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Calls by Appt. 📞

KEVIN SIMMT || CV

- Interests** Research Methods, Computational Statistics, Comparative Political Economy, Public Policy, Public Economics
- Education** Ph.D., Political Science, The Ohio State University, *Defended*: August, 2021.
Dissertation: *A Theory of Taxation*
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
- Employment** *Lecturer*, [California Polytechnic State University](#); 2022–
Instruct classes, including on research methods, data analysis & comparative topics
- Senior Lecturer*, [Illinois Institute of Technology](#); 2022–2023
Instruct classes, including biweekly lecture, on the Politics of Public Policy; Comparative Public Policy; and Fieldwork Methods
- Data Analysis Consultant*, [Gender Equity Policy Institute](#); 2021
Provide general audits and methodological advice using census microdata
Sampling from weighted surveys; sequential effects; concept validity
- Instructor*, [The Ohio State University](#); 2017–2021
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)
- 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** *Founder & Operator, sportcardvalues.com; 2020–*
Provide publicly available estimates of values for collectibles
- 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
- Programming** R (Advanced), GLMs, GAMs, JAGS, Stata, SPSS, Excel, \LaTeX
- Research
&
Publications** *A Theory of Taxation* (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 & Democracy's Informality Trap* (Dissertation Chapter)
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.

When Democracies Tax Efficiently: the Role of Homogeneity (Dissertation Chapter)

This dissertation chapter explores a narrow case, in democracies, where the selectorate consents to being taxed on their inelastic behaviours. I develop and test a theory, whereby: selectorates will consent to being taxed on their inelastic behaviours in the context of “homogeneous elasticity profiles.” When a society’s population has largely the same economic behaviours, then, the population shares a common “elasticity profile.” In such a case, individuals accept being taxed on their inelastic behaviours because: (i) there is no possibility of shifting taxes onto others (since any possible tax-mix will affect everyone’s tax incidence in the same way as one’s own); and (ii) the use of inelastic taxes creates efficiency gains in the economy, from which all citizens can benefit. The theory is tested by creating a novel measure of economic homogeneity, using data from the Luxembourg Income Study.

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

Lecturer (California Polytechnic State University)

PS180: Political Inquiry (Introductory Course),
Winter 2023, Autumn 2023.

PS229: Comparative Politics (Introductory Course),
Autumn 2022.

PS329: Politics of Developing Areas (Upper-Division),
Winter 2023.

PS359: Research Design (Upper-Division),
Autumn 2023, Winter 2023, Spring 2022, Autumn 2022.

PS361: Data Analysis in Political Science (Upper-Division),
Spring 2022.

PS425: Politics of Corruption (Upper-Division),
Winter 2023.

Senior Lecturer (Illinois Institute of Technology)

SSCI 387: Fieldwork Methods (Upper-Division),
Winter 2022.

PS313: Comparative Public Policy (Upper-Division),
Winter 2022.

PS306: Politics and Public Policy (Upper-Division),
Winter 2022.

Instructor (The Ohio State University)

POLITSC 4270: Canadian Politics (Upper-Division),
Spring 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and Summer 2019.
POLITSC 3780: Data Visualization (Upper-Division),
Autumn 2019.
POLITSC 1200: Comparative Politics (Introductory Course),
Autumn 2018, Summer 2021.

**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.

Queens University

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”