top 3% of students)
- Research & Publications** *A Theory of Planned Inefficiency* (Dissertation)
In my dissertation I write a series of papers focusing on the regime-specific challenges governments face when making tax policy decisions. In these papers I conceptually draw on selectorate theory and quantitatively estimate the causal effect of regime type on various aspects of tax policy using regression-discontinuity and difference-in-difference designs that exploit exogenous shocks to existing regimes.
- Planners and Participants: The Social Construction of Efficient Market Economies*
(In progress) Markets have ideational and institutional prerequisites. In this paper I consider the belief systems that citizens must hold for efficient markets to develop.
- Ratless Alberta: a Natural Experiment on the Construction of Trust in Government*
(In progress) In 1960, the Government of Alberta established a rat-patrol zone, encompassing all land within 17 miles of the Saskatchewan border. Using polling-station data from provincial and federal elections, I use a Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) to consider how citizen interaction with the civil service effects perceptions of government competence.
- The Efficiency of Inefficient State-Owned Enterprise: Comparing Ontario & Alberta's Approaches to Liquor Retail*
(In progress) Alberta privatized its liquor retail in 1994. Simultaneously, Ontario pursued modernization of their state-owned liquor retailers (the LCBO). While Alberta did gain some retailing efficiencies relative the LCBO, Ontario's model outperformed by increasing the economy's efficiency: captured profits served to offset alternate forms of taxation with greater deadweight loss upon the economy.

Non-Refereed

“Tax Incentives and Urban Sprawl” *Edmonton Journal*, October 3, 2013

“Did Privatization Free Alcohol Retailing From Government?” *Edmonton Journal*, August 29, 2013

“Is there Hope for Corporate Social Responsibility” *Inquire Publication*, Vol.2 (2011) pp.3-12

Teaching

Instructor (The Ohio State University)

POLITSC 4270: Canadian Politics (Upper-Division),
Spring 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and Summer 2019.

POLITSC 1200: Comparative Politics (Introductory Course),
Autumn 2018.

Teaching Assistant (The Ohio State University)

POLITSC 3200: Politics of Development. Professor Marcus Kurtz, Autumn 2017.

POLITSC 4130: Law & Politics. Professor Vlad Kogan, Autumn 2016.

Grants & Awards

The Ohio State University

Departmental Fellowship, Summer 2018 and Autumn 2019

Summer Travel Award, 2017 (IQMR, Syracuse, NY)

Summer Travel Award, 2016 (ICPSR, Ann Arbor, MI)

Social and Behavioral Sciences Fellowship, 2015–2016.

University Fellowship, 2015–2016.

University of Toronto

Ministry of Training, Colleges Universities: Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000).

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University: Fellowship for Study in Jerusalem (\$3,000).

Shared highest cohort grade for master thesis.

Queen's University

Millennium Scholarship Foundation: National Excellence Award (\$11,500)

Alberta Education: Alexander Rutherford Scholarship (\$3,500)

Additional Training

ICPSR: University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

Coursework: Bayesian Statistics, Multilevel Modeling, and Advanced Regression

IQMR: Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)

Coursework: Natural Experiments, Multi-Method Research, Causal Inference

Department of Economics: The Ohio State University

Coursework: Graduate Level Micro-Economics & Game Theory

Programming

R (Advanced), JAGS, Stata, SPSS, Excel, Git, \LaTeX

Employment

Economic Analyst, Statistics Canada; 2014–2015

Developed methods for measuring the Canadian consumer price index

Conducted statistics analysis on Canadian national accounts