

Andrew Simon

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics	2024-Present
University of Chicago and Australian National University Department of Economics Postdoctoral Scholar	2021-2024

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Michigan, 2021
M.A. Economics, University of Michigan, 2017
B.A. Economics and Mathematics, Cornell University, 2013

PUBLICATIONS AND ACCEPTED PAPERS

- “[Why is Math Cheaper than English? Understanding Cost Differences in Higher Education](#)” with Steven Hemelt, Kevin Stange, Fernando Furquim, and John E. Sawyer. *Journal of Labor Economics* 39, no. 2 (2021): 397-435.
- “[Optimal Minimum Wage Setting in a Federal System](#)” with Matthew Wilson. *Journal of Urban Economics*. 123 (2021): 103336.
- “[Toward an Understanding of Tax Amnesty Take-up: Evidence from a Natural Field Experiment](#)” with Patricia Gil, Justin Holz, John List, and Alejandro Zentner. *Journal of Public Economics*. 239 (2024): 105245.
- “[Grads on the Go: Measuring College-Specific Labor Markets for Graduates](#)” with Johnathan Conzelmann, Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, and Kevin Stange. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 44, no. 3 (2025): 741-763.
- “[College Choice, Private Options, and the Incidence of Public Investment in Higher Education](#)” with John Bound. Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.
- “[Measuring Racial Educational Disparities Over Time amongst Top Achievers](#)” with Udit Karna, Min Sok Lee, John List, and Haruka Uchida. *Nature* (2025): 1-9.
- “[Costly Centralization: Evidence from Community College Expansions.](#)” Forthcoming, *International Tax and Public Finance*.

WORKING PAPERS

“Minimum Wages and Racial Discrimination in Hiring: Theory and Evidence from a Field Experiment” with Alec Brandon, Justin Holz, and Haruka Uchida. 2nd round revised and resubmitted *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

“Disparities in Tax Negotiations: Evidence from Field Experiments with Homeowners and Assessors” with Justin Holz, and David Novgorodsky. Submitted.

“Skills, Majors, and Jobs: Does Higher Education Respond?” with Johnathan Conzelmann, Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, and Kevin Stange. Revise and resubmit *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

“Partisan Reasoning and the Polarized Support for Public Services” with Reuben Hurst, and Michael Ricks.

“Five Facts About the First-Generation Excellence Gap” with Uditi Karna, John List and Haruka Uchida. Submitted.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Distributional Effects of State Investments in Less-Selective Public Colleges” with John Bound, Soyoung Han, and Shwetha Raghuraman.

“The Allocation of State Appropriations and the Productivity of Academic Departments” with Kevin Stange and Travis Triggs.

“Gender differences in perseverance for funding” with Luigi Butera, Sofie Cairo, and John List.

“Major Differences in Income Contingent Student Loan Repayment” with Ellen Stuart.

OTHER WRITING

“[College Majors and Programs: Choices and Returns](#)” with Johnathan G. Conzelmann, and Stephanie Owen

Book chapter for *AEFP 2025 Live Handbook on Education Finance and Policy Research*

“[Boys surpass girls in maths in the first year of school](#)” with John List. *Nature* (2025).

POLICY BRIEFS

“[Why the US minimum wage system is well-designed to handle the country’s economic diversity](#)” with Matthew Wilson. *USApp – American Politics and Policy Blog* (25 Jun 2021).

“[Major Differences: Why some degrees cost colleges more than others](#)” with Steven Hemelt, Kevin Stange, Fernando Furquim, and John E. Sawyer. *Education Next*, 22(2), 8-16.

“[Toward an Understanding of Tax Amnesties: Theory and Evidence From a Natural Field Experiment](#)” with Patricia Gil, Justin Holz, John List, and Alejandro Zentner. Becker Friedman Institute for Economics Research Brief.

“[Minimum Wage Increases Reduce Racial Disparities during Hiring](#)” with Alec Brandon, Justin Holz, and Haruka Uchida. Policy and Research Brief. Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

“[New Data Show How Far Graduates Move from Their College, and Why It Matters](#)” with Johnathan Conzelmann, Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, and Kevin Stange. Policy and Research Brief. Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

“[How Higher Education Responds to Labor Demand](#)” with Johnathan Conzelmann, Steven Hemelt,

Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, and Kevin Stange. Policy and Research Brief. Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

[“What the Migration of College Graduates Means for Earnings-Based Accountability”](#) with Johnathan Conzelmann, Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, and Kevin Stange. Postsecondary Education & Economics Research (PEER) Center Research Brief.

[“Tax amnesty: An effective tool for increasing the tax base?”](#) with Patricia Gil, Justin Holz, John List, and Alejandro Zentner. VoxDev

TEACHING

University of Virginia:

LPPA 3650: Economics of Public Policy

Spring 2025

LPPP 7559: Funding Government Services: It’s taxing

Fall 2025

University of Michigan:

Graduate Student Instructor, Econ 398: Strategy

Winter 2019

Graduate Student Instructor, Econ 251: Introduction to Statistics and Econometrics II

Fall 2018

GRANTS

Sloan Foundation (\$213,506)

2023-25

John Mitchell Lab, ANU (\$95,000)

2022-23

W.E. Upjohn Institute Early Career Research Award (\$5,000)

2022

Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Grant (\$35,000)

2022-23

University of Michigan:

Training Program in Causal Inference in Education Policy Research

2016-2021

Department of Economics, Graduate Research Award

Fall 2020

Rackham Graduate Student Candidate Research Grant

Winter 2020

Rackham Travel Grant

Fall 2019

Rackham Graduate Student Precandidate Research Grant

Summer 2017

Department of Economics Summer Research Fellowship

Summer 2016

William Haber Predoctoral Fellowship

2015-2016

PRESENTATIONS

2025: UNC-Greensboro; Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference; Triangle Economics of Education Workshop; Villanova; National Tax Annual Conference

2024: Harvard University; National Bureau of Economics Research—Public Economics Spring Meeting; National Bureau of Economics Research—Real Estate Summer Institute; Treasury (Office of Tax Analysis); University of Maryland; University of Pittsburgh; University of Virginia; National Tax Annual Conference

2023: Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference; Nebraska Labor Summit; National Bureau of Economics Research—Economics of Education Spring Meeting; Society of Labor Economics Annual Conference; Michigan Tax Invitational; International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress; Advances in Field Experiments Conference; Australia National University; University of Sydney; The Melbourne Institute; National Tax Association Annual Conference.

2022: JILAE Conference; University of Chicago (Chicago Experiments; Political Economy Lunch); Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop (University of Wisconsin); Advances in

Field Experiments Conference; National Tax Association Annual Conference

2021: Arizona State University; University of Chicago; University of Texas- Dallas; Treasury (Office of Tax Analysis); Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting

2020: University of Wisconsin; Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting; National Tax Association Annual Conference

2019: Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting; National Tax Association Annual Conference

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee: American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; Economic Journal; Education Finance and Policy; Economics of Education Review; Industrial Relations; International Economic Review; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Urban Economics; National Tax Journal; Nature; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Scientific Data

Reviewer of the year, *Education Finance and Policy* (2025)

Grant referee: Russell Sage Foundation

Conference discussant: Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting, 2019, 2021; National Tax Association Annual Conference, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025; International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress 2023.

Conference reviewer: Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference 2024

Mentorship: AEA Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession (2023-2025); UVA EdPolicyWorks (2024-2025); AEFPP LGBTQ+ (2025)

Other: Economics for Everyone (E4E) lecturer (2025)

Last Updated: January 2026