Kai Song

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Personal Statement

Aspiring economist with strong interests in public and development economics, inequality studies, and econometrics. Experienced in Stata, R, and LaTeX, with research experience in optimal taxation and income inequality. Passionate about 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**

Australian National University, Acton, ACT, Australia   Feb 2021 – Nov 2024
Bachelor of Economics
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
GPA for Economics: 6.375/7, overall: 5.935/7

- **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
- Deliver private tutorials to year 7-8 students in English and mathematics.

Award

Bob Gregory Honours in Economics Scholarship   Jan 2025
- The research school of economics offer such an award each year to encourage high-achieving students to participate economics 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