

# Malek Hassouneh

## Address

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## Contact Information

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## Personal Information

Citizenship: Lebanon  
Date of Birth: 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2001  
Status in Canada: Temporary Resident - Open Work Permit

## Education

University of Toronto Fall 2022 - Spring 2023  
M.A. Economics  
Cumulative GPA: 3.91

McGill University Fall 2019 - Spring 2022  
B.A. Economics (Honours)  
With a Minor Concentration in Mathematics  
Dean's Honour List, First Class Honours  
Cumulative GPA: 3.96

## Professional Experience

Research Assistant - University of Toronto Summer 2023 - Present  
Worked with Professors Eva Vivalt and Stefano DellaVigna (UC Berkeley) on research projects including the effects of guaranteed-income policies, and studying correlated policy diffusion. Also, a member of the Social Science Prediction Platform (SSPP) team, aiding project teams in designing forecast-eliciting surveys, and conducting meta-analyses on the prediction accuracy of superforecasters.

Research Assistant - University of Toronto Summer 2023  
Worked with Professor Jiaying Gu on various projects centered around instrument screening and selection techniques, with an empirical application in the context of the returns to education.

## Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant - University of Toronto Fall 2022 - Spring 2023  
ECO375 - Applied Econometrics I  
Holding tutorials for Professors Eduardo Souza-Rodrigues and Jiaying Gu.

## Personal Research

Estimating Income-Heterogeneous Inter-Provincial Mobility Margins of Income Tax: Assessing the Prevalence of Tax Avoidance Practices  
*Co-authored*  
*Source Material*  
Using machine learning techniques, we study the determinants of inter-provincial relocation decisions of labor in Canada. We find evidence for heterogeneous feature importance across the income distribution, emphasizing that the relative importance of income tax as a determinant of inter-

provincial relocation is 33.02% higher for top income quantiles relative to the national aggregate. This heterogeneity increases by 6.95% over time, with income tax importance increasing by 22.47% for top income quantiles. We argue that these results provide strong evidence for an increasing prevalence of tax avoidance practices in Canada through the spatial channel of inter-provincial migration, specifically among top-income earners.

#### Estimating the Canadian Inter-Provincial Mobility Margin of Top Marginal Income Tax Rates: An Evaluation of the “Race to the Bottom” Narrative

##### *Source Material*

Taking inspiration from existing literature on corporate taxation and business relocation, I explore the existence of a similar undercutting game with provincial income tax rates. I estimate the responsiveness of aggregate Canadian inter-provincial migration to changes in top-income marginal tax rates, finding a small but significant mobility elasticity of 0.256. I also find evidence for a magnitude asymmetry in the response margin of migration to increases and decreases in top-income marginal tax rates. My findings provide evidence for an immobile Canadian labor force, concluding that tax base flight and attraction are a minimized concern in Canada.

<b>Group Contributions</b>	The Econometrics Game - VSAE	Spring 2023
	<i>Source Material</i> Selected to represent the University of Toronto at a three-day case study competition held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.	
	The Governor’s Challenge - Bank of Canada	Fall 2021
	<i>Source Material</i> Selected to represent McGill University. Presented forecasts of the economic outlook of Canada with emphasis on economic growth and inflation, gathering macroeconomic data and estimating various benchmark time-series models such as VARX and ARDL.	
<b>Awards and Fellowships</b>	Allen Oliver Fellowship, <i>McGill University</i> (\$3,000)	2022
	Awarded to the student who stands highest in first class honours in the Department of Economics.	
	James McGill Entrance Scholarship, <i>McGill University</i> (\$3,000)	2019
<b>Technical Skills and Software</b>	Beginner: SQL, Mathematica, Julia Intermediate: Python, MATLAB, LaTeX Advanced: R (RStudio), RMarkdown, Stata, MS Office Suite, Qualtrics	
<b>Languages</b>	English (Fluent), Arabic (Native), French (Intermediate)	

Last updated: October 7, 2023