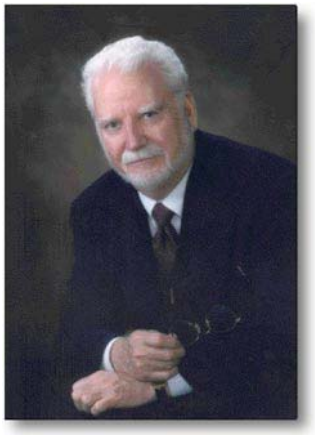
CSULA Emeriti Faculty Biography



Name: Robert H. Simmons

Department: Political Science

Academic rank: Professor

Year appointed: 1962
Year retired: 1985
FERP Years: 1986-88

City of residence: Los Osos, California

Email: RHSimmons@aol.com
Web site: http://www.roberthsimmons.com/

Birth Place: Berwyn, Illinois

Birth Year: 1926 **Marital status**: Married

Spouse or partner's name: Mia Mitchell Simmons

Family information: Sons: Richard Van Ness and Drew Philip Simmons. Daughters: Karolyn Simmons Wilson and Rachael Danielle Simmons.

Colleges or Universities Attended:	**Year**	**Degree**
University of Dubuque, Iowa, (Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)	1949	B.A.
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, (Political Science, Social Work)	1951	M.A.
University of Washington, Seattle (Political Science, Public Administration, Organizational Behavior)	1962	Ph.D.

Teaching Experience:

Institution	**From**	**To**
Valley High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico	1954	1958
New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM	1958	1962
California State University Los Angeles	1962	1985

Courses taught:
I developed each of the following (except 460) and then taught them in the public administration program:

- POLS 591, Seminar on Administrative Theory and Behavior.
- POLS 564, Seminar on Bureaucracy and Society.

- POLS 416, The Executive Process.
- POLS 474, Organizational Behavior and Development.
- POLS 490, Ethics and Change in Public Organizations.
- POLS 460, Foundations of Public Administration.
- POLS 472, Organization and Management.

I also taught several courses in the CSU consortium MPA program, including Seminar in Organization Theory and Human Behavior and Seminar in Public Policy and Policy Analysis.

Scholarly / Creative Activity:

My fields of academic specialization were organizational analysis and behavior, organizational development, group theory and behavior, executive process and state/provincial government. I wrote several books with my colleague Gene Dvorin, one of which was one of the most cited books in public administration for many years.

Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

Agency or Company	**From**	**To**
U.S. Navy, enlisted at age 17, honorably discharged as Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class	1944	1946
Supervisor, Technical Report Writing Section, Sandia Corporation, prime contractor to the A.E.C., Albuquerque, New Mexico	1950	1954
Co–founded Support Group Network	1978	1991
Private consulting practice	1981	Present
Cofounder, Chief Executive Officer and Vice–Chairperson of the Board, Physician Wellness Foundation	1995	2000
Executive Director, Physician Wellness Conference	September 25– 29, 1997	

Awards, Honors, Professional Recognition:

- Senior Research Professor, Fulbright–Hays Program, Department of Political Science, University of Tasmania, Australia, 1971–72.
- Danforth Associate Grant, 1964–65, California State University, Los Angeles.
- Danforth Foundation Teacher Award, 1959–60, renewed Summer, 1962.

Citations of Selected Publications, Presentations and/or Creative Activities:

- *Beyond Romance, Making Love Last*. Far Hills, New Jersey: New Horizon Press, 2005.
- *Achieving Humane Organization*. Malibu, California: Daniel Spencer Publishers, 1981.
- *Public Administration, Values, Policy and Change*, with Eugene P. Dvorin. Port Washington, New York: Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. 1977.
- *From Amoral to Humane Bureaucracy*, with Eugene P. Dvorin. San Francisco: Harper Row, Inc., Publishers, 1972. [Fourth most–quoted book in public administration for two decades.]
- *Government and American Society* with Ake Sandler, Editors. Dubuque: Wm. C. Brown, Publishers, 1965.
- "The Role of the Select Committee on Nationalized Industry in Parliament," *Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. XIV (September 1961),741-47.

The following were the lead articles in each of consecutive issues of the *Western Political Quarterly***.** Taken together they were the primary reason I was invited to be a Senior Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of Tasmania in the State of Tasmania in Australia.

