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KEVIN SIMMT || CV

- 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, Queens University (Kingston, ON), 2011
Dean's Honour List With Distinction (graduated in top 3% of students)
Diploma, Salisbury Composite High School (Sherwood Park, AB), 2007
International Baccalaureate in Maths & Sciences; Men's Rugby
- Research & Publications** *A Theory of Planned Inefficiency* (Dissertation)
- Oftentimes, the political economy of taxation focuses on conflicts between income groups in order to account for variations in tax-levels and tax-progressivity. This focus, however, not only overlooks other salient cleavages, but is unable to explain aspects of taxation, such as tax-mix, for which income-based groups provide neither the most salient, nor generalizable, impetuous for conflict.
- In my dissertation I write a series of papers focusing on the regime-specific challenges governments face when producing and implementing tax policy. In these papers I conceptually draw on selectorate theory and quantitatively estimate the causal effect of regime type on various aspects of tax policy through regression-discontinuity and difference-in-difference designs built around exogenous shocks to existing regimes.
- A Theory of Taxation: the Elasticity Wars & Democracy's Informality Trap*
- I argue that optimal tax-mix results from “planned inefficiency,” whereby governments intentionally tax the economy’s most “inelastic” elements (i.e., economic behaviours difficult to change). I then use selectorate theory to explain why democracy’s struggle to implement efficient tax policy as they seek to appease broad swaths of the public with taxes on those behaviours for which the coalition’s members are “elastic” (i.e., economic behaviours easily changed).
- I test my theory with an international dataset on taxation and imputations of informality; I find democracies use high income taxation in exactly those situations where it is least efficient: where the informal sector makes up the bulk of a country’s economic production and employment.

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 civil servants 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.

A Theory of Radical Kindness: Building a Concept with Measurable Implications

(In Progress) Crucially, radical kindness is just kindness unless it brings about the change required for a just society to arise. I define a proxy variable of radical kindness that measures the dollar effect of decency in redressing "institutional gaps." An institutional gap occurs when establishing a set of rules to fix one problem requires opening vulnerability to yet another. Were people's decency to "cover" the gap, we can measure the dollar effect.

Through my redefinition, I reposition theories of radical kindness such that (i) they are not blindly optimistic, but merely point to where institutions will not be able to get us out of problems; and (ii) becomes less a dichotomous measure (e.g., a society of sinners or saints), but more one of graduation (e.g., the dollar value of a society becoming marginally more "kind"). The paper illustrates its theory with an example of an "institutional gap" and its costs: international patent law, which can incentivize innovation, but at cost of enabling monopolist pricing.

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

Presenting

"A Theory of Planned Inefficiency" *OSU Comparative Workshop*, Autumn 2018

"Of Planners & Participants: the Ideational Prerequisites of an Efficient Market Economy" *OSU Comparative Workshop*, Autumn 2019

Teaching	<i>Instructor (The Ohio State University)</i> POLITSC 4270: Canadian Politics (Upper-Division), Spring 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and Summer 2019. POLITSC 1200: Comparative Politics (Introductory Course), Autumn 2018.
	<i>Teaching Assistant (The Ohio State University)</i> POLITSC 3200: Politics of Development. Professor Marcus Kurtz, Autumn 2017. POLITSC 4130: Law and Politics. Professor Vlad Kogan, Autumn 2016.
Grants & Awards	<i>The Ohio State University</i> 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.
	<i>University of Toronto</i> 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.
	<i>Queens University</i> Millennium Scholarship Foundation: National Excellence Award (\$11,500) Alberta Education: Alexander Rutherford Scholarship (\$3,500)
Additional Training	Quantitative Sequence, Department of Political Science: The Ohio State University Coursework: Descriptive Statistics & Regression; Generalized Linear Models; Causal Inference; Time-Series; Network Statistics; R-Bootcamp; Math-Bootcamp 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 Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences: University of Alberta Coursework: Calculus I & II; Linear Algebra Studies in Conflict Resolution: Hebrew University, Jerusalem Awarded scholarship to study abroad in Jerusalem: “Conflict Resolution from Theory to Practice: Israel as a Case Study”
Programming	R (Advanced), JAGS, Stata, SPSS, Git, Excel, \LaTeX

- Employment** *Instructor & Lecturer, The Ohio State University; 2017–*
Instruct classes, including biweekly lecture, on Canadian & Comparative Politics
- Economic Analyst, Statistics Canada; 2014–2015*
Developed methods for measuring the Canadian consumer price index
Conducted statistics analysis on Canadian national accounts
Analysed differing inflationary pressures across Canadian income deciles
- Youth Advisor, Service Canada Centre for Youth; 2010–2011*
Guided youth through employability skills; especially at-risk categorizations
Built central database of youth resources (training programs; grants; scholarships; government-affiliated employment; etc.)
- Resident Advisor, Queen's Residence Life; 2009–2011*
Peer mentor and educator; promoted community, intellectual and personal growth, cross-cultural skills, and identity as university citizen
- Community Outreach, Strathcona Utilities' Green Routine; 2008*
Guided residents through difficulties of a policy affecting over 22,000 households
Leader in movement bringing our community closer towards sustainability (the program's 1st year saw 17,000 tons of waste diverted from landfill)
- Volunteer** *Tutor & Mentor, Ohio State University; 2017–*
Provide ongoing mentorship to student's attending OSU's annual Parliamentary Internship in Ottawa
Provide ongoing tutoring to students in data management/sciences and analysis using R
- Sr. Academic Director, Students for Corporate Social Responsibility; 2007–2011*
Led portfolio responsible for raising public awareness of CSR issues; included educational campaigns, annual scholarship and writing publications
- Founding Member, Inquire Publication; 2009–2011*
Helped create a magazine that focused on publishing reader responses to expert-written articles & prompts
Engaged students in social advocacy through tools that fostered reader's meaningful participation in informed debate