Masood Dastan

Data Scientist, Economist

(470) 775.6115 · masooddastan@gmail.com · [portfolio](#) ·[in/](#) · [github.com/](#)

EDUCATION

Georgia State University | Georgia, USA | Aug. 2019
Ph.D. in Economics

University of Tehran | Tehran, Iran | May 2013
Master of Arts in Energy Economics

University of Tehran | Tehran, Iran | May 2010
Bachelor of Arts in Economics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, The University of Texas at El Paso | TX, USA | Sep. 2020 - present
- Instruct and design curriculum for undergraduate and graduate courses in economics, business statistics, and machine learning.
- Develop and implement innovative teaching methods, including hands-on projects and real-world applications, to enhance student learning and engagement.
- Lead student capstone projects, fostering practical problem-solving skills.
- Collaborate with colleagues on departmental committees and contribute to the College of Business's 2030 strategic plan.

Data Science Fellow, General Assembly | Remote | May 2023 – Aug. 2023
- 12-week, 400+ hour training program focusing on the ability to analyze, make sense of, convey data-driven facts from massive data sets, and predict what happens next through predictive modeling and pattern recognition.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Texas A&M International University | TX, USA | Sep. 2019 – Aug. 2020
- Instructed undergraduate levels courses in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Econometrics.

Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Georgia State University | GA, USA | Sep. 2013 – Aug. 2019
- Assisted Faculty on their research (gathering and cleaning data, preliminary analysis)
- Instructed undergraduate levels courses in Microeconomics, Public Finance, and Econometrics.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Publications
- Dastan, Seyedmasood, and John Gibson. "The effect of corruption on firm investment in the presence of missing data." American Journal of Economics and Sociology 82.1 (2023): 79-93
- Abdoli, Ghahreman, Yazdan Gudarzi Farahani, and Seyedmasood Dastan. "Electricity consumption and economic growth in OPEC countries: a cointegrated panel analysis." OPEC Energy Review 39.1 (2015): 1-16.
- Gudarzi Farahani, Yazdan, and Masood Dastan. "Analysis of Islamic banks' financing and economic growth: a panel cointegration approach." International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management 6.2 (2013): 156-172.

Under Review
- Understanding the link between firm size, exposure to public officials and firm corruption (Economic Inquiry)

SELECTED PROJECTS

Investigating the Impact of Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) Meetings on Stock Market Performance | SpaCy, NLTK, Scikit-Learn, Transfer Learning, Deep Learning
- Integrated text analysis to uncover key themes and sentiments from FOMC meeting minutes.
- Utilized topic modeling (LDA) to identify significant US economic concerns discussed during FOMC meetings.
- Conducted sentiment analysis using zero-shot text classification for comprehensive assessment of FOMC statements.

Reddit Post Classification and Prediction | Python, NLTK, Scikit-Learn
- Employed Reddit API to gather 10,000+ posts from "Personal Finance" and "Investing" subreddits.
- Utilized NLTK, CountVectorizer, TF-IDF, and Scikit-Learn models for preprocessing and classification.
- Analyzed data to predict post subreddit, creating an accurate predictive model.

Predicting Credit Card Delinquency | Python, Scikit-Learn, Deep Learning
- Led team to create predictive model for credit card delinquency.
- Spearheaded data cleaning, EDA, and feature engineering.
- Implemented diverse ML models for credit delinquency prediction.

Housing Market Analysis | Python, Scikit-Learn
- Enhanced data quality by rectifying missing values, outliers, and incorrect data types.
- Utilized linear regression, Lasso, Ridge, and Elastic Net models. Implemented forward selection to identify impactful variables, resulting in models surpassing the benchmark by 75%.

SKILLS

Language Proficiencies: Python, SQL, R, STATA, Tableau
Relevant Python Modules: numpy, pandas, scikit-learn, NLTK, TensorFlow/Keras, Statsmodels, SpaCy, PySpak
Visualization Modules: Seaborn, Matplotlib, ggplot2
Other Misc. Technologies: Git, AWS, Google Cloud, Spark, LaTeX
Data Analysis Skills: Causal Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Machine Learning, Deep learning, Natural Language Processing

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Python for Data Science and Machine Learning Bootcamp, Udemy | Link
The Ultimate MySQL Bootcamp: Go from SQL Beginner to Expert, Udemy | Link
Google Data Analytics, Coursera | Link