

# Max B. Norton

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*Curriculum vitae* – updated October 19, 2023

Personal website: [maxnorton.com](http://maxnorton.com)

Ph.D. candidate

Vancouver School of Economics  
University of British Columbia

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## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Public Economics, Urban Economics, Economics of Education

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics – Vancouver School of Economics (UBC) Expected 2024  
*Committee:* Kevin Milligan and Marit Rehavi, co-supervisors, and Victor Couture.

M.A. Economics – California State University, Sacramento 2015 - 2017

B.A. Film Studies – Columbia College (Columbia University) 2002 - 2006

## RESEARCH ACTIVITY

### Work in progress

“School bonds, sorting, and the distribution of school capital: Evidence from California” (job market paper).

“Social insurance non-compliance in China: A synthesis and new results” (with Wei Cui and Jeffrey Hicks).

### Publications

“[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.

“[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.

### Working papers

“[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 29092, August 2021.

### Contributions to the World Happiness Report

(From 2020 through 2023, I contributed to Chapter 2 of the annual *World Happiness Report*, co-authoring with John F. Helliwell, Haifang Huang, and Shun Wang.)

“[World happiness, trust, and social connections in times of crisis](#)” (also with Len Goff). 2023.

“[Happiness, benevolence, and trust during COVID-19 and beyond.](#)” 2022.

“[Happiness, trust, and deaths under COVID-19.](#)” 2021.

“[Social environments for world happiness.](#)” 2020.

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.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

John F. Helliwell, Vancouver School of Economics, UBC	Sept 2017 - present
Wei Cui, Allard School of Law, UBC	Jan 2020 - Dec 2020
Munir Squires, Vancouver School of Economics, UBC	Oct 2019 - Sept 2020
Jonathan Kaplan, CSU Sacramento	Oct 2015 – May 2017

**TEACHING TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

Training at the UBC Centre for the Integration of Teaching, Research and Learning

Foundations of Pedagogy, Sept - Nov 2022

Graduate Online Instructional Skills Workshop, Jan - Feb 2021

Teaching assistantships

Economics of Public Expenditures (4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate), 2021

Introduction to International Trade (3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate), 2019

Principles of Microeconomics (1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate), 2019

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Fellowship in Happiness Economics, UBC	2018 - 2023
Four-Year Doctoral Fellowship, UBC	2017 - 2021
Dean’s Award given to the best graduate student in the College of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies, CSU Sacramento	2017
Robert and Chi-Ming Dana Curry Scholarship in Economics, CSU Sacramento	2016

**CONFERENCES AND INVITED MEETINGS**

International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress 2021, 2023

NBER Business Taxation in a Federal System Meeting, 2020\*, 2021\*, 2022\*

Urban Economics Association 2022 Summer School\*

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, 2021

NBER Graduate Student Workshop on Business Income Taxation, 2020\*

\*Non-presenting invitee

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Referee for *Journal of Public Economics*, *European Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, *International Journal of High School Research*, *International Journal of Wellbeing*, *International Review of Economics – Journal of Civil Economy*

Editorial advisor, *Global Happiness Policy Report 2022*

Graduate Studies Committee Representative, Vancouver School of Economics, 2019-2020

**PERSONAL**

*Citizenship*: United States

*Languages*: English (native), Spanish (advanced)