

Helen Simpson

Address Department of Economics, University of Bristol, 12 Priory Road, Bristol, BS8 1TU
Telephone +44 (0)117 3317935
E-mail helen.simpson@bristol.ac.uk

Education

2005–07 DPhil. Economics, University of Oxford
1995–97 MPhil. Economics, University of Oxford
1992–95 BSc. Economics, First Class Honours, University of Bristol

Employment

Aug 2015– Professor of Economics, University of Bristol
Research Director, Economics
2009–15 Reader in Economics, University of Bristol
(Maternity leave 9 months 2009; 0.8 FTE 2010–2013)
2007–09 Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO),
University of Bristol
1998–07 Programme Director, Productivity and Innovation Research 2003–07;
Programme Co-ordinator; Senior Research Economist; Research Economist, The
Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), London
1997–98 Assistant Economist, Department of Trade and Industry, London
1997 Economist, Office of Health Economics, London

Current affiliations

Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research 2011–
Programme Director, Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation 2009–

Current editorial and academic activities

Associate Editor, *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 2018–
External Peer Review Group Member, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2018–
Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Economic Geography* 2017–
ESRC Grants Assessment Panel Member 2016–
Associate Editor, *Fiscal Studies* 2013–

Previous editorial and academic activities

RES Conference Programme Committee, 2018
Academic Panel Member, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth 2013–2017
External Reviewer, Teaching and Learning Review of Economics, University of Warwick, 2017
Associate Editor, *Journal of the European Economic Association* 2011–2016
ESRC Peer Review College, Senior College Member, 2010–2016
External Examiner, University of Oxford. Degrees in: Economics and Management; Engineering,
Economics and Management; Materials, Economics and Management 2012–15
Member and Senior Management Team, CMPO 2007–15
Editor CMPO Bulletin, *Research in Public Policy*, 2010–14
Academic Advisor, Business Rates Wales Review 2011–12
Research Fellow, The Institute for Fiscal Studies 2007–11
Academic Expert, DG Research, European Commission 2008
ESRC Seminars Competition Commissioning Panel 2008
Academic Associate, HM Treasury productivity team 2005–08

ESRC First Grants Commissioning Panel 2006–07

Editor, *Fiscal Studies* 2003–05

Editor, The IFS Green Budget 2001–03

Publications

Journal articles

Political donations and political risk in the UK: evidence from a closely-fought election
(with Daniella Acker and Ayan Orujov) *Journal of Banking and Finance*, forthcoming.

Agglomeration economies, taxable rents, and government capture: evidence from a place-based policy
(with Marius Brühlhart) *Journal of Economic Geography*, (2018), 18(2), 319-353.

Productivity, investment and profits during the Great Recession: evidence from UK firms and workers
(with Claire Crawford and Wenchao Jin) *Fiscal Studies*, (2013), 34(2), 153-177.

Investment abroad and labour adjustment at home: evidence from UK multinational firms
Canadian Journal of Economics, (2012), 45(2), 698-731.

How do firms' outward FDI strategies relate to their activity at home? Empirical evidence for the UK
The World Economy, (2012), 35(3), 243-272.

Providing employers with incentives to train low-skilled workers: evidence from the UK Employer
Training Pilots
(with Laura Abramovsky, Erich Battistin, Emla Fitzsimons and Alissa Goodman), *Journal of Labor
Economics*, (2011), 29(1), 153-193.

Geographic proximity and firm-university innovation linkages: evidence from Great Britain
(with Laura Abramovsky) *Journal of Economic Geography*, (2011), 11(6), 949-977.

Product market competition, innovation and productivity growth
(with Rachel Griffith and Rupert Harrison), *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, (2010), 112(2), 389-
415.

Technological catch-up and geographic proximity
(with Rachel Griffith and Stephen Redding), *Journal of Regional Science*, (2009), 49(4), 689-720.

Productivity in public services
Journal of Economic Surveys, (2009), 23(2), 250-276.

Understanding co-operative R&D activity: evidence from four European countries
(with Laura Abramovsky, Elisabeth Kremp, Alberto López and Tobias Schmidt), *Economics of
Innovation and New Technology*, (2009), 18(3), 243-265.

Relative wage variation and industry location in the United Kingdom
(with Andrew B. Bernard, Stephen Redding and Peter K. Schott), *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and
Statistics*, (2008), 70(4), 431-459.

University research and the location of business R&D
(with Laura Abramovsky and Rupert Harrison), *Economic Journal*, (2007), 117(519), C114-C141.

