

# Aidan J. Simardone

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## Education

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### York University

2018 - 2021

Juris Doctor, Osgoode Hall Law School

- Medico-Legal Society of Toronto Prize for student with highest standing in Disability & the Law course (2021)
- The National Association of Japanese Canadians & Roger Sachio Obata C.M. Prize in International Human Rights Law (2020)
- The Ursel Phillips Fellows Hopkinson LLP Prize for the best paper in Sexuality and the Law (2020)

### University of Toronto

2016 - 2018

Master of Global Affairs, Munk School of Global Affairs

- Admission Scholarship (2016)
- Academic Scholarship (2017)

### University of Toronto

2012 - 2016

Honours Bachelor of Arts: Political Science and Economics (cGPA 3.84/4.0)

- Graduate of High Distinction (2016)
- Dean's Honour Roll (2013, 2014, 2015)
- Department of Economics Honour Roll (2013)
- Entrance Scholarship (2012)

### University of Toronto

Summer 2018

School of Continuing Studies: *Journalism Essentials*

### London School of Economics and Political Science

Summers 2014, 2015

Courses: *Crisis, Reform and the International Role of the European Union; Protest and Change*

## Work Experience

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### Articling student, Matkowsky Immigration Law

April 2022 – present

- Completed work permits, spousal sponsorships, and humanitarian and compassionate applications
- Responsible for intake calls with clients, gathering documents, preparing and submitting applications

### Articling student, El-Farouk Khaki

Feb. – April 2022

- Worked with one of Toronto's top refugee lawyers to help LGBTQ people and domestic violence victims
- Interviewed clients, wrote narratives, gathered evidence, researched country conditions, and submitted applications

### Volunteer Immigration Legal Caseworker, Justin J. Toh, Barrister & Solicitor

March – May 2021

- Drafted country condition reports and examined precedent for danger opinions
- Attended client interviews and determined best strategies to gain legal status and avoid deportation

### Intern, International and Transnational Law Intensive Program, Anti-Racial Discrimination Section – Office of the United Nations

Jan. – April 2021

#### High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) – Geneva, Switzerland

- Conducted research and wrote a report on developing a treaty to protect against religious discrimination, which would be used to guide future negotiations between states at the OHCHR
- Analyzed, summarized and provided input to meetings and events regarding racism and international law

### Research Assistant to Professor Craig Scott, Osgoode Hall Law School

Summer 2020

- Conducted research on democratic decision making, climate change and environmental law
- Summarized and gave analysis on over 30 academic articles on Indigenous rights and climate change

### Research Assistant to Professor Heidi Matthews, Osgoode Hall Law School

Summer 2019, 2020

- Summarized and provided critical commentary on over 150 academic articles on sexual assault law



- Analyzed and summarized over 50 scholarly works on international Indigenous rights; provided a written opinion on the best means for representatives of the Innu Council to have their grievances heard at the UN

**Junior Research Fellowship, NATO Association of Canada** **Jan. 2017 – Sept. 2018**

- Published thoroughly researched, weekly articles of 500-700 words communicating the importance of global security issues for the general public in Canada
- Topics: Russian foreign policy in Eastern Europe, ethnic conflict in the Balkans, and the expansion of NATO

**Writer, Organization for World Peace** **Jan. 2017 – June 2018**

- Produced in-depth articles of approximately 1,000 words on global conflicts and ways to establish peace
- Topics include separatist movements, far-right extremism, and freedom of speech

**Intern, The Canada Institute at the Wilson Center, Washington D.C.** **Summer 2017**

- Conducted research on topics involving Canada – United States relations, planned events featuring politicians from Canada and developed infographics on cross-border trade
- Managed social media on Twitter and Facebook and provided a news briefing three times a week

**Research Assistant to Steven Bernstein, Director Environmental Governance Lab  
University of Toronto, Department of Political Science** **Summer 2016**

- Conducted literature review and provided analysis of more than 60 studies examining green initiatives
- Wrote short summaries of 500 words on 20+ environmental organizations, focusing on the actors involved and the scope of their impact

## Community Involvement

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**Junior Editor, Journal of Law and Social Policy** **2018 - 2019**

- Provided biweekly review of article submissions, focusing on content, grammar and organization

**Moderator, Munk School of Global Affairs, Poli-Sci Film Festival** **2016 - 2017**

- Guided discussions of political science theories in popular films

**Founder, Munk School of Global Affairs, Intersectional Feminist Group** **2016 - 2017**

- Moderated discussions that explored and validated experiences regarding race, gender, and religion

**Host, CFRE Radio, University of Toronto** **2012 - 2016**

- Hosted weekly show, mentored new broadcasters, produced programs with range of international genres
- Awarded “Best New Show” (2012), “Most Innovative Programming” (2013), “Best Hip Hop Show” (2014)

## Languages

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Basic French reading, writing, and speaking

## Select Publications

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**Waco Revisited: A Critique of Violence Against New Religious Movements**

A Beautiful Resistance

<https://abeautifulresistance.org/site/2021/10/31/waco-revisited-gl2sz>

**Liberalism will never end Islamophobia**

Psymposia

<https://www.psymposia.com/magazine/why-new-zealands-smoking-ban-is-harmful/>

**Economic justice and the limits of the Charter**

Canadian Dimension

<https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/economic-justice-and-the-limits-of-the-charter>