

## Vanessa S. Williamson

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EMPLOYMENT	Brookings Institution Senior Fellow, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. April 2019 to present. Senior Fellow, Governance Studies. January 2019 to present. Fellow, Governance Studies. July 2015 to December 2018.
EDUCATION	Harvard University Ph.D. in Social Policy. May 2015.  New York University M.A. Institute of French Studies, high honors. 2004. B.A. in French, magna cum laude. 2003.
BOOKS	<i>The Price of Democracy: The Revolutionary Power of Taxation in American History</i> . Basic Books, forthcoming September 2025. <i>Read My Lips</i> . Princeton University Press, 2017. Vanessa Williamson. <i>The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism</i> . Oxford University Press, 2012. Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson.
SELECTED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS	<a href="#">Taxation, Representation, and Climate Migration</a> . <i>Brookings</i> . Vanessa Williamson and Ellis Chen. January 21, 2024. <a href="#">Democracy is good for the economy. Can business defend it?</a> <i>Brookings</i> . April 29, 2024. <a href="#">Preparing for domestic climate dislocations: What can we learn from the Great Migration?</a> <i>Brookings</i> . March 19, 2024. <a href="#">Understanding democratic decline in the United States</a> . <i>Brookings</i> . October 17, 2023. <a href="#">The Common Sense of a Wealth Tax: Thomas Paine &amp; Taxation as Freedom from Aristocracy</a> . 2022. <i>Florida Tax Review</i> . Jeremy Bearer-Friend and Vanessa Williamson. <a href="#">Taxation and the Origins of the Constitution</a> . Tax Policy Center. July, 2022. <a href="#">The Whiskey Rebellion and the Fight for Equal Taxation in Early America</a> . Tax Policy Center. July, 2022. <a href="#">Voter registration at tax time: Evidence of efficacy, approaches to implementation</a> . <i>Brookings</i> . Vanessa Williamson and Jackson Gode. September 28, 2021. <a href="#">‘We all want what’s best for our kids’: Discussions of public school options in an online forum</a> . <i>Brookings</i> . Vanessa Williamson, Jackson Gode and Hao Sun. March 29, 2021. <a href="#">Closing the racial wealth gap requires heavy, progressive taxation of wealth</a> . <i>Brookings</i> . December 9, 2020. <a href="#">The long shadow of white supremacist fiscal policy</a> . Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. November 4, 2020. <a href="#">Tax Time Voter Registration</a> . <i>Tax Notes Federal</i> . Jeremy Bearer-Friend and Vanessa Williamson. August 10, 2020. pp. 931-935.

SELECTED  
POPULAR  
PUBLICATIONS

- [How to boost voter registration at tax time.](#) Brookings. October 15, 2019.
- [The Filer-Voter Experiment: How effective is voter registration at tax time?](#) Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. April 2, 2019.
- [The ‘Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’ and the 2018 midterms: Examining the potential electoral impact.](#) Brookings. August 27, 2018.
- [Who are ‘The Taxpayers’?](#) 2018. *The Forum* 16(3): 399-418.
- [From the Bargaining Table to the Ballot Box: Political Effects of Right to Work Laws.](#) 2018. James Feigenbaum, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Vanessa Williamson. January. NBER Working Paper 24259.
- [Public Ignorance or Elitist Jargon? Americans’ Overestimates of Government Waste and Foreign Aid.](#) 2018. *American Politics Research* 47(1): 152-173.
- [Black Lives Matter: Evidence that Police-Caused Deaths Predict Protest Activity.](#) 2018. *Perspectives on Politics* 16(2): 400-415, with Kris-Stella Trump, and Katherine Levine Einstein.
- [What Makes Taxes Seem Fair?](#) Tax Policy Center. March 29, 2017.
- [The impact of open government: Assessing the evidence.](#) Vanessa Williamson and Norm Eisen. Brookings. December 7, 2016.
- [The Polarizing Effect of the Stimulus: Partisanship and Voter Responsiveness to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.](#) 2016. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*: 46(2): 264-283, Katherine Einstein, Kris-Stella Trump, and Vanessa Williamson.
- [On the Ethics of Crowdsourced Research.](#) 2016. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 49(1): 77-81.
- [The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism.](#) 2011. *Perspectives on Politics* 9(1): pp. 25-44. Vanessa Williamson, Theda Skocpol and John Coggin.
- [Radical Taxation.](#) *Dissent*. Summer 2022.
- [It’s Time for Democrats to Stop “Clapping for Tinkerbell.”](#) Vanessa Williamson and Dana Fisher. *The Nation*. July 4, 2022.
- [The I.R.S. Can Register Voters as Well as the D.M.V., and Maybe Better.](#) *New York Times*. September 29, 2021. Jeremy Bearer-Friend and Vanessa Williamson.
- [Incorporating Voter Registration with VITA Services.](#) *Procedurally Taxing*. May 17, 2021. Vanessa Williamson and Jackson Gode.
- [White parents in D.C. talk a lot about racial justice. So why do they focus on majority-White schools?](#) March 31, 2021. *Washington Post*. Vanessa Williamson and Jackson Gode.
- [The Austerity Politics of White Supremacy.](#) *Dissent*. Winter 2021.
- [Tonight, Biden could use Trump’s returns to shift the debate on taxes.](#) *Washington Post*. September 29, 2020.
- [The Philanthropy Con.](#) *Dissent*. Winter 2019.
- [Public Futility.](#) *Democracy Journal*. Winter 2019.
- [‘Tax-the-rich’ policies are all the rage in the U.S.](#) *The Hill*. February 17, 2019.
- [Right-to-Work Laws Have Devastated Unions – and Democrats.](#) James Feigenbaum, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Vanesa Williamson. *New York Times*. March 8, 2018.

[How tax cuts for the wealthy became Republican orthodoxy.](#) *Washington Post*. December 21, 2017.

[How much do the poor actually pay in taxes? Probably more than you think.](#) *PBS Newshour*. June 8, 2017.

[What can \(or should\) activists learn from the tea party?](#) Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson. *Washington Post*. May 11, 2017.

[Americans are proud to pay taxes – except when they think others are cheating.](#) *Washington Post*. April 18, 2017.

[Tax Day brings out the revolutionary in us.](#) *CNN*. April 14, 2017.

[Could this be the left's tea party moment?](#) *CNN*. February 12, 2017.

[How the Women's March could have a lasting historical impact.](#) *Teen Vogue*. January 19, 2017.

[Tax Me. Please.](#) *New York Times*. October 8, 2016.

[Getting federal stimulus money turned blue U.S. counties bluer and red counties redder. How can that be?](#) Katherine Einstein, Kris-Stella Trump and Vanessa Williamson. *Washington Post*. June 2, 2016.

[Americans Love Paying Taxes.](#) *The Atlantic*. April 15, 2015.

[Whose Tea Party is it?](#) Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson. *New York Times*. December 26, 2011.

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

Johns Hopkins University  
“Making Social Change.” Fall 2015, 2016, 2017.

San Quentin State Prison, Prison University Project (now Mt. Tamalpais College)  
“Introduction to American Government.” Fall 2013.

Harvard University  
“Sophomore Tutorial in Government.” Spring 2012. Teaching fellow.  
“Foundations of Comparative Politics.” Fall 2012. Teaching fellow.

PREVIOUS  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Research and Policy Director, 2006-2009.  
Field Director, 2005-2006.