Firm location decisions, regional grants and agglomeration externalities
(with Michael P. Devereux and Rachel Griffith), *Journal of Public Economics*, (2007), 91(3-4), 413-435.

The geographical distribution of production activity in the UK
(with Michael P. Devereux and Rachel Griffith), *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, (2004), 34(5),
533-564.

Foreign ownership and productivity: new evidence from the service sector and the R&D lab (with Rachel Griffith and Stephen Redding), *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, (2004), 20(3), 440-456.

Work in progress

Commuting fast and slow: the effects of high speed rail (with Stephan Heblich)

House price reactions to high speed rail: the UK HS2 route (with Sara Al Hinai and Stephan Heblich)

The corporate value of the old school tie: political and educational networks in the UK (with Daniella Acker and Ayan Orujov)

The ties that bind: social networks and boardroom appointments

Book chapters

Place-based policies

(with David Neumark), chapter 18 in G. Duranton, J. V. Henderson and W. C. Strange (eds.) *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics, Vol. 5B*, (2015), Amsterdam: North Holland.

Taxing corporate income

(with Alan J. Auerbach and Michael P. Devereux), chapter 9 in J. Mirrlees et al. (eds.) *Dimensions of Tax Design. The Mirrlees Review*, (2010), Oxford University Press.

Employer-provided vocational training: what are the returns to NVQ level 2 and the potential effects of 'Train to Gain'?

(with Lorraine Dearden, Alissa Goodman and Barbara Sianesi), chapter 6 in D. Kehoe (ed.), *Practice makes perfect: the importance of practical learning*, (2007), The Social Market Foundation.

Characteristics of foreign-owned firms in British manufacturing

(with Rachel Griffith), chapter 4 in D. Card, R. Blundell and R. Freeman (eds.), *Seeking a premier economy: the economic effects of British economic reforms 1980-2000*, (2004), The University of Chicago Press.

Other publications and reports

Firm clusters and government: who taxes whom?

(with Marius Brühlhart) Vox, June 2015.

Do place-based policies matter?

(with David Neumark) Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Economic Letter, March 2015.

Reforms in higher education = higher quality provision and better-informed choice?

(with Adam Sheridan), CMPO Bulletin, Research in Public Policy, Winter 2014.

Firms' productivity, investment and training: what happened during the recession and how was it affected by the National Minimum Wage?

(with Claire Crawford and Wenchao Jin), Report to the Low Pay Commission, April 2013.

Social networks and corporate board appointments

CMPO Bulletin, Research in Public Policy, Summer 2012.

Business rates Wales review: incentivising growth

(Advisory role), Report to Welsh Assembly Government, May 2012.

Who you know

Britain in 2012, ESRC, 2011.

Offshoring low-skill jobs? The effects of outward investment into low-wage economies
CMPO Bulletin, Research in Public Policy, Summer 2009.

Public services performance
(with Luke Sibieta), Oxonomics, December 2008.

Comparing practices in R&D tax credits evaluation
(with Jacques Mairesse, Pierre Mohnen and Jacek Warda), Expert Group Report to DG Research, European Commission, October 2008.

Knowledge transfer: the links between university research and business innovation
CMPO Bulletin, Research in Public Policy, Autumn 2007.

An analysis of industrial clustering in Great Britain
Report to DTI, April 2007.

Is the UK's science base performing?
(with Pablo D'Este Cukierman, Rachel Griffith, Julian Birkinshaw, Andy Neely, Tina C Ambos, Kristiina Mäkelä, Laura Abramovsky and Rupert Harrison), AIM Executive Briefing, 2007.

Analysing business-university innovation linkages
(with Laura Abramovsky and Rupert Harrison), Report to DTI, August 2006.

Measuring productivity in public services
CMPO Bulletin, Research in Public Policy, Summer 2006.

Productivity policy
(with Laura Abramovsky, Stephen Bond and Rupert Harrison), *IFS election briefing note 6*, 2005.

The impact of the Employer Training Pilots on the take-up of training among employers and employees
(with Laura Abramovsky, Erich Battistin, Emla Fitzsimons and Alissa Goodman), Report to DfES, December 2005.

The link between product market reform, innovation and EU macroeconomic performance
(with Rachel Griffith and Rupert Harrison), Report to European Commission, November 2005.
European Commission Economic Papers, no.243.

Increasing innovative activity in the UK? Where now for government support for innovation and technology transfer?
(with Laura Abramovsky and Rupert Harrison), *IFS briefing note 53*, November 2004.

