Kai Song

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Personal Statement

Aspiring economist with strong interests in public and development economics, inequality studies, and econometrics. Research experience in optimal taxation and income inequality. Passionate about careful data-driven solutions that impact real-world policy.

Education

Australian National University, Acton, ACT, Australia   Feb 2025 – Nov 2025
Bachelor of Economics (Honours)

- **Thesis** on *Optimal Intergenerational Sugar Tax: a Sufficient Statistics Approach*
  Supervised by: **Dr. Ash Craig**
- The highest thesis mark in the 2025 cohort.

Australian National University, Acton, ACT, Australia   Feb 2021 – Nov 2024
Bachelor of Economics
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
GPA for Economics: 6.38/7, overall: 5.94/7

- **Coursework:** Econometrics, public economics, behavioural economics, special topics in economics, micro, macro economics, abstract mathematical analysis, probability and measure theory, applied mathematics, etc.
- I took the initiative and had the Research School of Economics (RSE) **the first time** carry out ECON3020: special topics in Economics and became **the only** student in that class. I looked into Indigenous Australian income inequality under the guidance of Professor Bob Gregory.

London School of Economics, Holborn, London, UK   Jul 2023 – Aug 2023
Development Economics (Summer compacted course)

Experience

Research Assistant, **Research School of Economics, ANU**, – ACT, Australia   Jun 2024 – Current
- Supported quantitative analysis for optimal carbon tax research using R and Stata.
- Managed and cleaned large datasets from Consumer Expenditure Survey (CEX), ensuring data accuracy and consistency for econometric analysis.
- Reviewed theoretical literature on sufficient statistics and optimal taxation to support empirical design.
- Collaborated with lead researcher and co-authors in survey data, model review and micro-data analysis.

Research Assistant, **Mandala**, – ACT, Australia   Nov 2023 – Dec 2023
- Performed data analysis and visualisation to support client projects on Australian liquor exporting's background and context, using Excel.
- Prepared reports and presentations with colleagues, searching for figures and data to support the story.

Teaching Assistant, **Research School of Economics, ANU**, – ACT, Australia   Feb 2023 – Jul 2024
- Prepared and delivered tutorials, provided help-desk hours, and marked assessments for first and second-year undergraduate microeconomics.
- Communicate effectively to support students with specific difficulties regarding course content.
- **The first undergraduate student** demonstrating tutorial for second-year economics class.
- More than 100 hours of facing students directly.

Front Desk Reception, **ANU sport and recreation association**, – ACT, Australia   Oct 2022 – Apr 2023
- Corresponding email, phone calls and managing membership, paperwork, and retailing.

Tutor, **Self-employed**   Jun 2020 – Aug 2020

Award

Economics Society Prize for Economics Honours Research Essay   Dec 2025
- The award was given each year to the student who achieved the best result in the economics honours thesis.

Bob Gregory Honours in Economics Scholarship   Jan 2025
- The research school of economics offer such an award to high-achieving students in the honours program.

Project

Decomposing the Gap: Tracing the Sources of Indigenous Income Inequality   ECON3020 project
- Perform an Oaxaca decomposition via public data.
- Demonstrated the possibility of income inequality analysis without individual-level data.
- Highlighted the role of education and the employment conditioned on education in the income analysis, both theoretically and empirically.

Optimal Intergenerational sin tax: a sufficient statistics methods   Honour thesis
- Derive optimal sugar tax, as an intrinsically paternalistic corrective tax.
- Aims at estimating the result with empirical data, to better fit into the policy debate.
- Highlighted the interaction between parents and policy makers, two paternalistic agents and the result of different knowledge and bias.

Activity

Team ANU member, **Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, QLD**   Apr 2024
Nudgeathon 2024

- Represented ANU with 3 other peers in Nudgeathone 2024: a behavioural economics and policy studies competition.
- Prepared a brief report and gave a short presentation on national bio-security and strategies to encourage bio-hazard reporting under time pressure.

Marketing team leader, **College of Business and Economics, ANU**,   Nov 2021 - Dec 2021
virtual internship program

- Assisting a start-up company in constructing an optimal social media marketing strategy, supporting team members, and communicating with the client.

Skill Set

- R, Matlab, STATA
- LaTeX, Microsoft
- Economics, Econometrics, Applied Mathematics
- Teaching and demonstrating

Referees

Dr. Ash Craig	RA and Honours supervisor	Ashley.Craig@anu.edu.au
Prof. Bob Gregory	ECON3020 course convenor	Bob.Gregory@anu.edu.au