

William Simonsen
School of Public Policy, University of Connecticut
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Revised 9-26-2025

Education

New York University, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, Ph.D. in Public Administration, awarded May 1991

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Master of City and Regional Planning, awarded May 1981

State University of New York at Oswego, Bachelor of Arts in Geography, awarded May 1979

Academic Experience

University of Connecticut, School of Public Policy
Hartford, Connecticut
Professor, 1/02 to Present; Associate Professor, 8/01 to 1/02

University of Oregon, Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management
Eugene, Oregon
Associate Professor, 7/96 to 7/01; Assistant Professor, 9/90 to 6/96

National Awards

Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Aaron Wildavsky Award for lifetime scholarly achievement for work in budgeting and financial management, 2015

National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration Leslie A. Whittington Excellence in Teaching Award, 2008

Editorial Positions

Editor, *Public Budgeting and Finance* Fall 2013 to December, 2017

Associate Editor, *Public Budgeting and Finance*, Spring 2013

Guest Editor of a symposium on state budgeting during COVID-19, *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Summer/Fall) 41 (2&3), 2020.

Guest Editor of a symposium on state budgeting after the great recession, *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Spring/Summer) 40 (1&2), 2019.

Refereed Publications

“Demographic Change and Citizen Support for and Perceptions of Local Government” 2025. *Public Budgeting & Finance*. First published on-line 9-26-2025. With Eric Brunner and David Schwegman.

“The Intergenerational Transmission of Policy Feedback in the United States: Evidence from Racial Violence.” 2025. *Public Administration Review*. First published on-line 2-11-2025. With Eric Brunner and David Schwegman.

“The Influence of Efficiency Information on Citizen Perceptions of School District Outcomes.” 2025. *Public Performance & Management Review*. 48 (1): 87-128. First published on-line 1-1-2025. With Eric Brunner, Yusun Kim, and Mark Robbins.

“The Impact of Demographic Structure on Citizen Perceptions of School District Efficiency.” 2025. *Journal of Urban Affairs*. First published on-line 2-20-2024. 47 (9): 3475-3492. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

“The Impact of Performance Information on Citizen Perceptions of School District Efficiency, Trust in Government, and Support for Taxes.” 2024. *Public Budgeting & Finance*. 44 (2): 6-44. First published on-line 5-5-2024. With Eric Brunner, Yusun Kim, and Mark Robbins.

“Citizen Perceptions of Public School Efficiency: Evidence from the U.S.” 2024. *Public Management Review*. 26 (6): 1475-1497. First published on-line 12-21-2022. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

“Attachment to Government and Support for Government Debt.” 2023. *International Journal of Public Administration*. 46(15): 1076-1091. First published on-line 05-26-2022. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

“Experimental Evidence about Property Tax Word Aversion.” 2021. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Winter). 41(4): 50-70. First published on-line 05-06-2021. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

“Property Tax Information and Support for School Bond Referenda: Experimental Evidence.” 2021. *Public Administration Review*. (May/June). 81 (3): 488-499. First published on-line 05-18-2020. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

“Fiscal Implications of COVID-19 in Connecticut” 2020. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Summer) 41(2): 13-23. With Mark Robbins.

“State of Connecticut Budgeting After the Great Recession. 2019. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Spring/Summer) 40 (1&2):1-26. With Mark Robbins.

“Gender-Based Violence Prevention Workshops: An Experimental Evaluation of Efficacy.” 2019. *International Journal of Public Administration*. 42 (10): 840-854. First published on-

line 10-08-2018. With Lauren Donais and Nicole Simonsen

“Social Class: Perception and Reality.” 2019. *International Journal of Public Administration*. 42 (1): 55-65. First published on-line 11-27-2017 With Jennifer Dineen and Mark Robbins.

“Information, Tax Salience, and Support for School District Bond Referenda.” 2018. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. 38 (4): 52-73 First published on-line 7-10-2018. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

“Experimental Evidence about Deficit Reduction Strategies: Bias in Measuring Tax and Spending Preferences.” 2017. *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting, and Financial Management*. (Spring) 29 (1): 78-103. With Jennifer Dineen and Mark Robbins.

