www.kpuka.ca | klajdi.puka@gmail.com Toronto, ON

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Behavioural Scientist

Jan 2024 – Present

Behavioural Science Fellow

Nov 2022 - Jan 2024

Privy Council Office, Government of Canada

- Lead the day-to-day operations of a team of eight scientists, overseeing research (e.g., focus groups, surveys, randomized trials) and generation of evidence-based recommendations.
- Manage team dynamics and resolve conflicts to maintain a collaborative environment.
- Draft and design project proposals and partnership agreements for business development and strategic collaborations, including those reaching Deputy Ministers.
- Draft briefing notes and materials for senior management, including Assistant Deputy Ministers.
- Apply advanced statistical analyses (using R, SAS, STATA, MPlus) to evaluate data, derive actionable insights, and produce clear reports and recommendations for senior executives.
- Develop data management, collection, and reporting platforms (using R, HTML, JavaScript).

Adjunct Research Professor

May 2022 – Present

PhD Candidate Researcher

Sept 2016 – Apr 2021

Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Western University

- Received and managed \$600,000 to lead and develop a research program focused on understanding and improving mental health problems in children and their family.
- Published >50 scientific manuscripts and 7 book chapters, receiving recognition through >15 awards/recognitions and >10 presentations in prestigious international conferences.
- Teach graduate-level courses focused on health research methodology and biostatistics.
- Lead, supervise, and mentor a team of 11 researchers and students.

Project Scientist Mar 2021 – Nov 2022

Institute for Mental Health Policy Research, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

- Identified and leveraged nationally representative epidemiologic data, health surveys, and mortality data resulting in >10 scientific publications, directly informing public health policy.
- Lead the development of grant applications securing nearly \$300,000 in external funding.
- Designed and implemented the methodological and statistical approach used by an international team of researchers to quantify and explain mortality from a variety of causes.
- Built strategic partnerships and provided leadership to an international and multidisciplinary team to effectively manage concurrent projects, deadlines, and priorities.

Statistician Jul 2018 – Aug 2021

Department of Medicine, Western University

- Developed the department's statistical support program, standard operating procedures, and trainee resources enhancing research quality and efficiency.
- Provided scientific expertise on research methodology, including protocol development, data analysis, and communication of results.
- Analyzed and interpreted data using a wide variety of advanced statistical methods.

EDUCATION

PhD, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Western University, 2016 – 2021 **HBSc**, Psychology and Biology, University of Toronto, 2009 – 2013