

# *The Curriculum Vitae Of*

## **ROBERT ALEXANDER SPROULE**<sup>1</sup>

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| <b>Address</b>   | Department of Economics<br>Hamilton Building, Room H202<br>Université Bishop's University, 2600 College Street<br>Borough of Lennoxville, Sherbrooke, Québec, J1M 1Z7, Canada<br>Email: rsproule@ubishops.ca  |
| <b>Education</b>   | Ph.D. (Economics)            University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada<br>M.A. (Economics)          University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada<br>B.E.S.                          University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada  |
| <b>Full-Time Position<br/>(Current)</b>                            | Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Full Professor, Department of Economics, <b>Bishop's University</b> , 1985 to the present.  |
| <b>Full-Time Positions<br/>(Past)</b>                              | Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, <b>University of Alberta</b> , 1984-1985.<br><br>Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, <b>Brandon University</b> , 1983-1984.<br><br>Economist, <b>Government of Manitoba</b> , Winnipeg, 1977-1979 and 1980-1981.<br><br>Economist, <b>Government of Canada</b> , Ottawa, 1971-1975.   |
| <b>Administrative<br/>Activities<br/>(Bishop's<br/>University)</b> | <b>Chair of the Department of Economics</b> , Bishop's University: (a) January 2010 to June 2014; (b) July 2004 to June 2005; (c) January 2001 to June 2003; (d) September 1987 to April 1989.<br><br><b>Member of the Degree Committee of Convocation</b> , Bishop's University, May 2011 to the April 2014.<br><br><b>Departmental Coordinator for the SPARC Review</b> (the external-program review) of the Department of Economics, Fall 2010 to Spring 2011.<br><br><b>Chair of the Appointments Committee, Department of Economics</b> , Bishop's University, January 2010 to May 2010.<br><br><b>Member of the Senate Planning Committee</b> , Bishop's University, September 2006 to May 2009.<br><br><b>Member of the (Faculty) Evaluation Committee</b> , Bishop's University, July 2002 to June 2004.<br><br><b>Member of the Senate Research Committee</b> , Bishop's University: (a) October 2001 to July 2002; (b) September 1991 to April 1992; and (c) October 1989 to August 1991. |

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<sup>1</sup> Last updated on Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

**Member of the Senate Program Quality Committee**, Bishop's University, October 1997 to April 1998.

**Member of the University Senate**, Bishop's University: (a) May 1997 to September 1999; and (b) September 1993 to April 1996.

**Member of the Selection Committee for the University Librarian**, Bishop's University, October 1988 to May 1989.

**Member of the Senate Library Committee**, Bishop's University: (a) September 1987 to July 1988; and (b) October 1986 to August 1987.

**Administrative  
Activities  
(External)**

**External Referee:** In September-October of 2014, I acted as an external referee in the application of **Dr. Derek Pyne** for Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor in the **School of Business and Economics at Thompson Rivers University**, Kamloops, BC, Canada. [Contact Person: **Dr. Anne Lavack**, Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee.]

**External Examiner on A Dissertation Committee:** In May of 1998, I acted as an **external examiner** in Ph.D. Dissertation Committee (comprised of **Russel Cooper, Supervisor**, University of Western Sydney; Keith McLaren, Monash University; Kieran Donaghy, CIDEL, Università di Roma La Sapienza; and myself) for **Mr. Roger Ham, University of Western Sydney (Nepean), Australia**, whose dissertation title is "*The Urban Residential Economic Model: Theoretical and Empirical Developments.*"

**Research Interests**

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, and International Political Economy.

**Unpublished  
Working Papers  
(Under Review)**

Sproule, R. (2016a), "*Revisiting the claim that the price of utility is endogenous to the consumer's static profit function*," Working Paper (under review).

Sproule, R. (2016b), "*Two new money-metric measures of consumer welfare: Measures based on the Fischian demand function*," Working Paper (under review).

Ko, C.Y. and R. Sproule (2016), "*The Slutsky decomposition: a seamless coupling of the analytics and the graphics*," Working Paper (under review).

Sproule, R., and C.Y. Ko (2016), "*The Slutsky decomposition: a seamless coupling of the analytics and the graphics, Part II*," Working Paper (under review).

**Peer-Reviewed  
Academic  
Publications**

Sproule, R. (2015), "An argument for the use of the square-root functional form in teaching undergraduate microeconomics," **International Review of Economics Education** 20, 37–45.

