

Nicholas Lawson

Dalhousie University

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Department of Economics
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

- Dalhousie University, Assistant Professor, 2024–present
- Université du Québec à Montréal: Associate Professor (with tenure), 2020–2024
- Université du Québec à Montréal: Assistant Professor, 2016–2020
- Aix-Marseille School of Economics: Postdoctoral Fellow, 2013–2016

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Nova Scotia: Research Associate, 2026–present
- Population Wellbeing Initiative (University of Texas at Austin): Research Fellow, 2022–present
- Research Group on Human Capital (UQAM): Researcher, 2018–present

SHORT-TERM VISITS:

- Dalhousie University: Visiting Professor, January–August 2023
- University of Guelph: Visiting Professor, October–December 2022
- University of Texas at Austin: Visiting Professor, September–October 2022
- Simon Fraser University: Visiting Researcher, October–December 2014

EDUCATION:

- Princeton University: Ph.D. in Economics, 2013
 - Principal Dissertation Advisor: Professor David S. Lee
- Princeton University: M.A. in Economics, 2010
 - General Examinations: Labour Economics & Political Economy
- Queen's University (Canada): M.A. in Economics, 2008
- Queen's University (Canada): B.A. in Economics, 2007

FIELDS OF INTEREST:

Public Finance, Labour Economics, Development Economics, Population Economics, Applied Theory & Policy Evaluation

PUBLISHED & FORTHCOMING PAPERS:

“Discrimination and the Fiscal Benefits of Immigration”, forthcoming at *Canadian Journal of Economics*.

“Redistribution, Rent-Seeking, and the Welfare Impact of a Universal Basic Income in India” (with Dean Spears), 2026, *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 74(3), 971–995.

“Optimal Income Tax Deductions for Mixed Business and Personal Expenditures” (with Jacob Goldin and Sebastian Koehne), 2026, *Journal of Public Economics* 253, 105544.

“Equilibrium Effects of Abortion Restrictions on Cohort Fertility: Why Restricting Abortion Access Can Reduce Human Capital, Social Welfare, and Lifetime Fertility Rates” (with Dean Spears), 2025, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 238, 107216.

“Fiscal Externalities and Underinvestment in Early-Life Human Capital: Optimal Policy Instruments for a Developing Country” (with Dean Spears), 2024, *Economics & Human Biology* 55, 101444.

“You Should Reject This Paper: Dynamic Agency, Sequential Evaluation, and Learning in Academic Publishing”, 2024, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 217, 112–140.

“What Citation Tests Really Tell Us About Bias in Academic Publishing”, 2023, *European Economic Review* 158, 104534.

“Optimal Unemployment Policy”, 2023, *Economic Inquiry* 61(3), 675–692.

“Research Note: Intergenerational Transmission is not Sufficient for Positive Long-Term Population Growth” (with Samuel Arenberg, Kevin Kuruc, Nathan Franz, Sangita Vyas, Melissa LoPalo, Mark Budolfson, Michael Geruso, and Dean Spears), 2022, *Demography* 59(6), 2003–2012.

“Estimating Consumer Preferences for Different Beverages using the BLP Approach” (with Catherine Haeck and Krystel Poirier), 2022, *Economics & Human Biology* 46, 101138.

“What Should We Agree on about the Repugnant Conclusion?” (with 28 co-authors), 2021, *Utilitas* 33(4), 379–383.

“Those Who Can’t Sort, Steal: Caste, Occupational Mobility, and Rent-Seeking in Rural India” (with Dean Spears), 2021, *Journal of Demographic Economics* 87(1), 107–140.

“Taxing the Job Creators: Efficient Taxation with Bargaining in Hierarchical Firms”, 2019, *Labour Economics* 56, 1–25.

“Optimal Population and Exhaustible Resource Constraints” (with Dean Spears), 2018, *Journal of Population Economics* 31(1), 295–335.

“Liquidity Constraints, Fiscal Externalities and Optimal Tuition Subsidies”, 2017, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 9(4), 313–343.

“Fiscal Externalities and Optimal Unemployment Insurance”, 2017, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 9(4), 281–312.

“Defaults, Mandates, and Taxes: Policy Design with Active and Passive Decision-Makers” (with Jacob Goldin), 2016, *American Law and Economics Review* 18(2), 438–462.

“What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Poorer: Adult Wages and Early-Life Mortality in India” (with Dean Spears), 2016, *Economics & Human Biology* 21, 1–16.

