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

Peer-Reviewed Articles

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

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.

Statistics Canada Publications

Azam, A., Wang, S. (2023). Corporate profitability and inflation: 2017 to 2022. *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. *Prices Analytical Series.*

Working Papers

Azam, A., Adriaenssens, S., Hendrickx, J. (2022). Evidence of compounded vulnerability among transgender 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?

- Using econometric models to investigate job susceptibility to automation for a wide range of qualifications

WORK EXPERIENCE

Economist
Feb. 2021 – Present

Statistics Canada, Housing & Construction Prices
Toronto, Canada

- 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

Research Assistant
Feb 2020 – Sept 2020

KU Leuven, Faculty of Economics & Business
Brussels, Belgium

- 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 for peer review and subsequent publication in a leading journal

Hedge Fund Services Administrator
Jul 2018 – Mar 2019

The Citco Group Limited
Toronto, Canada

- 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

Finance Assistant
May 2016 – Aug 2016

Ontario Public Service, Ministry of Health
Toronto, Canada

- 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 discrepancies

Financial Services Representative
Jul 2018 – Mar 2019

TD Canada Trust
Toronto, Canada

- 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 pursuing full-time academic studies at the University of Toronto

PRESENTATIONS

Canadian Economics Association Conference 2024 | The role of profits in 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

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

Data Science: Causal Inference | Hedonic Pricing | Linear & Logistic Regressions | Webscraping

Programming: R (dyplr, tidyr, ggplot2, selenium, lubridate, shiny) | Python (numpy, pandas, seaborn, matplotlib, plotly) | Stata | SQL | Excel VBA

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

Certifications: Canadian Securities Course (Level 1 & 2) | DataCamp (Data Scientist in R, Data Scientist in Python, Data Analyst in SQL)