

Robert Smith

PhDc · PUBLIC HEALTH, ECONOMICS & DECISION SCIENCE

School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), University of Sheffield

West Court, 1 Mappin St, Sheffield, S1 4DT, UK

✉ rasmith3@sheffield.ac.uk | 📧 RobertASmith | 🌐 robert-smith-53b28438 | 🐦 @R06ertSm1th

Health economist, epidemiologist and statistical programmer focused on the application of methods from economics and data science to improve population health. I am currently working full time in the Joint Biosecurity Centre's Advanced Analytics team on coronavirus response, alongside a role as an expert advisor to the World Health Organisation's Health Economic Assessment Tool team. I am a founder/director of Dark Peak Analytics, a small company specialising in complex health economics and decision science consultancy services.

Education

PhDc Public Health, Economics & Decision Science

Sheffield, United Kingdom

School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), University of Sheffield

09/2016–12/2021(exp)

Four-year PhD at the Wellcome Trust funded Doctoral Training Centre for Public Health, Economics and Decision Science.

PhD topic: Health economic evaluation of population level physical activity interventions

Supervisors: Prof. Elizabeth Goyder, Dr. Hazel Squires, Dr. Chloe Thomas

MSc in Applied Economics

Nottingham, United Kingdom

School of Economics, University of Nottingham

09/2012–08/2013

Funded by a scholarship for exceptional undergraduate dissertation.

BA (Hons) in Economics

Nottingham, United Kingdom

School of Economics, University of Nottingham

09/2009–07/2012

Awarded MSc scholarship based on dissertation (top 3 in class)

Experience

Epidemiologist / Statistical Programmer

London, United Kingdom

Advanced Analytics, Joint Biosecurity Center, DHSC

12/2020–ongoing

This incredibly high impact work undertaken with an immensely talented and productive team is likely to be the most significant of my career. It has given me a fantastic insight into how analytical work feeds into decision making in government. I am not able to provide specific details due to the sensitive nature of the work undertaken in this role.

Director and Analyst

Sheffield, United Kingdom

Dark Peak Analytics

04/2019–ongoing

Collaboration with Dr Paul Schneider providing expertise in health economics, statistics, data science and public health. We have previously worked with the WHO (Audiology, Reproductive Health and Physical Activity), PharmacoEconomic consultancy companies, and with charities including parkrunUK. We provide training on data-science for health research. For more information on expertise and a list of publications see www.darkpeakanalytics.com.

Expert Advisor / Core Group Member

Zurich, Switzerland

World Health Organisation HEAT

07/2018–ongoing

Initiated and led a research project developing the methods used in the WHO Europe's Health Economic Assessment Tool for walking and cycling. Identified a new approach to estimating the monetary benefit of increased population physical activity. Joined the Core Group as an expert advisor in November 2020 for worldwide tool development.

Advisors: Sonja Kahlmeier, Thomas Gotschi.

Health Economist

Newcastle University

Newcastle, United Kingdom

04/2016–10/2016

I was responsible for the development of a large scale contingent valuation exercise, the results of which are to be used to feed into a resource allocation priority setting exercise for NHS England Dentistry. Project ongoing with publications under review.

Supervisors: Chris Vernazza, John Wildman

Research Assistant (Health Services Research)

University of Nottingham Business School

Nottingham, United Kingdom

09/2014–04/2016

Health economist primarily focused on health services research, in particular the GP Access Scheme. Results of the evaluation were presented to NHS England and the House of Commons Health Select Committee.

Supervisor: Paul Windrum

Associate, Financial Audit

PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

East Midlands, United

Kingdom

10/2013–08/2014

Associate in the Financial Audit department working with a wide variety of clients in the UK, including Experian, Molson Coors and Gala. Experience working with CFOs in a variety of sectors across the midlands region.

Teaching

University of Sheffield

Short Course Lead and MSc module Examiner

Sheffield, United Kingdom

10/2017–ongoing

I am a tutor and examiner for Sheffield University's Health Economics and Decision Science MSc and a tutor in medical statistics. I have created and taught several short courses and workshops on the use of data-science for health research, best practices in open science publishing and the use of R-Shiny for health economics.

Research Output

For a full list of recent publications, tutorials and open source software see my website or LinkedIn account.

Skills

Methods	CEA, BIA, Markov Models, ABM, Survival Analysis, Geo-spatial Analysis
Programming	R, STATA, Excel VBA, Simul8, Git/Github, SQL, (R)C++
Dissemination	Markdown, LaTeX, HTML, CSS, Shiny, AWS, Open Access Academic Publishing
Teaching	R, Health Economics, Discrete Event Simulation, Epidemiology, Statistics, Git, Transparent Research
Languages	English (fluent), French (basic)