# ANAHITA AZAM

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## OBJECTIVE

Leverage computational social science methods, including AI and data science, to explore socio-economic and political dynamics and address public policy challenges in the Middle East and South Asia, in collaboration with Professor Fotini Christia at MIT's Institute for Data, Systems, and Society.

## EDUCATION

**KU Leuven** | Faculty of Economics and Business                                **Leuven, Belgium**
Master of Science in Economics                                                  *Class of 2020*
Graduated magna cum laude
  - ◦ Thesis: The internet and underground markets: estimating prostitution supply in the Low Countries

  - ◦ Relevant coursework: Econometric Methods and Models, Advanced Applied Econometrics, Advanced Labour Economics, Welfare Inequality & Poverty, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics

**University of Toronto** | Rotman School of Management                          **Toronto, Canada**
Bachelor of Commerce, Finance & Economics Specialist                            *Class of 2018*
Graduated with distinction
  - ◦ William Waters Commerce & Finance Award ($3,000) | Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Commerce Award ($2,000)
  - ◦ University of Toronto Advanced Planning for Students Program ($24,000) | Summer Abroad Bursary ($3,000)

  - ◦ Relevant coursework: Calculus and Linear Algebra, Data Analysis and Applied Econometrics, Economic History: Institutions, Growth and Inequality, Economic Analysis of Law, International Monetary Economics, Financial Trading Strategies, Fixed Income Securities, Capital Market Theory

  - ◦ Past and Present in Siena and Italy at University of Siena | Strategy in the European Context at Masaryk University
  - ◦ Gamma Phi Beta Scholarship Chair, Commerce Without Borders Manager of Corporate Relations

## PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS

Azam, A., Hendrickx, J., Adriaenssens, S. (2024). Estimating the prostitution population using online data: a single-registration approach for the Netherlands and Belgium. *Quality & Quantity*.
  - ◦ Cited by the Union of Sex Workers Organised for Independence for a meeting with Brussels policymakers on policy reforms related to sex work in Belgium

Azam, A., Adriaenssens, S., Hendrickx, J. (2020). How Covid-19 affects prostitution markets in the Netherlands and Belgium: dynamics and vulnerabilities under a lockdown. *European Societies*, 23(sup1), S478–S494.

## PUBLICATIONS

Azam, A., Wang, S. (2023). Corporate profitability and inflation: 2017 to 2022. *Statistics Canada,* Prices Analytical Series.
  - ◦ Referenced by the Assistant Chief Statistician for the House of Commons' Committee on Industry and Technology

Azam, A. (2022). Technical Guide for the Building Construction Price Index. *Statistics Canada*, Prices Analytical Series.

## WORKING PAPERS

Azam, A., Hendrickx, J., Adriaenssens, S. (2022). Evidence of compounded vulnerability among trans sex workers: an intersectional analysis of risk-taking.
  - ◦ Explores how sources of vulnerability, such as gender, age, ethnicity and economic status, intersect to influence socio-economic outcomes in marginalized communities

Azam, A. (2021). Degree or skills - what most impacts job automatability?
  - ◦ Investigated job susceptibility to automation for a wide range of qualifications using econometric methods

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Statistics Canada**                                                                                  **Toronto, Canada**
Economist, Housing & Construction Prices                                                            *Feb 2021 - Present*
- ◦ Developed regular analytical dashboards and reports on housing and construction price trends, provided actionable insights that informed policy decisions and industry analyses
- ◦ Led the automation of price index production using R, GitLab pipelines, and custom data storage solutions, reduced processing time by 10 business days and enhanced the efficiency of government statistical reporting
- ◦ Managed the negotiation of and secured data acquisition agreements with a major rental listings provider, ensured compliance with StatCan's data governance and secured timely access to critical housing data for public policy use
- ◦ Spearheaded the overhaul of the *Construction Contractors Survey*, expanded data collection to over 800 quarterly respondents, improved economic activity coverage and published detailed, disaggregated data

**KU Leuven**                                                                                          **Brussels, Belgium**
Research Assistant, Faculty of Economics & Business                                                 *Feb 2020 – Sep 2020*
- ◦ Conducted interdisciplinary research on labour supply in hidden markets, demography, integrating social science theories and econometric models to analyze socio-economic data from demographic and health studies
- ◦ Designed and implemented web scraping tools to collect large-scale data (25,000 online reviews, 11,000 user profiles), streamlined data collection for social research projects focused on vulnerable populations
- ◦ Co-authored a 5,000-word research article on labor markets for peer review and subsequent publication in a leading journal

**The Citco Group Limited**                                                                            **Toronto, Canada**
Investor Relations Administrator, Hedge Fund Services                                               *Jul 2018 – Mar 2019*
- ◦ Verified and processed over $1BN in hedge fund trades monthly, gained experience with complex financial instruments and regulatory compliance to ensure transparency and accuracy in financial reporting
- ◦ Worked directly with fund managers to produce customized investor reports and regulatory documents that informed strategic investment decisions

**Ontario Public Service**                                                                             **Toronto, Canada**
Business & Finance Assistant, Accounting Policy & Financial Reporting                               *May 2016 – Aug 2016*
- ◦ Enhanced financial reporting efficiency by automating reconciliation, reduced processing time by 4 business days
- ◦ Conducted variance analysis on public account expenditures and investigated $25BN in discrepencies

**TD Canada Trust**                                                                                    **Toronto, Canada**
Customer Service Representative, Financial Services                                                 *Sep 2014 – Apr 2018*
- ◦ Provided insights on financial markets, lending trends, and in-depth bank product knowledge to +1000 personal and commercial banking clients, helped guide decisions for banking services, while pursing full-time academic studies at the University of Toronto

## PRESENTATIONS

Canadian Economics Association Conference 2024 | The Role of Profits in the Rise and Fall of Post-Pandemic Inflation
- ◦ Discussed the economic implications of inflation, with a focus on how corporate profitability evolved for key Canadian industries during the pandemic-related economic decline and recovery

European Population Conference 2022 | Issues in health data analysis
- ◦ Presented research findings on the role of data science in addressing vulnerabilities among hidden populations

## SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

**Languages:** Proficient - English, Urdu | Intermediate - French, Punjabi, Sindhi

**Programming:** R (dyplr, tidyr, ggplot2, selenium) | Python (matplotlib, seaborn, pandas) | Stata | SQL | LaTeX | Excel VBA

**Data Science:** Causal Inference | Hedonic Pricing | Linear and Logistic Regressions | Network Analysis | Webscraping

**Tools:** Git | Jupyter Notebooks | Azure Cloud Computing | Microsoft Office | Google Workspace

**Certifications:** Canadian Securities Course (Level 1 & 2), DataCamp (Data Scientist w/ Python | Data Analyst w/ SQL)