Harvard University
Department of Government, CGIS
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Tyler Simko

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EDUCATION

Harvard University

- **Ph.D. in Government** (2018 - Present)
  - *Substantive areas*: state / local politics, education policy, political geography, redistricting.
  - *Methodological experience:* causal inference, field experiments, spatial analysis.
- **Affiliations:**
  - The Algorithm-Assisted Redistricting Methodology Project, (ALARM, Harvard University)
  - Center for American Studies (CAPS, Harvard University)
  - Program in Education Policy & Governance (PEPG, Harvard Kennedy School).

Princeton University

- **A.B. in Politics** (2018)
  - *Fields:* American Politics & Quantitative Analysis
  - *Certificates*: Statistics & Machine Learning
- **Streicker International Fellow** (2017)
  - awarded funding to pursue quantitative social science research at The University of Tokyo.

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

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1. Kenny, Christopher T., Cory McCartan, **Tyler Simko**, Shiro Kuriwaki, and Kosuke Imai. "Widespread partisan gerrymandering mostly cancels nationally, but reduces electoral competition." PNAS, 120 (25) e2217322120. (**2023**).
   - **Coverage:** Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies
2. McCartan, Cory, **Tyler Simko,** and Kosuke Imai. "Researchers need better access to US Census data." *Science* 380, no. 6648 (2023): 902-903.
3. Barari, Soubhik, and **Tyler Simko**. "LocalView, a database of public meetings for the study of local politics and policy-making in the United States." *Nature: Scientific Data* 10, no. 1 (**2023**): 135.
   - **Project website**: LocalView.net
   - **Coverage**: Nature Social & Behavioral Sciences Blog.
4. Kenny, Christopher T., Kuriwaki, Shiro, McCartan, Cory, Rosenman, Evan T. R., **Simko, Tyler**, & Imai, Kosuke. Comment: The Essential Role of Policy Evaluation for the 2020 Census Disclosure Avoidance System. *Harvard Data Science Review*, (**2023**). Special Issue 2.
5. McCartan, Cory, Christopher T. Kenny, **Tyler Simko**, George Garcia III, Kevin Wang, Melissa Wu, Shiro Kuriwaki, and Kosuke Imai. "Simulated redistricting plans for the analysis and evaluation of redistricting in the United States." *Nature: Scientific Data* 9, no. 1 (**2022**): 689.
6. Kenny, Christopher T., Shiro Kuriwaki, Cory McCartan, Evan Rosenman, **Tyler Simko**, and Kosuke Imai. "The Use of Differential Privacy for Census Data and its Impact on Redistricting: The Case of the 2020 U.S. Census." *Science Advances*, Vol. 7, No. 7 (**2021**), pp. 1-17.
   - **Selected Media Coverage**: Associated Press, The Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, etc.
7. Rogowski, Jon, and **Tyler Simko**. "Presidential Patronage and Executive Branch Appointments, 1925–1959." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 52, no. 1 (2022): 38-59.

1. Kenny, Christopher T., Cory McCartan, **Tyler Simko**, Shiro Kuriwaki, and Kosuke Imai. "Evaluating Bias and Noise Induced by the U.S. Census Bureau's Privacy Protection Methods." *Under Review.* (2023). arXiv.
2. Ongoing with OES: "Does Reducing Documentation Burden Broaden Access to Emergency Rental Assistance? Quasi-experimental Evidence from Virginia." Analysis Plan
3. Barari, Soubhik & **Tyler Simko: "**The Asymmetric Nationalization of Local Politics: Language and Policymaking in >30,000 Local Government Meetings." *Under Review.* Working Paper.
4. Johnson, Rebecca, Josh Grossman, and **Tyler Simko.** "Using Large-Scale Data to Monitor Conditions in New York City Public Housing." OES Project Page.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gov97: Power and Action in US Local Politics
Harvard University, Spring 2022.
Primary Instructor, created course. Syllabus.

Gov1008: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Harvard University, Fall 2021.
Teaching Fellow
Software: ArcGIS Pro

Gov 1539: Politics of the American Presidency
Harvard University, Spring 2021.
Teaching Fellow

Fundamentals of Data Science
South Amboy High School, Summer 2021.
Course Head / Instructor
Software: R

Senior Thesis Advisor
Harvard University, Fall 2021-present.
   1. **Christine Mui**: Ban The Scan: Policy Diffusion and Regulation of Facial Recognition Technology in U.S. Local Governments (2023)
   2. **Yao Yu**: Interstate Migration and Local Elections (2023).
   3. **Eric Forteza Romero**: The Politics of Fare-Free Public Transportation in US Cities (2024).

API209: Advanced Quantitative Methods
Harvard Kennedy School, Fall 2022.
Teaching Fellow

Math Camp: MPA/ID Program
Harvard Kennedy School, Summer 2022.
Primary Instructor, Data Science

17.20: Introduction to American Politics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Teaching Fellow, Spring 2019.

POL 245: Visualizing Data
Princeton University, Summers 2016-2018.
Course Fellow
Software: R

Quantitative Fellow: Government Department
Harvard University, 2021-present.
Statistical support and advising for graduate and undergraduate students.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Derek C Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates**, Harvard University (2023)
- **Department of Government MVP All-Star Teaching Award**, Harvard University (2021)
- **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching**, Harvard University (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)
- **Streicker International Fellowship**, Princeton University (2018)

2023:
- Dartmouth College: Lectures on Politics and AI.
- Northeastern University: Plural Connections Group.
- Harvard University. Gov 97: Drawing Democracies

GOVERMENT SERVICE

Data Scientist   **Office of Evaluation Sciences**   **2022 - Present**

- Member of OES, an interdisciplinary team in the federal government that works to help agencies build and use evidence to improve public policy.
- Organize, design, and conduct experimental evaluations, quasi-experimental designs (e.g. regression discontinuities on government policy cutoffs, etc.), and descriptive studies.
- **Example Project:** the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program provided funding to help households pay rent or utilities to prevent eviction and housing instability. Analysis Plan available here.
  - We analyze the impacts of a policy change (fast-specific proxy (FSP)) intended to broaden assistance that removes the requirement of documenting income eligibility.
  - Use a quasi-experimental design that leverages a strict policy cutoff based on zip code tabulation area (ZCTA) level income data.
- Contribute to written guidance on methodological / statistical issues in policy evaluation projects.
- Lead analysis on studies, including preparing and cleaning administrative data, conducting statistical analyses, project design planning (including power analyses, translating policy goals into causal experimental designs, etc.) and presenting / explaining results for technical and policy audiences.

President / Elected Member   **South Amboy Board of Education**   **2013 - 2018**

- Twice elected member to the South Amboy, NJ Board of Education (on ballot in 2013 & 2016).
  - Elected President during my second term.
- Chaired and / or served on all nine committees of the board, including Education & Curriculum, Budget & Finance, Policy, Athletics, and Negotiations.
- District accomplishments during my tenure include:
  - Increase in average high school graduation rate of ~10% (2012: 86.8%, 2018: 96.3%).
  - Decline of chronic absenteeism rate by ~50%: (2012: 14%, 2018: 7.6%).
  - Successfully negotiated contract with district union, the South Amboy Education Association.
  - Major capital projects funded via successful referenda, including renovations to elementary school classrooms, flooring, and installing energy efficient lighting.
  - Creation of various new programs and initiatives, including:
    - Life-Skills program for special education students.
    - Full-day Pre-K expansion - grant funded ($488,000).