AUSTIN KENNEDY

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EDUCATION

PhD Economics, University of Colorado, Boulder   May 2024

MA Economics, University of Colorado, Boulder   2021

Relevant Coursework: Macro/Microeconomic Theory, Probability and Statistics, Theoretical and Applied Econometrics

BA Economics, Political Science Minor, Colorado State University   2019

SKILLS

- Applied Econometrics, Experimental Design (A/B Testing), Observational Causal Inference, Causal Machine Learning (Uplift Modeling/CATE Estimation), Traditional (Predictive) Machine Learning

  - Empirical methods: Experiment Design, Difference-in-Differences, Synthetic Control, Regression Discontinuity, Instrumental Variables, Meta Learners, Double Machine Learning, Predictive Machine Learning (e.g. Penalized Regression, Boosted Trees, Deep Learning)

- Software: Python (Preferred), R (Preferred), SQL, Spark, AWS (Sagemaker, Amazon S3), Databricks, Apache Airflow, Git, Stata

- Excellent verbal and written communicator, with experience presenting academic research, delivering technical analysis to business stakeholders, and teaching large classes.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist, Data & AI – NRG Energy, Remote   July 2024-Present

- Improved energy asset management by producing highly accurate wind generation forecasts, beating publicly available forecasts produced by third-party vendors. Quickly developed and productionized data pipelines along with an XGBoost model, automatically delivering daily forecasts to trading desk prior to market open.

- Prevented large costs in terms of electrical transformer outages and repairs by building a transformer anomaly detection model, using an RNN Autoencoder model and LASSO. Wrote production-level code to automate data pipelines and model training/prediction using AWS and Apache Airflow.

- Evaluated third-party GenAI customer care platform performance, identified key deficiencies in output quality and ROI. Analysis contributed to decision to discontinue contract, resulting in large cost savings and efficiently reallocated resources.

- Introduced causal thinking into data science team via educational seminar on A/B testing, heterogeneity/uplift modeling, and observational causal inference methods.

Economist Intern, Core AI – Amazon, Seattle WA   June 2023-August 2023

- Estimated the downstream impact on consumers of product safety incidents across Amazon's marketplaces using cutting edge causal inference techniques. **Result: inclined for full time. (Green Signal)**

  - Methods: Staggered Difference-in-Differences (Callaway and Sant'Anna), Generalized Synthetic Control, Synthetic Difference-in-Differences, and Double Machine Learning

- Saved Amazon time and resources with findings suggesting that Amazon's product safety policy could be uniform across marketplaces. Quantified the benefit of policies to prevent product safety incidents in terms of avoided revenue loss.

- Communicated analysis and findings in an understandable way to relevant stakeholders, who used findings to inform high-stakes business decisions.

- Successfully wrangled immense datasets using SQL and performed large-scale analysis with Python and R via cloud computing (Sagemaker).

Graduate Research Assistant - University of Colorado, Boulder $\hfill$ May 2020 - August 2022

Instructor of Record - University of Colorado, Boulder $\hfill$ January 2022 - December 2022

- Average student rating over three semesters: 5.76/6

PUBLICATIONS

"Fiscal Spillovers through Informal Financial Flows." *Journal of International Money and Finance,* 157: 1033-78, August 2025 Link

WORKING PAPERS

"Enlightenment Ideals and Belief in Science in the Run-up to the Industrial Revolution: A Textual Analysis" *with Ali Almelhem, Murat Iyigun, and Jared Rubin, R&R at The Quarterly Journal of Economics.* Link

AWARDS

Stanford Calderwood Teaching Award - University of Colorado, Boulder	2022
Reuben A Zubrow Graduate Fellowship for the Teaching of Economics - University of Colorado, Boulder	2021
Myron Brown Ludlow Scholarship - Colorado State University	2018

REFERENCES

Francisca Antman (Advisor)
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More available upon request.