

Simon George Brook Cowan

Date of Birth: 1 May 1964

Nationality: British

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Current Post

Wigmore Clarendon Fellow and Tutor in Economics at Worcester College, Oxford, and University Lecturer (CUF) in Economics since 1989.

Previous Post

Management Consultant with Deloitte Haskins + Sells, London (1988-89).

Education

- 1983-86 Merton College, Oxford
BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (First Class).
Winner of University Prize (George Webb Medley) for best performance in economics finals
- 1986-88 Nuffield College, Oxford
MPhil in Economics
Winner of George Webb Medley prizes for best exam performance and best thesis.
- 1995 D.Phil in Economics. "Topics in Price-Cap Regulation"
Supervisor: Professor J. Vickers
Examiners: Professor P. Klemperer (Oxford) and Professor M. Waterson (Warwick)

Research interests

Industrial organization: regulation of utilities, price regulation and Ramsey pricing, price discrimination, competition policy. Environmental policy.

Other information

Vice Provost, Worcester College, Oxford. October 2006-September 2010

Course Director for Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and Chair of the PPE Committee 2005-2007

Deputy Head of Department, Department of Economics 2001-2003

Managing Editor (1996-2005), Associate Editor (2005-2011) of *Oxford Economic Papers*.

Editorial Board, *Fiscal Studies*, 2000-2010.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Regulatory Economics*, 2005-

Editorial Board, *Oxford Review of Economic Studies*, 2011-

Tutor (1994-96, 1999-2000) and Senior Tutor (1997-98) for the Oxford University Business Economics Programme.

Member of the Management Committee of OSI/Chevening Scholarship Scheme, Oxford.

Consultancy work for Coopers & Lybrand, Oxford Economic Research Associates, the World Bank, Isis Innovation.

Tutor for Admissions, Worcester College, Oxford (2001-02; 2004-05).

Publications

Book

Regulatory Reform: Economic Analysis and British Experience, with Mark Armstrong and John Vickers, Cambridge, MA, MIT Press, 1994.

Articles in refereed journals

“Third-Degree Price Discrimination and Consumer Surplus”, forthcoming in the *Journal of Industrial Economics*.

“[Monopoly Price Discrimination and Demand Curvature](#)”, with Iñaki Aguirre and John Vickers, *American Economic Review*, 100(4), 1601-1615, 2010.

“[The welfare economics of optional water metering](#)”, *Economic Journal*, 120 (545), 800-815, 2010.

“[Competition can harm consumers](#)”, with Xiangkang Yin, *Australian Economic Papers*, 47, 264-271, 2008.

[“The welfare effects of third-degree price discrimination with non-linear demand functions”](#), *RAND Journal of Economics*, 32(2), 419-428, 2007.

[“Network Regulation”](#), *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 22: 248-259, 2006.

[“Competition in Regulated Industries: Some Reflections”](#), *Agenda*, 12(4), 351-362, 2005.

[“Utility regulation and risk allocation: The roles of marginal cost pricing and futures markets”](#), *Journal of Regulatory Economics*, 26(1), 23-40, 2004.

[“Optimal risk allocation for regulated monopolies and consumers”](#), *Journal of Public Economics*, 88:1-2, 285-303, January 2004.

“Price Cap Regulation”, *Swedish Review of Economic Policy*, 9(2), pp. 167-188, Fall 2002. <http://www.ekonomiskaradet.se/>.

[“Trade, Technology and Growth: an introduction”](#), with P. Sinclair, *Oxford Economic Papers*, 51, pp. 1-3, 1999.

[“Water Pollution and Abstraction and Economic Instruments”](#), *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 14(4), pp. 40-49, Winter 1998.

[“Oxford Economic Papers: 50 and 60 years – a double anniversary”](#), with M. Slater, *Oxford Economic Papers*, 50, pp. 531-533, 1998.

