

# Winter NBER Digitization Tutorial Application - Jeremy Watson

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## **Contact Information**

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## **Course of Study**

Advisor: Timothy Simcoe  
Year of Advance: 5th year  
Major: Strategy & Innovation  
Minor: Economics and Statistics  
Attended 2016 Digitization Tutorial

Course work pursued during first two years of graduate work focused on seminars in (1) strategic management, (2) economics of ideas, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and (3) economics of information. Along with these major-area seminars, courses in microeconomic theory, econometrics (both at the theoretical and applied level), and empirical industrial organization (taught by Marc Rysman) were completed.

A dissertation committee has been formed, with Professors Timothy Simcoe (chair), Iain Cockburn, Megan MacGarvie, and Michael Meurer. The dissertation has been proposed, and is expected to be completed by May 2017.

## Research Interests

General research interests focus on the economics of copyright and digitization's effect on content industries, particularly the music industry. Several on-going research projects examines the role of copyright on re-use, particularly through digital sampling. In a first paper, I explore how the strengthening of upstream copyright affects the rate and direction of re-use downstream in the music industry. A second paper in this area examines how the introduction of downstream derivative works impacts consumption of the original, underlying work using novel online music streaming data. Finally, a third paper examines how a firm's copyright litigation over derivative works affects further exploitation of the firm's portfolio of works. In addition to this research on copyright, I have also coauthored, with Timothy Simcoe, a working paper on the economics of forking, fragmentation, and splintering in markets with network effects.<sup>1</sup>

For future work, broader research interests in the music industry pertain to how digitization in the music industry, through changing royalty streams and decreasing entry barriers, affects the decisions made by musicians – as well as who benefits. With respect to the economics of copyright, a focus of interest is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) – especially issues surrounding the DMCA's takedown provision. Interests in this area include examining the effectiveness of DMCA takedown procedures, as well as examining what strategies firms are using, or mis-using, with DMCA takedown procedures to combat digital piracy.

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<sup>1</sup>Available at [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2862234](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2862234)