

Jonathan Alistair Jayes

Data Scientist • Economic Consultant

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Economics-trained data scientist. I transform raw data into stories. Expertise in using ML/AI to extract value from previously unusable data sources. Demonstrated success in designing and coding pipelines that dramatically reduce costs.

Work Experience

Data Scientist

Led various data science projects including a public finance data collection and analysis project:

- Executed full project lifecycle: planning, bidding, winning, and delivering a comprehensive pipeline to collect, classify, extract and publish public finance data across the African continent
- Developed and maintained over 60 web scrapers to automatically collect PDF budget documents from government institutions and multilateral organizations
- Created a document classification system using multimodal large language models to accurately categorize heterogeneous financial documents according to a custom classification schema
- Built robust metadata extraction workflows and database architecture to store and organize thousands of documents spanning from 2013 to present
- Designed and implemented an internal dashboard tool enabling clients to visualize data coverage and extract insights from the collected financial information

Codera Analytics

12/2022 - Present

Junior Data Scientist

Created automated reports, worked on commercialization of data products on consumer prices, presented on code that writes itself within automated report pipeline.

Fathom Data

01/2022 - 03/2022

University of California,
Berkeley

Quantitative Analyst

Research assistant to Prof. Barry Eichengreen. Conducted NLP analysis for a study on South Africa's Gold Standard and Great Depression.

06/2020 - 02/2021

FTI Consulting South
Africa

Junior Competition Economics Consultant

Led a project on economic impact assessment for an arts festival, contributed to expert reports in telecommunications, oil, and poultry industries. I turned international trade statistics into compelling narratives, using visualizations to communicate industry dynamics.

03/2019 - 01/2020

Education

PhD in Economic History

Lund University, Sweden

Examining winners and losers of technological change during the electrification in the 20th century. Thesis supervised by Prof. Kerstin Enflo.

2021 - 2025

- Leveraged cutting-edge technology (LLMs, computer vision, text embedding models) to make historical data sources accessible at scale that would otherwise be impractical to analyze
- Designed and implemented a novel AI pipeline to transform historical biographical dictionaries into machine-readable format, reducing transcription time by 3 months while significantly expanding the observation set beyond previous studies
- Developed diverse methodological expertise across four thesis papers: systematic literature review, cross-sectional historical census analysis, biographical text data mining, and time-series analysis of corporate director networks

Stellenbosch University,

South Africa

Masters in Economics

Stellenbosch University. Researcher at the Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past.

2020 - 2021

- Submitted 'A Century Later: Lessons from the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918' to the South African Presidency
- Graduated with distinction
- Published my first paper in World Development Special Issue on Pandemics

Submitted 'A Century Later: Lessons from the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918' to the South African Presidency

2020 - 2021

Honours in Economics and Bachelors in Social Science

University of Cape Town,

South Africa

Dean's Merit List. Class medalist in courses on Policy Analysis, Microeconomics, Twentieth Century Industrialization, and Empires and Modernities.

2015 - 2018

Skills

Software

Python, R, SQL, experience with OpenAI / Gemini / Claude API, Google Cloud Functions, GitHub Actions. Learning: Docker.

Languages

English (Native), Swedish (Intermediate), French (Learning).