

Malek Hassouneh

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Contact Information

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Personal Information

Citizenship: Lebanon
Status in Canada: Permanent Resident
Date of Birth: 28th of November 2001

Education

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

McGill University Fall 2019 - Spring 2022
B.A. Economics (Honours)
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, facilitating the adoption of the platform by aiding project teams in designing forecast-eliciting surveys, maintaining platform growth and usage statistics for funding applications, gleaning results from various research papers, and conducting meta-analyses on the determinants of forecast accuracy. Also contributed to other research projects, including studying the effects of guaranteed-income policies, and correlated policy diffusion for understanding spatially correlated standard errors.

Research Assistant – University of Toronto Summer 2023
Worked with Professor Jiaying Gu on several research projects centered around the implementation of econometric screening and selection techniques for instruments, running simulations, and applying the 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
Holding coding tutorials and office hours, grading problem sets and research papers, and all other teaching assistant duties 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 <i>Source Material</i>	
	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.	
Group Contributions	The Econometrics Game – VSAE, University of Amsterdam <i>Source Material (Upon Request)</i>	Spring 2023
	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.	
	The Governor's Challenge – Bank of Canada (Virtual) <i>Source Material</i>	Fall 2021
	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 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 Professors 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, RMarkdown, Stata, Qualtrics, LaTeX Intermediate: Python, MATLAB, QGIS Beginner: SQL, Mathematica, Julia	
Languages	English (Fluent), Arabic (Native), French (Intermediate)	

Last updated: January 12, 2026