

# Mahdi Ebrahimi Kahou

PHD CANDIDATE · THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

6000 Iona Drive Vancouver, BC Canada, V6T 1L4

☎ (+1). 403-926-1364 | ✉ mekahou@alumni.ubc.ca | 🌐 sites.google.com/site/mahdiebrahimikahou | 📷 mekahou

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

I strongly believe equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are of pivotal importance to achieving excellence in research and education. There have been positive recent efforts to empower minorities in the field of economics. While we observe a positive changes every year, we are still far from the point where our community is representative sample of the general population in terms of gender, origin, orientation or disability. Part of the problem is bias that affects underrepresented groups early in their education, causing them to either not choose or to abandon a career in academia. Therefore, I believe as a teacher and a researcher it is my duty to provide equal opportunities for minorities at the early stages of their undergraduate experience. In this statement I provide a description of my past, present, and planned contributions to equity, diversity, and inclusion as a teacher and a graduate student at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

**Teaching:** In my classes I try my best to empower underrepresented groups by reminding them of their rights and providing a safe and supportive environment where they can express their opinion. For instance, at the beginning of each semester I make sure the students are aware of the Centre for Accessibility and encourage the students to contact this center if they are dealing with extenuating circumstances. I also make it clear that they can reach me if they are facing challenges that might impair their performance in the course. In order to create a supportive environment, I encourage my students to share their negative and positive feedback with me.

**Involvement and recruitment:** As a passionate teacher who loves teaching and research I have had the privilege of getting to know passionate and talented underrepresented and minority students. Some of them approach me because they are curious about pursuing graduate school in Economics. I try my best to help them by providing information about graduate school and introducing them to our faculty members as a potential research assistant. Since the beginning of my PhD I have had the privilege of helping new PhD students from developing countries (on average two to three per year). I have had many correspondences with them regarding why they should choose UBC and addressing their questions about the program, the city, and life of a graduate student.

As a teacher and an academic, I will strive to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion at my work. My goal will be to provide my students with an experience that is welcoming and encourage them to reach their real potential, regardless of gender, origin, orientation, and socioeconomic status. I will also strive to create an inclusive and respectful research environment, where everyone feels safe and supported to pursue their research interests.