- "American State Executive Studies: A Suggested New Departure," *Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. XVII (December 1964), 777-90.
- "American State Executive Systems: An Heuristic Model," Vol. XVIII (March, 1965), *Western Political Quarterly*, (March, 1965), 19-26.
- "The Washington State Plural Executive: An Initial Effort in Interaction Analysis," Vol. XVIII, No. 2, Part 1, *Western Political Quarterly*, (June 1965), 363-381.
- "Policy Flow Analysis: A Conceptual Model for Comparative Public Policy Research," with Bruce Davis, Ralph J. K. Chapman, (each of the University of Tasmania, Australia) and Daniel Sager. Vol. XXVII, *Western Political Quarterly*, (September 1974), 457-468.

See: "Robert H. Simmons Additional Publications"

University Service:

- Director, Social Science Programs, 1972–74.
- Director, Peace Corps Training Programs, CSULA, 1964–65.
- Chair of the Academic Senate, l969–70.
- Member of the faculty team which prepared and achieved peer approval (and subsequently accreditation) for the Master of Science Degree in Public Administration by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) 1980–85.
- Various tenure and promotion committees throughout my tenure, 1962–1985.
- Director and faculty adviser for the Master of Science in Public Administration and the Master of Public Administration, CSULA and the consortium, various years.
- Various departmental, school and university committees, 1962-85.

Personal commentary, including non-academic interests and accomplishments you may wish to share:

While I was working, I participated in critical incident stress debriefings for various jurisdictions of Police and Fire in the State of California. I also gave papers, led discussions and seminars in a variety of settings focusing on various aspects of Public Administration. These have been particularly concerned with the operations of the group and organizational unconscious.

I took a faculty early retirement in 1985 (FERP) after 23 years with the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. My goal at that time was to adapt what I had developed in my book *Achieving Humane Organization* (Daniel Spencer Publications, Malibu, California 1981), into an organization development consulting practice. The theory and practice in that book is an integration of the works of:

- Wilfred Bion. *Experiences in Groups*. Basic Books, 1961.
- Eric Berne. *The Structure and Dynamics of Groups and Organizations*. J. B. Lippincott Co., 1963.
- Elliot Jaques. *A General Theory of Bureaucracy*. John Wiley & Sons, 1976.

I integrated these theories and practices into my own organizational development consulting practice on the West Coast in both the public and private sector.

Gradually, as I focused my consulting practice to San Luis Obispo County, it metamorphosed into a focus on individuals who wished to see me privately so as to become more effective employees. These individuals often brought their spouses to the consultation so as to enhance their own relationships using the techniques and practices which I developed to enhance the effectiveness of groups and organizations.

I co-founded the non-profit Support Group Network in 1978. I also co-founded the non-profit Physicians Wellness Foundation in 1997. These activities led me to publish my most recent book *Beyond Romance: Making Love Last* (Far Hills, New Jersey: New Horizon Press, 2005). I have a comprehensive web address at www.roberthsimmons.com.

I am now limiting my organizational consulting practice. I now have two primary foci: First, I am continuing my individual and relationship practice, and second, I am engaged in writing another book based on the outgrowth of my work, viz., *Understanding the Operations, Drama and Dynamics of the Group and Organizational Unconscious* (working title).

I do want to share one of the most profound personal experiences of my professional teaching career at Cal State LA. Here is the story of Momo: In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s I always reserved a full lecture in my Introduction to American Politics (POLS 150), a lecture held in an amphitheater type setting for about 150 students, about the unfairness of the relocation of the Japanese-Americans in World War II. I used two books to underpin this sharing. The first was Morton Grodzins' *Americans Betrayed*; the second was Allen Boswell's *America's Concentration Camps*. Toward the end of the lecture I shared a story that I read to my own children written by Taro Yashima (Mako Iwamatsu) entitled *Momo's Umbrella* and beautifully illustrated by her father, Taro Yashima. It is a delightful story of a little Japanese-American girl who received an umbrella for Christmas and waited and waited for the rain to come so she could use the umbrella with her new rain boots. It was a touching, simple, and magical story. Both Momo and her father spent time in an internment camp in Washington State.

After one class was over, a student came down from the upper stairs in the classroom and approached me. Standing in front of me, looking me in the eyes, she said: "Dr. Simmons, I am Momo." And she became a student at California State University, Los Angeles.

Date completed: February 25, 2011.