Sproule, R. (2013), "A systematic analysis of the links amongst the Marshallian, Hicksian, and Frischian demand functions: A note," **Economics Letters** 121, 555-557.

Leung, A., C. Kier, T. Fung, L. Fung and R. Sproule (2013), "*Chapter 13. Searching for happiness: The importance of social capital*," in Antonella Delle Fave (ed.), **The Exploration of Happiness: Present and Future Perspectives** (New York: Springer).

Leung, A., C. Kier, and R. Sproule (2013), "*Happiness and Social Capital*," in A. Michalos (ed.), **Encyclopedia of Quality of Life Research** (New York: Springer).

- Sproule, R. (2010), "A note on the endogeneity of the price of utility within the consumer's static profit function," **Journal of Economics (Zeitschrift für Nationalökonomie)** **101** (2), 185-191.
- Leung, A., C. Kier, Tak Fung, Linda Fung, and R. Sproule (2010), "Searching for happiness: The importance of social capital," **Journal of Happiness Studies** **12** (3), 443-462.
- Valsan, C., and R. Sproule (2010), "Why is it so hard to govern higher education? The University as a Public Corporation," **International Journal of Arts and Sciences** **3** (14), 374-390.
- Sproule, R., and C. Valsan (2009a), "The student evaluation of teaching: Its failure as a research program, and as an administrative guide," **The Amfiteatru Economic Journal: Economic Inference** **11**, 125-150.
- Sproule, R., and C. Valsan (2009b), "A simple test for the violation of the non-satiation axiom under uncertainty: The theory," **Economics Bulletin** **29** (4), 2661-2669.
- Valsan, C., and R. Sproule (2008a), "Reservation prices and pre-auction estimates: A study in abstract art," **The Amfiteatru Economic Journal: Economic Inference** **24**, 257-272.
- Valsan, C., and R. Sproule (2008b), "The invisible hands behind the student evaluation of teaching: The rise of the new managerial elite in the governance of higher education," **Journal of Economic Issues** **42** (4), 939-958.
- Leung, A., and R. Sproule (2007), "Using the compensating and equivalent variations to define the Slutsky Equation under a discrete price change," **Economics Bulletin** **4** (11), 1-9.
- Sproule, R., and C. Valsan (2006), "Hedonic models and pre-auction estimates: Abstract art revisited," **Economics Bulletin** **26** (5), 1-10.
- Standing, L., R. Sproule, and A. Leung (2006), "Can business and economics students perform elementary arithmetic?," **Psychological Reports** **98**, 549-55.
- Sproule, R. (2006), "Sandmo's model of the competitive firm in a two-moment world," **Atlantic Review of Economics** **5** (8).
- Erskine, M., C. Kier, A. Leung, and R. Sproule (2006), "Peer crowds, work experience, and financial saving behavior of young Canadians," **Journal of Economic Psychology** **27**, 262-284.
- Kier, C., A. Leung, and R. Sproule (2005), "The tradeoff between unemployment and earnings inequality: The perceptions of senior business executives," **Applied Economics Quarterly** **51** (4), 387-396.
- Sproule, R. (2005), "The political economy of labour markets in Germany and the United Kingdom: A primer," **Open Republic**, July-August-September.
- Paulsson, T., R. Sproule, and A. Wagener (2005), "The demand for a risky asset: Signing, jointly and separately, the effects of three distributional shifts," **Metroeconomica** **56**, 221-232.

