

Dr. John Stephen Olson

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Room 2433

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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)

“Beyond Economic Cycles: Geopolitical Risk and Regional Divergence in International Student Mobility” with Michele Yin

“Empirical Evidence of Cross-Cultural Competence and Career Outcomes of East Asian Students Within Dual Degree Programs” with Michelle Yin and Shefali More

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

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

“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 Summer 2026
SE POL 416: Social and Economic Policy Capstone (masters)	Winter 2025 Winter 2026 Winter 2027
SE POL 420: Applied Public Finance (masters)	Fall 2024 Fall 2025 Summer 2026
SE POL 422: Applied Macroeconomic Modeling (masters)	Summer 2025 Fall 2026
SE POL 424: Corporate and International Taxation (masters)	Fall 2026
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

Academic Advising, Dual Master's Degree in Applied Economics and Social and Economic Policy, Northwestern University	2024-Present
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Placements of advisees who have kept in touch: Yang Gao (University of British Columbia, PhD), Jingyi Gui (Bank of China, NYC), Yizhe Huang (Ministry of Science and Technology, China), Yi Li (JMAN Group, NYC), Yangxi Liao (Truist Financial Corporation, Richmond VA), Zixin Ling (University of Maryland, PhD), Jingsu Liu (Hong Kong University, Research Assistant), Wenzhi Lyu (National University of Singapore, PhD), Leshan Ouyang (Singapore Management University, PhD), Jiake Xie (PMP Strategies), Kewei Xu (Northeastern University, PhD)

Admissions Committee, Dual Master's Degree in Applied Economics and Social and Economic Policy, Northwestern University	2024-Present
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Ph.D. Admissions Committee, Department of Economics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2019-2020
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Awards and Honors

Applied Learning Award, Northwestern University	2024, 2025
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
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

Research Conference on Benefits Cliffs (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and Social Finance), MSSEP Capstone Policy Forum (Northwestern University), Connecting Communities (Federal Reserve System)	2026
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
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

Referee Experience

Journal of Economics and Finance, Public Finance Review

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

Yang Gao: "Lost in Translation: How Mismatched Appeals Undermine Charitable Action"	2025-2026
Yi Li: "What Really Drives Revenue Stability in Music Streaming? Evidence from User Engagement and Auto-Renew Behavior"	
Yangxi Liao: "Predicting High Payout Medical Malpractice Settlements Using Machine	

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, Claude Code, $\LaTeX$.

Experience in Python, R, Visual Basic, Java, C++.

Citizenship: United States.

Languages: English (fluent).

References

Dr. Michelle Yin

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
Northwestern University
School of Education and Social Policy
michelle.yin@northwestern.edu

Dr. Sarah Miller

Associate Professor of Business Economics and
Public Policy
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
mille@umich.edu

Dr. Christopher House

Professor of Economics
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Department of Economics
chouse@umich.edu

Dr. Joel Slemrod

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
Department of Economics and Stephen M. Ross
School of Business
jslemrod@umich.edu

Dr. Ashley Craig

Senior Lecturer in Economics and John Mitchell
Fellow
Australian National University
Research School of Economics
ash@ashleycraig.com

Dr. Dmitriy Stolyarov

Professor of Economics
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Department of Economics
stolyar@umich.edu