All is not equal
(with Andrew Bernard, Stephen Redding and Peter Schott), in CentrePiece, Summer 2003.

Feasibility study for an analysis of the effects of business R&D in Scotland
(with Rachel Griffith and Rupert Harrison), Report to Scottish Executive, June 2003.

The IFS Green Budget: January 2003
(edited with Robert Chote and Carl Emmerson), Commentary no.92, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, 2003.

Budget 2002: business taxation measures
(with Laura Blow, Alexander Klemm, Mike Hawkins and Julian McCrae), *IFS briefing note 24*, 2002.

A response to consultative note 'Designs for Innovation'
(with Rachel Griffith and Mike Hawkins), *IFS briefing note 23*, 2002.

The IFS Green Budget: January 2002
(edited with Andrew Dilnot and Carl Emmerson). Commentary no.87, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, 2002.

Labour and business taxes
(with Stephen Bond and Alexander Klemm), *IFS election briefing note 6*, 2001.

The IFS Green Budget: January 2001
(edited with Andrew Dilnot and Carl Emmerson), Commentary no.83, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, 2001.

Productivity and the role of government
(with Rachel Griffith), Commentary no.73, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, 1998.

Biotechnology and the economics of discovery in the pharmaceutical industry
London: Office of Health Economics, 1998.

Teaching

2015/16– Unit Director, Industrial and Managerial Economics, MSc, University of Bristol
2011/12– 2016/17 Applied Microeconomics, 2nd year undergraduate, University of Bristol
2012/13–2014/15 Unit Director, Industrial Economics, MSc, University of Bristol
2007/08–2011/12 Applied Industrial Economics, 3rd year undergraduate, University of Bristol

PhD supervision: Sara Al Hinai (2017–); Conrad Copeland (2017–); Ayan Orujov (2011–2015); Jinwook Son (withdrew)

PhD thesis examination

Birmingham (1), Bristol (4), Oxford (2)

Seminars (2000-2018)

Bath (2); Birmingham; Bristol/CMPO (6); IEB Universitat de Barcelona; Imperial College Business School (2); IFS (3); K U Leuven; LSE Centre for Economic Performance (2); LSE Spatial Economics Research Centre; LSE Urban and Regional Economics Seminar (2); Loughborough; Middlesex; Nottingham University Business School; Nottingham University Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre (2); Oxford (2); Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation; Sussex; UWE.

Policy presentations and public engagement (2000-2018)

Association of University Administrators conference; Bristol Alumni; Bristol Engine Shed Briefing; Bristol Festival of Economics; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Northern Ireland; Department of Trade and Industry (6); European Commission; Festival of Economics; HM Revenue and Customs; HM Treasury (5); Higher Education Funding Council for England; National Assembly for Wales; OECD; Office for National Statistics (2); Sector Skills Development Agency Research conference; Talk Big Data, Essex; Universities and Local Growth conference; Welsh Assembly Government Business Rates Review Group.

Conference and workshop presentations (2000-2018)

IEB/UEA Summer School in Urban Economics, Barcelona (2018 - scheduled)
Regional Science and Urban Economics Workshop, Paris School of Economics (2018)
Using Secondary Data in Research, Bristol (2018)
Conference on Urban and Regional Economics (CURE), CEPR (Discussant), Paris (2017)
Keynote lecture on place-based policies, Uddevalla Symposium, Trollhätten Sweden, (2017)
Royal Economic Society conference Special Session, Bristol (2017)
European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Vienna (2016)

Royal Economic Society conference, Sussex (2016)
LAGV Public Economics conference, Aix-en-Provence (2015)
Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics conference, Toronto (2014)
Royal Economic Society conference, Royal Holloway (2013)
Public Economics UK, Warwick (2012)
European Trade Study Group conference, Leuven (2012)
Impact of Higher Education Institutions conference, Edinburgh (2010)
Knowledge for Growth conference, Toulouse (2008)
Impact of Higher Education Institutions conference, Cardiff (2008)
European Tax Policy Forum/Institute for Fiscal Studies conference, London (2008)
Royal Economic Society conference, Warwick (2008)
European Tax Policy Forum workshop, Madrid (2007)
Globalisation and Public Policy conference, Vienna (2007)
Network of Industrial Economists conference, Bristol (2007)
Advanced Institute of Management/Regional Studies Association conference, Birmingham (2007)
European Trade Study Group conference, Vienna (2006)
Public Service Productivity conference, London (2006)
Advanced Institute of Management workshop, London (2006)
Econometric Society World Congress, London (2005)
CEPR conference, Glasgow (2005)
European Trade Study Group conference, Dublin (2005)
CEPR conference, Paris (2004)
Advanced Institute of Management workshop, London (2004)
Innovation and Employment in European Firms workshop, Madrid (2004)
Royal Economic Society conference Special Session, Warwick (2003)
Comparative Analysis of Enterprise Data conference, London (2003)
European Economic Association conference, Lausanne (2001)
Royal Economic Society conference, Durham (2001)
Innovation and Employment in European Firms workshop, Madrid (2001)
Network of Industrial Economists conference, Birmingham (2001)
Econometric Society World Congress, Seattle (2000)