[“Welfare Consequences of Tight Price-Cap Regulation”](#), *Bulletin of Economic Research*, 50(2), pp. 105-116, 1998.

[“Price-Cap Regulation and Inefficiency in Relative Pricing”](#), *Journal of Regulatory Economics*, 12(1), pp. 53-70, 1997.

[“Competition in the Water Industry”](#), *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 13(1), pp. 83-92, 1997.

[“Tight Average Revenue Regulation Can Be Worse than No Regulation”](#), *Journal of Industrial Economics*, 45, pp. 75-88, 1997.

[“Nonlinear Pricing and Price Cap Regulation”](#), with Mark Armstrong and John Vickers, *Journal of Public Economics*, 58, 1, pp. 33-55, 1995.

[“Regulation of Several Market Failures: The Water Industry in England and Wales”](#), *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Vol 9, No 4, pp. 14-23, 1993.

“Trade and Competition Policies for Oligopolies”, *Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv*, Vol 125, pp. 464-483, 1989.

Chapters in books and articles in non-refereed journals

“Quantitative Techniques for Competition Policy Analysis”, *The Utilities Journal*, pp. 42-43, Volume 6, May 2003.

“[Developments in Regulatory Principles: The UK Experience](#)”, Chapter 2 in Henry, C., M. Matheu and A. Jeunemaître, eds., *Regulation of Network Utilities: The European Experience*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.39-53, 2001.

“Water Pollution, Water Abstraction and Economic Instruments”, Chapter 9 in D. Helm and T. Jenkinson, eds. *Environmental Policy: Objectives, Instruments and Implementation*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 203-215, 2000.

“Reforming Urban Water Systems in Developing Countries”, jointly with R. Noll and M. Shirley, in A.O. Krueger, ed., *Economic Policy Reform: The Second Stage*, University of Chicago Press, pp. 243-291, 2000.

“The Water Industry”, in D. Helm and T. Jenkinson, eds., *Competition in Regulated Industries*, Oxford, OUP, pp. 160-174, 1998.

“Market and Regulatory Failure in the Water Sector” in U. Collier, ed., *Deregulation in the European Union: Environmental Perspectives*, London, Routledge, pp. 131-144, 1998.

“Privatization and Regulation of the Water Industry in England and Wales”, in M. Bishop, J. Kay and C. Mayer, eds. *Privatization and Economic Performance*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 112-136, 1994.

“Social Obligations and the Utilities”, *Utility Finance*, pp. 13-14, June 1994.

Work in progress

“[Third-Degree Price Discrimination and Consumer Surplus](#)” Department of Economics Discussion Paper 462, November 2009 – latest version [here](#)

The following working papers, combined with Iñaki Aguirre’s paper “[Joan Robinson was Almost Right: Output under Third-Degree Price Discrimination](#)”, are the papers that formed the basis of Aguirre, Cowan and Vickers, AER, 2010:

“[When does third-degree price discrimination reduce social welfare, and when does it raise it?](#)” Discussion Paper 410, Department of Economics, University of Oxford.

“[Output and Welfare Effects in the Classic Monopoly Price Discrimination Problem](#)” (with John Vickers). Discussion Paper 335, Department of Economics, University of Oxford.

Invited lectures

1. Keynote address, Australian Centre of Regulatory Economics Regulatory Forum, The Australian National University, Canberra, October 2005.
2. “Alternative approaches to regulation: an economic analysis of light-handed regulation” Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Regulatory Conference, 26 July 2007

Referee for:

American Economic Review, Bulletin of Economic Research, Economic Journal, Economic Modelling, Economics of Transition, Energy Journal, European Economic Review, Fiscal Studies, Information Economics and Policy, International Journal of the Economics of Business, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Journal of Economics, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Regulatory Economics, Manchester School, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Oxford Economic Papers, Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Rand Journal of Economics, Resource and Energy Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Southern Economic Journal.

External examining: University College London, MSc in Environmental and Resource Economics, 2005-2009; London Business School Masters in Management programme.