

Blake Shaffer

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Personal

Born: September 27, 1977
Citizenship: Canadian
Languages spoken: English and French

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Calgary, 2014–
Dissertation: Essays on Energy and Environmental Economics
Committee: Dr. Trevor Tombe (Supervisor), Dr. Lucija Muehlenbachs, Dr. Ken McKenzie

M.Phil. Economics, University of Cambridge, 2002–2003
Masters Thesis: Road congestion charging: A preliminary analysis of the London scheme
Supervisor: Dr. Georgina Santos
Graduated *with merit*; achieved Ph.D. continuation level

B.Sc. (Hons) Environmental Sciences, Queen's University, 1995–2000
Honours Thesis: Mine Reclamation in the Canadian Arctic: An Analysis of Policy Alternatives
Graduated with 1st class distinction
Additionally received an equivalent B.A. (minor) in Economics

Exchange year, University of Melbourne, 1997
Received letter of distinction in Philosophy

Employment (Academic)

C.D. Howe Institute
Fellow-in-Residence, 2016–

University of Calgary (Teaching Assistant)
Econ 357 (Intermediate Microeconomics), Dr. Lucia Vojtassek, 2017
Econ 707 (PhD Microeconomics), Dr. J.F. Wen, 2016
Econ 373 (Game Theory), Dr. B. Curtis Eaton, 2014

University of Calgary (Research Assistant)
Dr. Rob Oxoby, Research on incentives in team settings, 2015
Dr. Pamela Campa & Dr. Kunio Tsuyuhara, Editing, 2015
Dr. Michal Moore (Policy School), Research on renewables and the Alberta power market, 2015

Employment (Professional)

Government of Alberta, Department of Energy, Calgary/Edmonton, AB

Electricity Policy Advisor, 2016

Member, Royalty Review Secretariat, 2015–16

Member, Natural Gas Expert Panel (unpaid service), 2015–16

Transalta Corporation, Calgary, AB

Director, Head of Trading, 2012–14

Senior Power Trader, 2010–11

Barclays Capital, New York, NY

Senior Power Trader, 2007–10

Lehman Brothers, New York, NY

Vice-President, Power and Gas Trading, 2006–07

Powerex Corp. (BC Hydro), Vancouver, BC

Manager of Analytics, 2003–06

Term Power Trader, 2001–02

Spot Power Trader and Analyst, 1999–01

Awards

James D. Gaisford Research Prize (\$1000), 2017

Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship (SSHRC National Finalist) (\$45,000), 2015–17

Talisman Graduate Scholarship in Energy and Related Studies (\$20,000), 2015–16

Top Macroeconomics Prize, 1st year PhD, 2015

Economics Society of Calgary Scholarship (\$1800), 2014

Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Graduate Scholarship (\$5000), 2003

Carl Reinhardt Scholarship in Geological Sciences (\$1800), 1997

Morley E. Wilson Scholarship in Geological Sciences (\$1800), 1996

Queen's Applied Science (Engineering) Dean's List, 1996

Queen's Anniversary Entrance Scholarship (\$3600), 1995

Publications

Journal Articles

Preliminary results of the London congestion charging scheme (with Georgina Santos), 2004, *Public Management and Policy* 9(20), 164–181

Policy Papers

Reconciling pipelines with Canada's climate goals (with Trevor Tombe), Dec 8, 2016, *C.D. Howe Institute Intelligence Memo*

What does a capacity market mean for Alberta? Nov 24, 2016, *C.D. Howe Institute Intelligence Memo*

The Challenge of Integrating Renewable Generation in the Alberta Electricity Market (with G. Kent Fellows and Michal C. Moore), Sep 2016, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Summary Paper*, 9(25)

The Political Economy of Free Allocations (with Mark Purdon and David Houle), Apr 2016, *Ecofiscal Commission Position Paper Series on Carbon Pricing Revenue Recycling*

Lifting the Hood on the Alberta Royalty Review, Feb 2016, *University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Briefing Paper*, 9(7)

Popular Media

Paying for pipelines: How consumers can end up footing the bill, Feb 9, 2017, *CBC*

Making sense of energy efficiency programs (with Sara Hastings-Simon and Trevor Tombe) Jan 31, 2016, *Macleans*

Alberta Electricity: There's something happening here, what it is ain't exactly clear, Nov 27, 2016, *Calgary Herald*

Carbon tax: The real debate is about the revenue, Oct 15, 2016, *Globeandmail*

Making sense of a \$15 minimum wage in Alberta (with Trevor Tombe) Jul 1, 2016, *Macleans*

Alberta's climate plan requires serious debate, May 27, 2016, *Globeandmail*

Making sense of a provincial debt downgrade: Why Canadians in all regions should watch mounting provincial debt levels with concern (with Trevor Tombe) Dec 22, 2015, *Macleans*

Proceedings

Invited Workshops

IASS Expert workshop on coal power, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Germany, Nov 2016.

Summer Institute on Field Experiments, University of Chicago, July 2015. Selected as one of 20 global scholars to participate in this inaugural workshop organized by Dr. John List.

Conference Presentations

Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics 2016 Annual Conference, Banff, AB, Oct 2016. Presented paper: Consumer responsiveness to nonlinear electricity tariffs and the role of misperception.

Conference Organization

Integrating renewables into the Alberta electricity market: A roundtable, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Sep 2015. Co-organized a roundtable of 40 stakeholders and experts to discuss policy and operational issues related to integrating renewables into the Alberta electricity market.

Last updated: February 23, 2017