Princeton University
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Tyler Simko

EDUCATION

Princeton University
- **Postdoctoral Research Associate** (2024), Department of Politics

Harvard University
- **Ph.D. in Government** (2024)
  - *Dissertation*: "Geographic Policy Evaluation in US State and Local Politics"
  - *Substantive*: state / local politics, education policy, political geography, redistricting
  - *Methodological:* causal inference, field experiments, spatial analysis, computation

- **Affiliations:**
  - The Algorithm-Assisted Redistricting Methodology Project, (ALARM)
  - Center for American Political Studies (CAPS)
  - Program in Education Policy & Governance (PEPG, Harvard Kennedy School)
  - Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative Fellow 2023-2024 (HMUI, Harvard Kennedy School)

Princeton University
- **A.B. in Politics** (2018)
  - *Fields:* American Politics & Quantitative Analysis
  - *Certificates*: Statistics & Machine Learning
- **Streicker Fellow** (2017): The University of Tokyo

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

1. "School desegregation by redrawing district boundaries." Nature: Scientific Reports 14, 22097. (2024)
2. "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. Science Advances, Vol. 10, eadl2524. (**2024**)
   - **Coverage**: Science Insider, Election Law Blog
3. "How academics and policymakers can collaborate effectively: Lessons from using behavioral science to improve U.S. federal government policies" with members of The Office of Evaluation Sciences. Behavioral Science & Policy. (**2024**)
   - with Shibeal O'Flaherty, Lizzie Martin, Syon Bhanot, Crystal Hall, Sebastian Jilke, and Mary Steffel.
4. "Census officials must constructively engage with independent evaluations" with Christopher T. Kenny, Cory McCartan, and Kosuke Imai. PNAS, 121 (11) e2321196121. (**2024**)
   - Response to Jarmin et al. (2023)
5. "Making Differential Privacy Work for Census Data Users" with Cory McCartan and Kosuke Imai. Harvard Data Science Review, *5*(4). (**2023**)
6. "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

7. "Researchers need better access to US Census data" with Cory McCartan and Kosuke Imai. *Science* 380, no. 6648, 902-903. (**2023**)
8. "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, 135.(**2023**)
    - **Project website**: LocalView.net
    - **Coverage**: Nature Social & Behavioral Sciences Blog.
9. "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*, Special Issue 2. (**2023)**
10. "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, 689. (**2022**)
11. "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, eabk3283. (**2021**)
    - **Selected Media Coverage**: Associated Press, The Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, etc.
    - Originally submitted as a public comment to the US Census Bureau (5/28/2021)
12. "Presidential Patronage and Executive Branch Appointments, 1925–1959" with Jon Rogowski. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 52, no. 1: 38-59. (**2022**)

WORKING PAPERS

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1. "School Desegregation by Redrawing District Boundaries: Evidence from New Jersey." *Under Review* (2023).
    - **Coverage**: Harvard University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
2. "Bridging Gaps? A Randomized Controlled Trial of A Summer Bridge Program for First-Generation/Low-Income Students." with Rebecca Johnson and Kosuke Imai. *Under Review* (2024).
3. "Responsiveness in Local Politics: An Evaluation from Public Meeting Deliberation in the United States." with Soubhik Barari. *Under Review.* (2023).
4. "Does Reducing Documentation Burden Broaden Access to Emergency Rental Assistance? Quasi-experimental Evidence from Virginia." with OES. Analysis Plan
5. "Using Large-Scale Data to Monitor Conditions in New York City Public Housing." with Rebecca Johnson and Josh Grossman. with OES. Project Page.

POLICY REPORTS & OTHER WRITING

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1. Streamlining income verification to broaden access to rental assistance. Office of Evaluation Sciences report.
    - Partnership: US Department of Treasury and Kentucky Housing Corporation.
2. Reducing documentation burdens to accelerate and broaden access to emergency rental assistance. Office of Evaluation Sciences report.
    - Partnership: US Department of Treasury and Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.
3. Op-Ed: Three reasons why NJ should cut the 'county line' from ballots with Nicholas Stephanopoulos. NJSpotlight News.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gov97: Power and Action in US Local Politics   **API209: Advanced Quantitative Methods**

Harvard University, Spring 2022.
Primary Instructor, created course. [Syllabus](#).

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. **Elizabeth Gellert:** Ballots and Bills: Private Grant Funding and Local Election Administration in Massachusetts (2024)

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

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- **Robert Noxon Toppan Prize,** Harvard University Department of Government, for best dissertation on a subject of political science (2024)
- **Fostering Diverse Schools Grant**, US Department of Education. Partnership with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and Plural Connections Group. Co-investigator $200,00 (2024-2025)
- **C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement (CCSE), Video Research Institute:** Selected Researcher (2024)
- **Office of Evaluation Sciences,** General Services Administration (GSA) Interpersonnel Act Agreement (2022-2024)
- **Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative,** Doctoral Fellowship (2023-2024)
- **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 PRESENTATIONS

Invited:
- **Northeastern University** Center for Design: 2024
- **Southern Education Foundation** Issues Forum: 2023
- **Dartmouth College** Lectures on Politics and AI: 2023
- **Northeastern University** Plural Connections Group: 2023
- **Harvard University** Gov 97: Drawing Democracies: 2023

Conferences:
- **American Political Science Association**: 2024, 2023
- **Local Political Economy Conference**: 2024, 2023
- **Midwest Political Science Association:** 2024
- **American Educational Research Association**: 2024
- **Society for Political Methodology**: 2024, 2023
- **Council for European Studies**: 2024

GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

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.

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).