“Social Program Substitution and Optimal Policy,” 2015, *Labour Economics* 37, 13–27.

“Is Collective Bargaining Pareto Efficient? A Survey of the Literature,” 2011, *Journal of Labor Research* 32(3), 282–304.

WORKING PAPERS:

“The Minimum Wage in Firms’ Organizations: Productivity Implications”, CEPR Discussion Paper No. 18425 (with Claire Lelarge and Grigorios Spanos; 2nd round revise & resubmit at *Journal of Political Economy*)

“Passing the Buck(s): Welfare-Improving International Emission-Reduction Subsidies”

WORK IN PROGRESS:

“Population Externalities and Optimal Social Policy” (with Dean Spears)

“Modeling Low-Fertility Traps as Feedback Effects: Low Variance in Fertility and other Mechanisms under Multigenerational Optimization” (with Michael Geruso and Dean Spears)

AWARDS AND FUNDING:

- Programme d’aide financière à la recherche et à la création (PAFARC), Volet 2, ESG UQAM, 2019 (\$5000)
- Albert Rees Prize for the Outstanding Princeton Ph.D. Dissertation in Labor Economics, Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University, 2019 (2000 USD)
- Co-researcher for CSN/CSQ/FTQ research project “Effet de percolation du salaire minimum à 15\$”, January–May 2018 (\$17379)
- Research Support for New Academics (Soutien à la recherche pour la relève professorale), FRQSC, Competition of Fall 2016 (\$40994)

- Programme d'aide financière à la recherche et à la création (PAFARC), Volet 1, ESG UQAM, 2016 (\$10000)
- Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton University, 2012–13
- Richard A. Lester Fellowship for Industrial Relations, Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University, 2011–12
- Graduate School Fellowship, Princeton University, 2008–11
- Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2007–08
- Medal in Economics and Chancellor C.A. Dunning Prize, Queen's University, 2007

INVITED SEMINARS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- 2025: Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference 2025 (Montreal)
- 2024: Dalhousie University, Université Laval, CIRANO Applied Microeconomics Day (Montreal), Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference 2024 (Toronto), 23rd Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet (Marseille), 17th Meeting of the Society for Social Choice and Welfare (Paris), MLPortal/CLARI 3rd Workshop of Applied Economics (Halifax), National Tax Association 117th Annual Conference (Detroit)
- 2023: Dalhousie University, Population Association of America 2023 Annual Meeting (New Orleans), Industrial Relations Section Centennial Symposium (Princeton), 36th Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (Belgrade), Canadian Public Economics Group 2023 Annual Meeting (Kingston)
- 2022: Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference 2022 (Ottawa), University of Guelph
- 2021: Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference 2021 (Vancouver/virtual), 2021 North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society (Montreal/virtual), Theoretical Research in Development Economics 2021 Conference (Boston/virtual), 20th Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet (Marseille/hybrid), 2021 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Miri/virtual)
- 2020: Conference on Population, Social Welfare, and Climate Change (Austin), TSE–ESG–UQAM Economics Workshop (Toulouse; cancelled due to COVID-19), Econometric Society 2020 Virtual World Congress
- 2019: Journées CRREP/CDER 2019 (Quebec), Population Association of America 2019 Annual Meeting (Austin, poster presentation), 72nd European Meeting of the Econometric Society (Manchester), CIQSS Applied Micro Day (Montreal)
- 2018: CPEG-PEUK Joint Workshop (Hamilton), Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference 2018 (Montreal), 14th Meeting of the Society for Social Choice and Welfare (Seoul), 2018 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Seoul)
- 2017: Spring Meeting of Young Economists 2017 (Halle an der Saale), 16th Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet (Aix-en-Provence), 6th Annual Lithuanian Conference on Economic Research (Vilnius)