“Contracting for Underwriters: Are All Underwriters Equal?” 2016. *Public Administration Quarterly*. (Winter). (40)4: 725-762. With Mark Robbins.

“Missouri Municipal Bonds: The Cost of No Reforms.” 2015. *Municipal Finance Journal*. 36(1): 27-50. With Mark Robbins.

“Analysis of Outliers in Municipal Bond Transaction Costs.” 2014. *Municipal Finance Journal*. 35 (3): 27-46. With Mark Robbins.

“Underwriting, Brokerage, and Risk in Municipal Bond Sales.” 2013. *Municipal Finance Journal*. 33 (2): 87-103. With Lori Raineri, Mark Robbins, and Keith Weaver.

“State Budgeting in the Aftermath of the Great Recession: A Comparative Perspective.” 2013. *Municipal Finance Journal*. 33 (2): 1-33. With James Conant, Beverly Bunch, Bill Duncombe, Tom Lauth, Mark Robbins, Doug Snow, and Bruce Wallin.

“Municipal Bond New Issue Transaction Costs.” 2013. *Public Finance and Budgeting*. (Spring). 33(1):1-24. With Mark Robbins.

“Debt and Deception: How States Avoid Making Hard Fiscal Decisions.” 2012 *Public Administration Review*. (September/October). 72(5): 659-667. With Bill Duncombe, Robert Bifulco, Beverly Bunch and Mark Robbins.

“Do Debt Levels Influence State Borrowing Costs?” 2012. *Public Administration Review*. 72(4):498-505. With Mark Robbins.

“Debt Issued Through Others: Conduits, Joint Powers Authorities, and Borrowing Costs in California Local Governments.” 2012. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Summer) 32(2): 69-85. With Mark Robbins.

“Implementation of Homeland Security Technologies: Differences in Willingness to Pay Across Jurisdictions.” 2011. *Public Performance and Management Review*. 35(1): 7-28. With Amy Donahue and Mark Robbins.

“The Quality and Relevance of Municipal Bond Disclosure: What Bond Analysts’ Think.” 2010. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Spring) 31(1): 1-20. With Mark Robbins.

“Build America Bonds” 2010. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Winter) 30(4): 53-77. With Mark Robbins.

“Budget Deficits in the States: Connecticut.” 2010. *Public Budgeting & Finance*. 30(1): 130-151. With Mark Robbins and Ken Dautrich.

Citizens, Budgets and Performance Measures: A Case Study of West Hartford, Connecticut.” 2009 *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management*. (Fall) 21(3): 426-453. With Mark Robbins and Emily Shepard.

“Taxes, Time, and Support for Security” 2008. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. 28(2): 69-86. With Amy Donahue and Mark Robbins.

“Persistent Underwriter Use and the Cost of Borrowing” 2008. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Winter) 28 (4): 1-13. With Mark Robbins.

“Citizens and Resource Allocation: Improving Decision Making with Interactive Web Based Citizen Participation” 2008. *Public Administration Review*. (May/June) 68(3): 564-575. With Mark Robbins and Barry Feldman.

“Willingness to Pay Taxes for Homeland Security Measures.” 2007. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Fall). 28(3): 57-83 With Amy Donahue and Mark Robbins.

“Competition and Selection in Municipal Bond Sales: Evidence from Missouri.” 2007. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Summer) 27(2): 88-103. With Mark Robbins.

“Why Do Governments Choose to Privately Place Municipal Bonds?” 2006. *Municipal Finance Journal* 27(3): 1-17. With Mark Robbins.

“State Government Rules About the Use of Net Interest Cost and True Interest Cost for Calculating Municipal Bond Interest Rates.” 2005. *Municipal Finance Journal* 26(1): 1- 25. With Mark Robbins and Bernard Jump Jr.

“Municipal Bond Auctions and Borrowing Costs.” 2004. *Municipal Finance Journal*. 25.(1):1-16. With Mark Robbins and Christine Rocco.

“Predicting Municipal Bond Interest Rates: Uses in Negotiated Sale Pricing.” 2004. *Municipal Finance Journal*. 25.(2): 1-12. With Mark Robbins.

