

Robin Shaban

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Robin Shaban, PhD (they/them) is an economist, public policy expert, and leading thinker on Canadian competition policy and economic inclusion. Robin has published several original research reports and is a frequent public speaker and media commentator.

They are co-founder and chair of the Canadian Anti-Monopoly Project, a think tank dedicated to addressing pressing issues caused by monopoly power in Canada. Robin is also a board member of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and the Toronto Association for Business and Economics. Robin has fellow roles at the Public Policy Forum and Social Capital Partners. In 2021, Robin received a Changemaker Award from The Globe and Mail for their efforts to advance public policy centered on social justice and their academic work on competition policy.

They hold a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Alberta, a master's degree in economics from Queen's University and a doctorate in public policy from the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University.

Professional Experience

March 2024 to February 2025: Robin Shaban Consulting – Toronto, Canada

Position: Principal

March 2024 to February 2025: Deetken Insight – Vancouver, Canada (Toronto based)

Position: Associate Partner

As an executive leader within the Deetken team, Robin is responsible for establishing Deetken's presence in the Ontario marketplace. Building on the firm's 20-year history as a consultancy providing best-in-class economic and financial advisory services, as well as business transformation and strategy support, Robin works to support public and private sector clients in solving their toughest economic and policy challenges.

January 2023 to March 2024: Public Policy Forum, Policy Lead & Economist – Ottawa, Canada

Position: Policy Lead & Economist

Robin developed and executed a large-scale research project titled *All-In: Pathways to Economic and Financial Inclusion in Canada*.

September 2020 to December 2023: Vivic Research – Ottawa, Canada

Position: Senior Economist and Co-founder

Along with co-founder Inez Hillel, Robin established this economic advisory firm with a mission to advance greater social justice using data-driven analysis, serving think tanks, advocates, organized labour, and academic researchers.

January 2017 to September 2020: Robin Shaban Consulting – Ottawa, Canada

Position: Principal

An independent consultant serving clients across the social sector with economic analysis and modeling.

January 2018 to October 2018: Program Evaluation Branch (EI evaluation), Employment and Social Development Canada, Government of Canada – Ottawa, Canada

Position: Evaluator

Robin co-developed a novel cost-benefit methodology for calculating how much money the government saves when it implements programs that support people early in their lives. These interventions put people on a more positive life trajectory, reducing their reliance on social assistance programs and creating cost savings for governments.

September 2016 to December 2016: The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Ottawa, Canada

Position: Fall Fellow

Working with the Centre's head economist, Robin supported the development of the Centre's annual alternative budget for the federal government.

September 2013 to March 2015: Canadian Competition Bureau – Ottawa, Canada

Position: Competition Law Officer

As a member of the Bureau's diversity and inclusion working group, Robin undertook a project demonstrating the business case for greater diversity and inclusion in the workplace, winning the Deputy Minister's Award of Merit.

Education

Ph.D. Public Policy, Carleton University, 2024

Dissertation: A Critical Examination of Efficiency Within Competition Law in Canada and Globally
Senate Medal for Outstanding Academic Achievement

M.A. Economics, Queen's University, 2013

B.A. Honors Economics, University of Alberta, 2011

Fellowships

September 2024 to present: Social Capital Partners

March 2024 to present: Public Policy Forum

Board Roles

May 2023 to present: Chair, Canadian Anti-Monopoly Project

September 2024 to present: Board Member, Toronto Association for Business and Economics

Awards

March 2021: Globe and Mail's Changemakers Award

June 2014: Industry Canada's deputy Minister Award of Merit

Recognized for outstanding work in promoting diversity and inclusiveness at the Competition Bureau

Publications

[Leveraging Competition Law and Policy to Promote Inclusive Growth in Canada](#). with Colleen Kaiser. Smart Prosperity Institute. January 2023.

[Studying Competition Issues in Data-Driven Markets in Canada](#). with Vass Bednar and Ana Qarri. Vivic Research (funded by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada). January 2022.

[Check and Balance: The case for improving Canada's Competition Act to protect workers](#). with Ana Qarri. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. August 2021.

[Reforming the Competition Act: Suggested Changes to Enhance Competitiveness and Equity of the Canadian Economy](#). Vivic Research. May 2021.

[The State of Competition Policy in Canada: Towards an Agenda for Reform in a Digital Era](#). with Vass Bednar. Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy. April 202.

Articles

[What is productivity? And why is it such a problem in Canada?](#) with Laura Adkins-Hackett. Public Policy Forum. April 2024.

[To really fix affordability, look to the labour market](#). Public Policy Forum. January 2023.

[Major change to competition law is coming. Will it go far enough?](#) with Vass Bednar. Public Policy Forum. October 2023.

[Once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance inclusive economic growth through competition law](#). with Colleen Kaiser. Canada's National Observer. March 2023.

[Rogers outage another reason to get rid of Canada's efficiencies defence in competition law](#). with Keldon Bester. The Hill Times. July 2022.

[Want help with inflation? Reform the Competition Act](#). Policy Options. July 2022.

[Competition policy in Canada is guided by narrow interests](#). Policy Options. February 2022.

[We need stronger anti-monopoly laws if we want to curb corporate influence in the news](#). The Monitor. July 2021.

[Opinion: Modernize competition law without penalizing domestic firms](#). with Vass Bednar. National Post. April 2021.

[Opinion: Creating a more competitive country](#). with Vass Bednar. National Post. April 2021.

[Opinion: When it comes to Big Tech, Canada's fighting 21st-century battles with 20th-century weapons](#). with Vass Bednar. National Post. April 2021.

[Opinion: Why Canada's toothless Competition Bureau can't go after Big Tech](#). with Vass Bednar. National Post. March 2021.

[Opinion: Canada's efficiencies defense may enable Rogers-Shaw merger](#). The Globe and Mail. March 2021.

[Opinion: What Canada should learn from the FTC's case against Facebook](#). The Globe and Mail. December 2020.

[Takeovers and Taxation](#). The Monitor. January 2017.