- 2016: McMaster University, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, University of Surrey, Queen Mary University of London, University of Manchester, University of Southampton, Université du Québec à Montréal, Royal Economic Society Annual Conference (Brighton), XVII April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development (Moscow), Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference (Ottawa), CIRANO Applied Micro Workshop, Université de Montréal
- 2015: 2015 ZEW Public Finance Conference (Mannheim), University of Copenhagen, Search and Matching Research Group Annual Conference (Aix-en-Provence, poster presentation)
- 2014: Delhi School of Economics, International Seminar on Food Security in India (University of Allahabad), World Bank Water and Sanitation Program South Asia (Delhi), Royal Economic Society Annual Conference (Manchester), Society of Labor Economists Conference (Arlington), Simon Fraser University, National Tax Association Conference (Santa Fe), University of British Columbia
- 2013: University of Ottawa, Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, University of Mannheim, Aix-Marseille School of Economics, University of Miami, New York University Abu Dhabi, Queen's University, Aix-Marseille School of Economics-Banque de France Labour Market Conference (Paris)
- 2012: EconCon (Princeton)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Referee for *Journal of Public Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *FinanzArchiv*, *Labour Economics*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, *National Tax Journal*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Interventions économiques/Papers in Political Economy*, *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, *Journal of Risk and Financial Management*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *Computational Management Science*, *Sustainability*, *Economic Policy*, *Journal of Government and Economics*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Economies*, *Merits*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Economics and Human Biology*, *Social Sciences*, *Econometrica*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Economic Journal*, *Social Choice and Welfare*, *Environment and Development Economics*

Seminar Coordinator, Department of Economics, Dalhousie, 2025–2026

Member of Personnel Committee, Department of Economics, Dalhousie, 2025–2026

Member of Job Market Candidate Evaluation Committee, Département des sciences économiques, UQAM, 2020–2022

Co-author of government report (with Catherine Haeck and Krystel Poirier): “Rapport sur la taxation des boissons sucrées”, produced for the Institut national de santé publique du Québec and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, 2020

Member of BA Economics Programme Committee, UQAM, 2019–2020, 2024

Co-organizer of External Seminar, Département des sciences économiques, UQAM, 2019–2021

Co-author of research report (with Marie Connolly, Catherine Haeck, and Martin Leblond-Létourneau): “Effet de percolation du salaire minimum à 15 \$”, presented to Services aux collectivités, protocole UQAM-CSN-CSQ-FTQ, June 2018

Chair of Policy Research Committee on Guaranteed Minimum Income, Quebec NDP, March–July 2018

Co-organizer of Internal Seminar, Département des sciences économiques, UQAM, 2016–2019

Organizer of Sushi Lunch Seminar at Aix-Marseille School of Economics, 2013–2016

Co-organizer of Search and Matching Research Group Annual Conference in Aix-en-Provence, May 20–22, 2015

Co-organizer of “Advances in Search and Matching” workshop in Aix-en-Provence, December 5, 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Professor (Dalhousie) for:

- Econometrics I (ECON 3338), Fall 2024 & Winter 2025–2026
- Public Economics (ECON 3500), Winter 2025 & Fall 2025
- Advanced Econometrics (ECON 6534), Winter 2026

Professor (UQAM) for:

- Économie du marché du travail (Labour Market Economics; ECO 2431), Fall 2017-2018
- Économie du travail (Labour Economics; ECO 3812), Winter 2024
- Introduction à l'économétrie (Introduction to Econometrics; ECO 4272), Winter 2020
- Économétrie II (Econometrics II; ECO 4273), Fall 2020-2021 & Winter 2021-2022
- Développement économique (Economic Development; ECO 4300), Winter 2021-2022 (50%) & Fall 2021 (50%)
- Économie du travail (Labour Economics; ECO 8000), Fall 2016-2021
- Microéconométrie (Microeconometrics; ECO 9035), Winter 2017-2022 & 2024

Supervisor of Master's Essay (UQAM) for:

- Michelle Paquin (co-supervisor), 2018

- Krystel Poirier (co-supervisor), 2020
- Moïse Drabo (co-supervisor), 2021
- Jean-Sébastien Gagnon (co-supervisor), 2021
- Christ Kevin Bazié, 2022
- Tchégnagnon Armand Djossou (co-supervisor), 2022
- Imed Benaini, 2024
- Lahna Belabid, 2024
- Kentz Berly Jean (co-supervisor), 2025
- Mohamed Baali Cherif, 2025

Teaching Assistant for:

- Econometric Applications (ECO 313), Spring 2011, Princeton
- Advanced Principles of Economics (ECO 200), Fall 2010, Princeton
- Principles of Economics (ECON 110, 2nd Semester), Winter 2008, Queen's
- Applied Econometrics (ECON 452), Fall 2007, Queen's

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Research Assistant for:

- Professor Orley Ashenfelter, Summer 2009, Princeton
- Professor Charles Beach, Summer 2007, Queen's

LANGUAGES:

English (native) and French (fluent: C1 written & oral)

Last updated: June 11, 2026