Research grants

What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth

Co-applicant. ESRC/BIS/DCLG, 2013-2016, £28,500 (Bristol component of Centre grant via LSE).

The impact of the National Minimum Wage on firm investment and labour hoarding during the recent recession

Co-applicant. Low Pay Commission. March-November 2012, £25,000.

Philip Leverhulme Prize, 2011, £70,000.

Centre for Market and Public Organisation

Co-applicant. ESRC Centre. October 2009-September 2014, £3.8m.

Business, taxation and welfare

ESRC, October 2008-September 2012, £74,000 (Bristol component of Large Grant via Oxford).

Investigating business-university innovation linkages

Lead applicant. ESRC, May 2007-April 2008, £47,000. Graded good.

The effects of outward FDI on the home economy

Lead researcher. European Tax Policy Forum, 2007-2008, £10,000.

Analysis of patterns of business location decisions in the UK

Lead applicant. Department of Trade and Industry, October 2006-January 2007, £24,000.

Analysing business-university innovation linkages

Co-applicant. Department of Trade and Industry, July-August 2006, £9,000.

Product market competition, technology and productivity

Co-applicant. ESF/ESRC, 2005-2009, £140,000.

Trade integration and trade policy

Lead applicant. ESRC, June 2005-May 2007, £44,000. Graded good.

The link between product market reforms, innovation and EU macro-economic performance

Co-applicant. European Commission, November 2004–November 2005, €150,000.

Connecting industry, academia and government: innovation and technology transfer policy formation in the UK

Lead applicant. Gatsby Charitable Foundation, December 2003–November 2005, £200,000.

The contribution of Research and Technology Organisations to innovation and knowledge transfer, and the influence of fiscal policy

Co-applicant. ESRC, August 2003-December 2003, £75,000.

Evaluation of the Employer Training Pilots

Co-applicant. Department for Education and Skills, October 2002–March 2005, £160,000 (IFS component).

Feasibility study for an analysis of the effects of business R&D in Scotland

Lead applicant. Scottish Executive, April 2003–June 2003, £8,000.

Regional wage inequality in the UK: evidence and explanations

Lead applicant. ESRC, October 2002-September 2003, £40,000. Graded outstanding.

Designing an evaluation of pilots for paid time off for training

Co-applicant. Department for Education and Skills, April 2002-August 2002, £40,000.

Foreign multinationals and UK labour markets

Co-applicant. Gatsby Charitable Foundation, January 2000-December 2001, £150,000.

Analysis of Regional Selective Assistance to the Northern Ireland manufacturing sector in a UK context 1980-1996.

Co-applicant. Northern Ireland Economic Council, March 2000–September 2000, £10,000.

Referee activity

Annals of Regional Science, Bulletin of Economic Research, Canadian Journal of Economics, CESifo Economic Studies, Economica, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economics of Education Review, Economics of Innovation and New Technology, Economics Letters, Energy Economics, European Economic Review, Fiscal Studies, Industrial Relations, Industrial and Corporate Change, International Economics, International Journal of Industrial Organization, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Economic Surveys, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of International Economics, Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Productivity Analysis, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Urban Economics, Labour Economics, National Tax Journal, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Oxford Economic Papers, Policy and Politics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Regional Studies, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Industrial Organisation, Review of World Economics,

Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Southern Economic Journal, The World Economy.

Other peer review activity

Austrian National Bank, UK Department of Trade and Industry, UK Department for Transport, ESRC, ESRC AIM Innovation Initiative, ESRC China South Africa Pathfinder Initiative, German Research Foundation, Leibniz Association, National Science Foundation, New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development, Research Foundation Flanders Belgium, UK Trade and Investment, Welsh Assembly Government.