

Dr. John Stephen Olson

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July 2025

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Employment

Northwestern University

School of Education and Social Policy

Assistant Professor of Instruction

July 2024 - Present

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ph.D., Economics

2024

M.A., Economics

2020

University of Kansas

B.S., Economics *summa cum laude*

2017

B.A., Mathematics *summa cum laude*

2017

Applied statistics and regression analysis sequence

Fields

Macroeconomics and Public Finance

Research

Publications

Kawano, L., Olson, J. S., Slemrod, J., & Hsieh, M. H. (2025). How taxes affect growth: evidence from cross-country panel data. *International Tax and Public Finance*. doi:10.1007/s10797-025-09901-z

White Papers

Greenberg, S., Olson, J. S., & Entin, S. J. (2016). Modeling the Economic Effects of Past Tax Bills. *Tax Foundation, Fiscal Fact*, 527.

Other Work (In Progress)

“Benefits Cliffs and Aggregate Fluctuations” (Job Market Paper)

“Place-Based Policy and Optimal Income Transfers in a Federalist Framework” (Dissertation Chapter)

“The Effects of Risk on Outbound Student Flows: Worldwide and the Asian-Pacific”

“Dynamic Federalism: State Reactions to Federal Fiscal Policy and Implications for Fiscal Multipliers”

Teaching

Evaluations available at www.johnsolson.com/evaluations

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Northwestern University

SE POL 409: Economic Policy in Action (masters)

Fall 2024

Fall 2025

SE POL 420: Applied Public Finance (masters)

Fall 2024

Fall 2025

SE POL 422: Applied Macroeconomic Modeling (masters)	Summer 2025
SE POL 416: Public Finance Capstone (masters)	Winter 2025
Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	
Econ 482: Government Revenues (undergraduate)	Spring 2024
Econ 502: Applied Macroeconomics (masters)	Spring 2023
Econ 414: Growth Theory (undergraduate)	Spring 2022
	Fall 2021
	Fall 2020
Econ 402: Intermediate Macroeconomics (undergraduate)	Fall 2023
	Fall 2022
	Spring 2021
	Spring 2020
Econ 102: Introductory Macroeconomics (undergraduate)	Summer 2020
	Fall 2019
	Spring 2019
	Fall 2018
Retention Tutor, University of Kansas Office of Multicultural Affairs	Spring 2016
Introductory micro/macroeconomics, algebra, calculus I and II	Fall 2015

Department Service

Guided Research Advising	2024-Present
Admissions, Dual Master's Degree in Applied Economics and Social and Economic Policy, Northwestern University	2024-Present
Admissions Committee, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2019-2020

Awards and Honors

Applied Learning Award, Northwestern University	2024
Honors a faculty member who encourages and helps students apply their academic learning in real-world settings.	
Rackham Graduate Research Grant, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2020
Howard L. Roth Memorial Fund, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2017-2018
GRFP Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation	2017
Domenico Gagliardo Economics Award, University of Kansas	2017
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Kansas	2016
Black-Babcock Mathematics Scholarship, University of Kansas	2016
Leland J. Pritchard Economics Scholarship, University of Kansas	2015

Presentations

Public Finance Lunch Seminar (University of Michigan), Summer Seminar Series (University of Michigan), International/Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar (University of Michigan), Michael Beauregard Seminar in Macroeconomics (University of Michigan)	2023
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Summer Seminar Series (University of Michigan), Business Economics Brown Bag Seminar (University of Michigan), International/Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar (University of Michigan)	2022
Summer Seminar Series (University of Michigan)	2020

Additional Research Experience

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	
Summer Research Assistant to Dr. Joel Slemrod	2019
Summer Research Assistant to Dr. Christopher House	2018
The Tax Foundation, Washington, D.C.	
Taxes and Growth Summer Fellow	2016

Master's Thesis Advising

Shiqi Geng: "A Dynamic Analysis of the Impact of Trump Tariffs on the Federal Budget"	2024-2025
Jingyi Gui: "Adopting a CPPIB-Inspired Model: Addressing Social Security Insolvency in the United States Through Innovative Pension Policy"	
Yizhe Huang: "The Role of Outward Foreign Direct Investment in Productivity Growth: A Policy Perspective"	

Personal

Skilled in MATLAB, Stata, Excel, $\text{\LaTeX}$
Experience in Python, R, Visual Basic, Java, C++
Citizenship: United States
Languages: English (fluent)

References

Dr. Michelle Yin	Dr. Ashley Craig
Director of the Dual Masters of Science in Applied Economics and Social and Economic Policy, Director of the Research and Innovation for Social and Economic Inclusion Lab, Associate Professor	Senior Lecturer in Economics and John Mitchell Fellow
Northwestern University	Australian National University
School of Education and Social Policy	Research School of Economics
michelle.yin@northwestern.edu	ash@ashleycraig.com
Dr. Christopher House	Dr. Joel Slemrod
Professor of Economics	Director of the Office of Tax Policy Research, W. McCracken Collegiate Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy, Professor of Economics
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Department of Economics	Department of Economics and Stephen M. Ross School of Business
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Dr. Sarah Miller
Associate Professor of Business Economics and
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