“The Impact of Tax Price on Spending Preferences.” 2004. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Fall) 24(3): 82-97. With Mark Robbins and Barry Feldman.

“Reasonableness, Satisfaction and Willingness to Pay Property Taxes.” 2003. *Urban Affairs Review*. (July) 38. (6): 831-854. With Mark Robbins.

“Recent Research in Public Finance: Predicting Municipal Bond Interest Rates” 2003. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Summer) 24. (2): 73-77.

“Factors Influencing Negotiated Sale Borrowing Costs.” 2003. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Spring) 24.(1): 1-16. With Mark Robbins.

“Financial Advisor Independence and the Choice of Municipal Bond Sale Type” *Municipal Finance Journal*. 2003. (Spring) 24. (1): 37-58. With Mark Robbins.

“A Dynamic Method of Citizen Preference Revelation.” 2002. *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management*. (Fall). 14 (3):. 445-461. With Mark Robbins.

“Measuring Municipal Borrowing Costs: How Missing Cost Information Biases Interest Rate Calculations.” 2002. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Spring). 22 (1): 46-59. With Mark Robbins.

“Using Data Envelopment Analysis to Estimate the Efficiency of Municipal Bond Issuance.” 2002. *State and Local Government Review*. (Winter). Vol. 34. No. 1. Pp. 20-28. With Mark Robbins.

“The Influence of Jurisdiction Size and Sale Type on Municipal Bond Interest Rates: An Empirical Analysis.” 2001. *Public Administration Review*. (November/December). 61 (6): 709-717. With Mark Robbins and Lee Helgeson.

“Is TIC Always the Most Appropriate Cost of Capital Measure?” 2001. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Summer) (22) (4):. 1-13. With Mark Robbins and Bernard Jump, Jr.

“Do Debt Policies Make a Difference in Finance Officers’ Perceptions of the Importance of Debt Management Factors?” 2001. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Spring) 21 (1):87-102. With Mark Robbins and Bill Kittredge.

“Maturity Structure and Borrowing Costs: The Implications of Level Debt Service.” 2000. *Municipal Finance Journal*. 21 (3): 40-64 With Mark Robbins and Bernard Jump, Jr.

“The Influence of Fiscal Information on Preferences for City Services.” 2000. *Social Science Journal*. 37 (2): 195-214. With Mark Robbins.

“The Benefit Principle and Willingness to Pay for City Services.” 1999. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Summer) 19. (2): 90-110. With Mark Robbins.

“Municipal Bond Issuance: Is There Evidence of a Principal-Agent Problem?” 1999. *Public Budgeting and Finance*. (Winter) 18 (4): 71-100. With Larry Hill.

“The Development of a Municipal Bond Market in Russia: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” 1999. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Spring) 20. (1): 20-34. With Margarita Tchepournykh. Reprinted in Russian in *The Modern Problems of Management, Economics and Law*.

“Competitive vs. Negotiated Municipal Bond Sales: Why Issuers Choose One Method Over Another” 1998. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Summer) 19 (2): 1-29. With Bill Kittredge.

“Attempting Non-Incremental Budget Change in Oregon: An Exercise in Policy Sharing.” 1996. *The American Review of Public Administration*. (June) 26 (2): 231-250. With Nancy Johnston and Russell Barnett.

“Does It Make Any Difference Anymore? Competitive Versus Negotiated Municipal Bond Issuance.” 1996. *Public Administration Review*. (January/February) 56 (1): 57-64. With Mark Robbins.

“Changes in Federal Aid and City Finances: A Case Study of Oregon Cities.” 1994. *Publius: The Journal Of Federalism*. (Spring). 24 (2): 37-51.

“Aging Population and City Spending.” 1994. *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 16 (2): 125-140. Finalist in the Urban Affairs Association 1993 Best Paper Competition.

“Determinants of Waste-to-Energy Facility Costs.” 1994. *The Environmental Professional*. (March). 16 (1): 66-72.

“Financing Energy Resource Recovery Facilities.” 1992. *The Environmental Professional*. 14 (6): 136-42.

“Oregon's Local Government Debt Management: The Aftermath of the Property Tax Limiting Ballot Measure #5.” 1992. *Municipal Finance Journal*. (Summer). 13 (2): 30-41.

