Harvard University
Department of Government, CGIS
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

732-406-3372
tsimko@g.harvard.edu
tylersimko.com

Tyler Simko

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

---

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

WORKING PAPERS

1. "Evaluating Bias and Noise Induced by the U.S. Census Bureau's Privacy Protection Methods." with Christopher T. Kenny, Cory McCartan, Shiro Kuriwaki, and Kosuke Imai. *Under Review.* (2023). arXiv.
2. "Responsiveness in Local Politics: An Evaluation from Public Meeting Deliberation in the United States." with Soubhik Barari. *Under Review.* (2023).
3. "Does Reducing Documentation Burden Broaden Access to Emergency Rental Assistance? Quasi-experimental Evidence from Virginia." with OES. Analysis Plan
4. "Using Large-Scale Data to Monitor Conditions in New York City Public Housing." with Rebecca Johnson and Josh Grossman. Project Page.
5. "Bridging Gaps? A Randomized Controlled Trial of A Summer Bridge Program for First-Generation/Low-Income Students." with Rebecca Johnson and Kosuke Imai.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)
- **Georgetown McCourt Tech & Public Policy (TPP) Grant.** *Using Large-Scale Video, Text, and Legacy/Social Media Data to Understand and Reduce Polarization in Local Governance*. Co-investigator. $215,000 (2023-24).

- **Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative**, Research Grant (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).
- **Center for American Political Studies** Research Grant, Harvard University. Co-Investigator. (2019).
- **Streicker International [Fellowship](#)**, Princeton University (2018).

RECENT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2023:
- Dartmouth College: Lectures on Politics and AI.
- Northeastern University: Plural Connections Group.
- Harvard University. Gov 97: Drawing Democracies
- Society for Political Methodology, Annual Meeting
- Local Political Economy Conference, Claremont Graduate University
- American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting

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.
    - Full-day Pre-K expansion - grant funded ($488,000).