James Symons-Hicks

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Profile

I am a Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant at the LSE Centre for Macroeconomics, focusing on Fiscal Policy, Productivity & Growth, and Family Macroeconomics. I have also worked as a research assistant at University College London with a focus on financial decision-making and experimental economics. My research interests include macroeconomics, financial economics, behavioural economics, and experimental economics.

Education

MSc Economics   **Sep 2023 – Sep 2024**
University College London   **Grade:** *Distinction*

Awarded Dean's List in Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences

Thesis: *"A Q-Learning Approach to Algorithmic Market Making for Risky Securities."*

BSc Economics   **Sep 2020 – Jun 2023**
University College London   **Grade:** *First Class Honours*

Thesis: *"Unravelling the Influence of Retail Investors on Liquidity and Volatility in UK Markets."*

Academic Positions

Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant   **September 2024 – Present**
Centre for Macroeconomics, London School of Economics   *London, UK*
- Working with Prof. Matthias Doepke and Dr. Ethan Ilzetzki.
- Projects relating to Fiscal Policy, Productivity & Growth (Ilzetzki), and Family Macroeconomics (Doepke).

Research Assistant   **May 2022 – September 2024**
University College London   *London, UK*
- Worked with Prof. Antonio Guarino.
- Multiple projects relating to financial decision-making and experimental economics.

Research & Publications

The Influence of Market Dynamics on Retail Investor Attention | *Link*   **Oct 2023**
- *Published in UCL Journal of Economics 2023.*

Impacts of the EU Referendum Decision on the Welsh Economy | *Link*   **Jun 2022**
- *Shortlisted for UCL's Explore Econ Conference 2022.*

Economics with Humans: The Importance of Behavioural Economics | *Link*   **Jan 2022**
- *Blog article for The Economic Tribune.*

Other Research Experience

Peer Reviewer, UCL Journal of Economics	**2024, 2025**
Student Research Fellow, UCL Economic Tribune	**Oct 2022 – Jul 2023**
Presenter & Panel Discussion Member, Discover Economics Project	**June 2023**
Scientific Committee, UCL Explore Econ Conference	**June 2023**

Technical Skills

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Advanced).

Programming: ***Proficient*** - Stata, MATLAB, Python, LaTeX.   ***Familiar*** - R, Mathematica.

Other: Microsoft Excel (proficient), Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work, LTA Level 2 Tennis Coach.