

Malek Hassouneh

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Contact Information

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Education

M.A. Economics – University of Toronto Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
Relevant Coursework: Econometrics (Ph.D.),
Advanced Methods for Empirical Microeconomics (Ph.D.), Economic Ap-
plications of Machine Learning
Cumulative GPA: 3.91

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

Research Experience

Pre-Doctoral Fellow – University of Toronto Summer 2023 - Fall 2025
Worked with Professors Eva Vivalt and Stefano
DellaVigna (UC Berkeley) as a member of the Social Science Prediction
Platform (SSPP) team, supporting project teams in designing forecast-
eliciting surveys, maintaining growth and usage statistics for funding appli-
cations, extracting and standardizing results from various research papers,
and conducting meta-analyses on behavioral patterns in forecasting and
the determinants of forecast accuracy. Also contributed to other research
projects, including studying the causal effects of guaranteed income poli-
cies and modeling correlated policy diffusion to better understand spatially
correlated standard errors.

Research Assistant – University of Toronto Summer 2023
Worked with Professor Jiaying Gu on research projects
centered around the implementation of econometric screening and selection
techniques for instruments, running simulations, and applying the theoret-
ical methods in an empirical context of the returns to education.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant – University of Toronto Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
ECO375 - Applied Econometrics I
Held coding tutorials and office hours, graded problem sets and research
papers, and performed all other teaching assistant duties for Professors
Eduardo Souza-Rodrigues and Jiaying Gu.

Research Contributions

“Forecasting Social Science: Evidence from 100 Projects” (DellaVigna & Vi-
valt, 2025), *NBER Working Paper*
Source Material

“Using Multiple Outcomes to Adjust Standard Errors for Spatial Correlation”
 (DellaVigna et al., 2025), *NBER Working Paper*
Source Material

“The Employment Effects of a Guaranteed Income: Experimental Evidence
 from Two U.S. States” (Vivalt et al., 2025), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*
(Forthcoming)
Source Material

Group Projects The Econometrics Game – VSAE, University of Amsterdam Spring 2023
Source Material (Upon Request)

Selected to represent the University of Toronto at a three-day case study
 competition held at the University of Amsterdam. Used various machine
 learning techniques to analyze spatial inequality data and trends over time.
 Supervised by Professor Jiaying Gu.

The Governor’s Challenge – Bank of Canada (Virtual) Fall 2021
Source Material

Selected to represent McGill University. Presented forecasts of Canada’s
 economic outlook, with emphasis on economic growth and inflation, gather-
 ing macroeconomic data and estimating benchmark time-series models
 such as VARX and ARDL. Supervised by Professors Francisco Alvarez-
 Cuadrado and John W. Galbraith.

Presentations The Social Science Prediction Platform – J-PAL (Virtual) Spring 2024
 Introducing the Social Science Prediction Platform and the
 value of forecasting academic results with an online demonstration at a
 session hosted by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab. With Pro-
 fessors Eva Vivalt and Stefano DellaVigna.

Awards and Fellowships Allen Oliver Fellowship – McGill University (\$3,000) Spring 2022
 Awarded to the student who stands highest in first class
 honours in the Department of Economics at the final B.A. examination.

James McGill Entrance Scholarship – McGill University (\$3,000) Fall 2019

Technical Skills and Software Advanced: R, Stata, L^AT_EX, Excel, SQL, Qualtrics
 Intermediate: Python, MATLAB, QGIS, Git, Shiny
 Beginner: Mathematica, Julia, Tableau

Languages English (Fluent), Arabic (Native), French (Intermediate)

Personal Information Status in Canada: Permanent Resident
 Citizenship: Lebanon

Last updated: February 26, 2026