- Paulsson, T., and R. Sproule (2002), "*Stochastically-dominating shifts and the competitive firm*," **European Journal of Operational Research** **141** (1), 100-105.
- Sproule, R. (2002), "*The underdetermination of instructor performance by data from the student evaluation of teaching*," **Economics of Education Review** **21** (3), 287-294.
- Sproule, R. (2000), "*The student evaluation of teaching: A methodological critique of conventional practices*," **Education Policy Analysis Archives** **8** (50).
- Simpson, W., and R. Sproule (2000), "*The production responses of the competitive firm to three conventional distributional shifts: A unified perspective*," **Metroeconomica** **31** (2), 168-181.
- Sheldon, A., and R. Sproule (1997), "*Variance as a proxy for risk: The case of the binomial distribution*," **Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series D (The Statistician)** **46** (3), 317-322.
- Sproule, R., and M. Vigneault (1996), "*The duality between production and cost functions: A new finding*," **Economics Letters** **51**, 67-70.
- Fu, J., and R. Sproule (1995), "*A generalization of the binomial distribution*," **Communications in Statistics: Theory and Methods** **24** (10), 2645-58.
- Simpson, W., R. Sproule, and D. Hum (1995), "*Can the sufficient conditions used to sign the global effect of risk be used to sign the marginal effect of risk?*" **Bulletin of Economic Research** **47**, 305-319.
- Sproule, R. (1994), "*The short-run shutdown decision when output-price and initial wealth are random*," **European Journal of Operational Research** **73** (1), 33-38.
- Sproule, R. (1993a), "*Mean-preserving and mean-variance-preserving transformations of the general Bernoulli distribution*," **Cahiers du Centre d'Études de Recherche Operationnelle** **35**, 125-134.
- Sproule, R. (1993b), "*An alternative reduction formula for the central moments of the general Bernoulli distribution*," **Communications in Statistics: Theory and Methods** **22** (4), 1191-1194.
- Sproule, R., and R. Platt (1993), "*Skewness and kurtosis: A pedagogical note employing the general Bernoulli distribution*," **Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik** **212**, 162-165.
- Sproule, R. (1992a), "*The general Bernoulli probability density function, and the properties of its central moments*," **Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series D (The Statistician)** **41**, 155-159.
- Sproule, R. (1992b), "*The production responses of the competitive firm to increases in output-price risk, and output-price downside risk: A synthesis*," **Economic Studies Quarterly: Journal of the Japan Association of Economics and Econometrics (Kikan Riron-Keizaigaku)** **43**, 177-181.
- Standing, L., R. Sproule, and N. Khouzam (1991), "*Illustrating Meehl's sixth law of soft psychology: Everything correlates with everything*," **Psychological Reports** **69**, 123-26.
- Sproule, R. (1987a), "*Consistent preferences and the allocation of effort under uncertainty: The case of risk-averse behavior*," **Economics Letters** **24**, 213-18.

Sproule, R. (1987b), “*The owner-managed firm under output-price uncertainty: A model based on a synthesis of Sandmo (1971), Block and Heineke (1973), and Ishii (1977),*” **Journal of Economics (Zeitschrift für Nationalökonomie)** **47**, 125-41.

Sproule, R. (1986), “*The portfolio effects of increasing asset-return uncertainty in a two-asset, two-period model,*” **International Review of Economics and Business (Rivista Internazionale Scienze Economiche e Commerciali)** **33**, 1017-26.

Sproule, R. (1985a), “*An optimal allocation of labor supply and savings under interest-rate uncertainty,*” **Bulletin of Economic Research** **37**, 115-22.

Sproule, R. (1985b), “*Tax evasion and labor supply under imperfect information about individual parameters of the tax system,*” **Public Finance (Finances Publiques)** **40**, 115-22.

Sproule, R., D. Komus, and E. Tsang (1980), “*Optimal tax evasion: Risk-neutral behavior under a negative income tax,*” **Public Finance (Finances Publiques)** **35**, 309-17.

**Peer-Reviewed  
Government of Canada  
Publications**

Simpson, W., and R. Sproule (1998), “*An econometric analysis of Canadian self-employment using SLID,*” Research Paper 98-16, **Survey of Labor and Income Dynamics**, Statistics Canada.

Basilevsky, A., and R. Sproule (1979), “*The Accuracy of Income Reporting in Mincome Manitoba,*” Technical Report No. 10, **Mincome Manitoba**, Policy Research and Long Range Planning Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, Government of Canada.

Billet, C., D. Komus, D. Hum, A. Basilevsky, and R. Sproule (1979), “*Issues in the Administration of Mincome Manitoba: Three Preliminary Assessments,*” Technical Report No. 11, **Mincome Manitoba**, Policy Research and Long Range Planning Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, Government of Canada.

**Editorial  
Activities**

**Referee For Academic Journals:** Some just once, and others on multiple occasions, I have acted as a referee for ...

**Economics of Education Review**  
**Economic Journal**  
**European Economic Review**  
**European Journal of Operational Research**  
**Journal of Cultural Economics**  
**Journal of Economic Education**  
**Journal of Economic Issues**  
**Journal of Economics**  
**Managerial and Decision Economics**  
**Review of Economic Studies**  
**Review of Economics and Statistics**

**Book Reviewer:** (a) In May of 2015, I provided editorial comments on a 130+page manuscript entitled “*The Nature of the Corporation: A Tale of Economic Complexity*” by **Calin Valsan**, WSB, **Bishop’s University**, Sherbrooke, Québec. (b) In May of 2003, I provided editorial comments on a 350+ page manuscript by **Dr. Yvan Lengwiler**, Department of Economics, **University of Basel**, Switzerland, entitled “*Macrofinance: The Microfoundations of Asset Pricing Theory and the Equity Premium Puzzle.*” Since then, this manuscript has been published as a book by **Princeton University Press**, and I have received credit for my editorial input in the book’s Preface.