"Commuter Railroad Pricing in the New York Metropolitan Region." *Transportation Research Record*, Number 912. pp. 22-27. With David S. Kessler.

“Econometric Models for Long Island Rail Road.” *Transportation Research Record*, Number 838. pp. 67-73. With Paul Devine and John Martin.

Research in Progress

“School District Segregation, Trust in Government, and Willingness to Pay Taxes.” With Eric Brunner and David Schwegman.

Book

Citizen Participation in Resource Allocation. Boulder: Westview Press. 2000. With Mark Robbins. The book is part of the "Urban Policy Challenges" series edited by Terry Clark.

Book Chapters

“Social Class: Perception and Reality.” Invited chapter in *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*. 2018. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing. Edited by Ali Farazmand.

“Oregon: The Influence of Direct Democracy on Budget Outcomes.” Invited chapter in *Budgeting in the States: Institutions, Processes and Policies*. Westport, CT: Praeger. 2006. Edited by Thomas Lauth and Edward Clynch.

“Debt Affordability.” *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy*. New York: Marcel Dekker. Edited by Jack Rabin. Pp. 308-312. (Financial management section edited by Bart Hildreth). With Mark Robbins and Raymond Brown. Chapter was peer reviewed. 2003.

“Municipal Securities.” *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy*. New York: Marcel Dekker. Edited by Jack Rabin. Pp. 795-798. (Financial management section edited by Bart Hildreth). With Mark Robbins. Chapter was peer reviewed. 2003.

Recent Conference Papers

“Intergenerational Racial-Ethnic Conflict and Citizen Support for and Perceptions of Local Government.” Paper presented at the 25th Annual National Business and Economics Society Conference St. Thomas, USVI, March 5-8, 2025. With Eric Brunner and David Schwegman.

“The Relationship Between Intergenerational Racial Differences and Citizen Perceptions of School District Outcomes.” Paper presented at the 36th Annual Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Cleveland, OH, September 26-28, 2024. With Eric Brunner and David Schwegman.

“The Influence of Efficiency Information on Citizen Perceptions of School District Outcomes.” Paper presented at the 24th Annual National Business and Economics Society Conference, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. March 6-9, 2024. With Eric Brunner, Yusun Kim, and Mark Robbins.

“The Influence of Efficiency Information on Citizen Perceptions of School District Outcomes.” Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, October 26-28, 2023. With Eric Brunner, Yusun Kim, and Mark Robbins.

“The Impact of Performance Information on Citizen Perceptions of School District Efficiency and Trust in Government.” Paper presented at the 23rd Annual National Business and Economics Society Conference Rio Grande, PR. March 8-11, 2023. With Eric Brunner, Yusun Kim, and Mark Robbins.

“The Impact of Demographic Structure on Citizen Perceptions of School District Efficiency.” Paper presented at the 64th Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association Public Finance and Budgeting Section, Denver, CO, March 30-April 2, 2022. With Mark Robbins and Eric Brunner.

“The Impact of Demographic Structure on Citizen Perceptions of School District Efficiency.” Paper presented at the 22nd Annual National Business and Economics Society Conference Maui, Hawaii, March 2-5, 2022. With Mark Robbins and Eric Brunner.

“The Relationship Between Actual and Perceived Local Government Efficiency: Evidence from U.S. School Districts.” Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, September 29-October 2, 2021, Washington, DC. With Mark Robbins and Eric Brunner.

“The Relationship Between Public School Actual and Perceived Efficiency.” Paper presented at the Public Finance and Budgeting Section of the 63rd Annual Western Social Science Association Conference. Virtual, April 15, 2021. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

“Fiscal Implications of COVID-19 in Connecticut” Paper presented at the Association for

Budgeting and Financial Management, September 24-26, 2020. (virtual). With Mark Robbins.

Recession Readiness in the States: Connecticut. Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, September 26-28, 2019, Washington, DC. With Mark Robbins.

