

MAX B. NORTON
Curriculum vitae – July 24, 2025
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RESEARCH AREAS

Public Finance, Urban Economics, Education Finance

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics – University of British Columbia – 2025
Dissertation: Essays in Public Finance and the Economics of Multi-Level Governance

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Kevin Milligan (Co-Supervisor) – Vancouver School of Economics, UBC
M. Marit Rehavi (Co-Supervisor) – Vancouver School of Economics, UBC
Victor Couture – Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

M.A. Economics – California State University, Sacramento – 2017
Thesis: Gains from Migration and Marriage: The Final Years of the
Great Migration, 1965–1970

B.A. Film Studies – Columbia University – 2006
Editor-in-Chief, *The Columbia Review*

CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Working papers

[Who Benefits from Local Bond Elections? Evidence from California's School Bond Reform](#)

Research supported by the Lincoln Institute C. Lowell Harriss Fellowship.

[Is There a Subjective Well-Being Crisis Among Young Canadians?](#) with Haifang Huang and John F. Helliwell. Revise and resubmit, *Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de politiques*.

Work in progress

State Transfers for Bond-Financed Capital Spending in California School Districts: Corrective Allocation and Implications for Municipalities

Private Insurer Exit and State-Provided Homeowners Insurance: Impacts on Households and Housing Markets in Fire-Prone States

Social Insurance Non-Compliance in China: Firm-Level Evidence in Institutional Context, with Wei Cui and Jeffrey Hicks

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

[How Well-Targeted Are Payroll Tax Cuts as a Response to COVID-19? Evidence from China](#), with Wei Cui and Jeffrey Hicks. *International Tax and Public Finance* 29, 2022.

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

Edited volumes

Contributions to the [World Happiness Report](#), with John F. Helliwell, Haifang Huang, Shun Wang, and others. 2020–2023, 2025.

[Happiness at Different Ages: The Social Context Matters](#), with John F. Helliwell, Haifang Huang, and Shun Wang. In *The Economics of Happiness*, ed. M. Rojas. Springer, 2019. Also NBER Working Paper No. [25121](#).

Other articles

Retired working paper: Well-being Analysis Favours a Virus-Elimination Strategy for COVID-19, with John F. Helliwell, Shun Wang, Lara B. Akinin, and Haifang Huang. NBER Working Paper No. 29092, 2021.

Pre-doctoral: Managing Grapevine Trunk Diseases in California’s Southern San Joaquin Valley, with Kendra Baumgartner, Vicken Hillis, Mark Lubell, and Jonathan Kaplan. *American Journal of Enology and Viticulture* 70, 2019.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy – 2024

CIDER Small Grant (\$13,115 data grant) – 2023

Research Fellowship in Subjective Well-Being, UBC VSE – 2018–2025

SSIS Dean’s Award and Curry Scholarship in Economics, CSU Sacramento – 2016–2017

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

WHY Symposium on Policy Evaluation and Causal Inference – 2024

UBC Centre for Urban Economics and Real Estate Summer Symposium – 2024

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting – 2021, 2024

International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress – 2021, 2023

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Journal of Public Economics*, *European Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, and *International Journal of Wellbeing*

SKILLS

Statistical software: R, Stata

Spatial analysis: R (sf), ArcGIS

Machine learning: Neural networks, tree-based models; experiment tracking (W&B)

Programming & infrastructure: Python, SQL, Git; cloud deployment and continuous integration

Languages: English (native), Spanish (advanced/C1)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE PRE-PH.D.

Account Manager, MSHC Partners, Berkeley, CA – 2010

- Managed client relationships and creative product development for multiple national accounts.

Program Associate, Sierra Nevada Alliance, South Lake Tahoe, CA – 2008

- Tracked and distilled complex state water policy for a network of 100+ member organizations.