**Presentations  
In Learned  
Gatherings**

**Conference Discussant:** (a) I served as a discussant in the “*Demand Estimation*” Session in a conference called **Telecommunications in Canada: Economic Analysis of the Industry** (sponsored by the **Department of Communications**, Ottawa, and **l’École des Hautes Études Commerciales**), Montréal, May, 1981. (b) I served as a discussant in the “*Optimal Taxation Theory*” Session, Annual Meeting of the **Canadian Economics Association**, Saskatoon, June, 1979.

Sproule, R., and C. Valsan (2005), “*Hedonic models and pre-auction estimates: Abstract art revisited*,” A paper that has been accepted for presentation at **The 5th Global Conference on Business and Economics**, Cambridge, England, July 6-8, 2006.

Valsan, C., and R. Sproule (2005), “*A study in abstract art*,” A paper that has been accepted for presentation at **The 55th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Finance Association**, Chicago, Illinois, March 23-25, 2006.

Sproule, R. (2004), “*The political economy of job creation: Accounting for recent unemployment rates in Germany and the United Kingdom*,” A paper presented at **The Workplace of the Future: Perspectives from the EU and Canada**, a colloquium celebrating Ireland’s Presidency of the European Union, and convened by **Bishop’s University** and the **National University of Ireland (Galway)**, in Lennoxville, Québec, May 27-28, 2004.

Simpson, W., and R. Sproule (1998), “*An econometric analysis of self-employment with Canadian microdata*,” A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **University of New Hampshire**, Durham, May, 1999.

Simpson, W., and R. Sproule (1998), “*The production responses of the competitive firm to three conventional distributional shifts: Towards an integrated perspective*,” A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **University of Stockholm**, Sweden, May, 1998.

Simpson, W., and R. Sproule (1998), “*The production responses of the competitive firm to three conventional distributional shifts: Towards an integrated perspective*,” A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **University of Örebro**, Sweden, May, 1998.

Simpson, W., and R. Sproule (1998), “*The production responses of the competitive firm to three conventional distributional shifts: Towards an integrated perspective*,” A paper presented in the **Jönköping International Business School**, University of Jonkoping, Sweden, June, 1998.

Simpson, W., R. Sproule, and D. Hum (1994), “*A limit theorem on the equivalence of the sign of the marginal and global effects of risk*,” A paper presented in the Département d’économique, **Université de Sherbrooke**, March, 1994.

Simpson, W., R. Sproule, and D. Hum (1993), “*Risk always reduces output: Signing the marginal effect of output price risk for competitive firms*,” A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **University of Manitoba**, March, 1993.

Sproule, R. (1989), “*The insurance-buying gambler: The friedman-savage hypothesis and beyond*,” A paper presented at the **18th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Canada Economics Association**, University of New Brunswick at Saint John, October, 1989.

Sproule, R. (1988), “*Consistent preferences and the optimal-saving decision under one-dimensional risks*,” A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **Brock University**, 1988.

Sproule, R. (1988), "*Consistent preferences and the optimal-saving decision under one-dimensional risks*," A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **Concordia University**, 1988.

Sproule, R. (1987), "*The adverse effect of uncertainty on thrift and labor supply: A choice-theoretic confirmation of Marshall's conjecture*," A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **University of Manitoba**, 1987.

Sproule, R. (1985), "*Tax evasion and labor supply under imperfect information about individual parameters of the tax system*," A paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the **Southern Economic Association**, Dallas, Texas, November, 1985.

Sproule, R. (1984), "*The owner-managed firm under output-price uncertainty*," A paper presented in the Department of Economics, **University of Alberta**, 1984.

Sproule, R. (1984), "*Information and the deterrence of street crime*," A paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the **Canadian Economics Association**, Guelph, June, 1984.

Sproule, R. (1980), "*Tax evasion and the estimation of labor supply: An extraneous uncontrolled variable in experimental and non-experimental research*," A paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the **Canadian Economics Association**, Montréal, June, 1980.

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