Citizens' Relationship to Government: The Connection Between Notions of Citizenship and Support for Bond Referenda. Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, September 26-28, 2019, Washington, DC. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

Property Tax Information and Support for School Bond Referenda: Experimental Evidence. Paper presented at the Public Finance and Budgeting Section of the 61st Annual Western Social Science Association Conference, April 24-27, 2019 San Diego, California. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

Citizens' Relationship to Government: the Connection Between Notions of Citizenship and Support for Bond Referenda. Paper presented at the Public Finance and Budgeting Section of the 61st Annual Western Social Science Association Conference, April 24-27, 2019 San Diego, California. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

Information, Tax Salience, and Support for School Bond Referenda: Experimental Evidence. Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, October 4-6, 2018, Denver, CO . With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

"State of Connecticut Budgeting After the Great Recession." Paper presented at the Public Finance and Budgeting Section of the 61st Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association, April 24-27, 2018, San Antonio, TX. With Mark Robbins.

"How Well Can International and Domestic College Students Apply Rape Myths to Real World Scenarios?" Paper presented at the Women's Studies Section of the 61st Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association, April 24-27, 2018, San Antonio, TX. With Lauren Donais and Nicole Simonsen,

"Information, Tax Salience, and Support for School District Bond Referenda-Updated." Paper presented at the National Business and Economics Society, March 7-10, 2018, Honolulu, Hawaii. With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

"Information, Tax Salience, and Support for School District Bond Referenda." Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, September 28-30, 2017, Washington, DC . With Eric Brunner and Mark Robbins.

"Violence Against Women Prevention Workshops: an Experimental Evaluation of Efficacy." Paper presented at the Women's Studies Section of the 58th Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association, April 12-15, 2017, San Francisco, CA. With Lauren

Donais and Nicole Simonsen.

“The Labor Supply Effect of an Unconditional Basic Income in the United States.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management International Conference, June 13-14, 2016, London, UK. With Rebecca Simonsen.

“The Labor Supply Effect of an Unconditional Basic Income for Single Women and Men.” Paper presented at the Public Finance and Budgeting Section of the 57th Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association, April 13-16, 2016, Reno, Nevada. With Rebecca Simonsen.

“Fiscal Condition Analysis of New York Counties II.” Paper presented at the National Business and Economics Society, March 9-12, 2016, Los Cabos, Mexico. With Mark Robbins.

“The Labor Supply Effect of an Unconditional Basic Income for Single Women.” Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, October 1-3, 2015, Washington, DC. With Rebecca Simonsen.

“Fiscal Condition Analysis of New York Counties.” Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, October 1-3, 2015, Washington, DC. With Mark Robbins.

“Missouri Municipal Bonds: The Cost of No Reforms.” Paper presented at the Public Finance and Budgeting Section of the 57th Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association, April 8-11, 2015, Portland, Oregon. With Mark Robbins.

Other Professional Experience

Moody's Investors Service, 6/86 - 7/90
New York, New York
Assistant Vice President

City of New York Human Resources Administration, 12/85 - 6/86
New York, New York
Special Assistant

Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, 2/83 -9/85
New York, New York
Supervising Analyst

Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 6/81 - 1/83
New York, New York
Economic Analyst

Selected Professional Service

Executive Council, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, 2009-11

Member, National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation Standards Committee, 2009-11

Member of the editorial board of the *Municipal Finance Journal*

Occasional manuscript reviewer for *Municipal Finance Journal*, *Public Budgeting and Finance*, *State and Local Government Review*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Public Administration Review*, *Public Finance Review*, *Managerial Finance*, *Politics and Policy*, *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, *Public Finance and Management*, *Public Performance and Management Review*, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Eastern European Economics*, *International Journal of Public Administration*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *International Public Management Journal*, *Public Management Review*, and *International Review of Administrative Science*.

Selected School of Public Policy Administrative Positions Held

Co-coordinator, Master of Public Policy Program (2016)

Director, Master of Public Administration Program (Fall 2001 to Fall 2014)

Director, Master of Survey Research Program (May 2006 to Fall, 2009)

Director, Graduate Certificate in Public Financial Management (Fall 2004 to Fall 2014)

Director, Graduate Certificate in Public & Nonprofit Management (Fall 2004 to Spring 2013)

Director, Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Public Management (Spring 2013 to Fall 2014)