Peter Amerkhanian

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Summary of Experiences:
Experienced data scientist with 6+ years of success in public and nonprofit organizations.
Expert knowledge of Python/R, statistical methods, and communication with non-technical audiences.
Passionate about connecting data to organizational objectives.

Education

University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy   Berkeley, CA
Master of Public Policy, Policy Analysis   May 2023

University of California, Berkeley, School of Information   Berkeley, CA
Graduate Certificate, Applied Data Science   May 2023

University of California, Berkeley   Berkeley, CA
Bachelor of Arts, Political Economy   May 2016

Professional Experience

Data Scientist   August 2023 – Present
California Department of Social Services | Analysis and Modeling Unit   Sacramento, CA
- Serve as technical and research lead, overseeing the use of advanced computational and statistical methods in department operations; supervise two researchers on select projects
- Design and implement machine learning algorithms to improve client experiences in California's social services (CalFresh, CalWORKs, etc.)

Data Scientist Fellow   May 2022 – August 2023
The UC Berkeley Institute for Young Americans   Berkeley, CA
- Led two statistical research projects examining the effects of property tax reform in California; applied advanced statistical methodologies to answer tangible questions for policy-makers
- Wrote software in Python and R to manage and run regression models on multi-terabyte datasets, enabling organization to use big-data for the first time

Policy & Data Consultant   January 2023 – May 2023
The City of Alameda | Department of Finance   Alameda, CA
- Coordinated the collection of confidential data from four city agencies, creating the first comprehensive dataset of public expenditures and revenues for the Alameda Point region
- Produced revised statistical forecasts of the financial impact of a multi-decade redevelopment effort in Alameda Point; generated findings at a fraction of the cost of initial impact analysis

Graduate Student Instructor (Data Science)   August 2021 – June 2023
University of California, Berkeley   Berkeley, CA
- Taught graduate-level data analysis course to 60 students; received highest evaluation scores in course history, awarded the UC Berkeley 2022 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award
- Led 15 workshops on machine learning, spatial data, and programming methods for researchers at UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley Labs; received uniformly positive evaluations

Data Analyst   April 2020 – August 2021

United Way Bay Area   San Francisco, CA

- Built a data analysis system using Python and Salesforce to automate previously time-intensive statistical analysis of United Way Bay Area (UWBA) client outcomes for grant reporting
- Led evaluation of UWBA's benefit-enrollment assistance program; based findings on interviews, focus groups, and statistical analysis; integrated findings into successful program re-design
- Constructed an engaging six-page website for UWBA community colleges program using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript; saved team $8K in outside web development contracting fees

Education Specialist   January 2018 – March 2020

The Unites States Peace Corps   Machala, Ecuador

- Developed a data management software application in Python for a local high school; reduced completion time for a common grading task from one week to five minutes
- Surveyed 200 students and convened five focus groups with local educators to assess community needs; utilized findings to create an English learning program for youth

Legal Assistant   August 2016 – January 2018

Kazan Law Firm   Oakland, CA

- Conducted records research using Lexis Nexis and WestLaw and prepared review materials and documentary evidence for attorneys' use in trials
- Efficiently managed case records, evidence and calendars using Excel

District Office Intern   June 2014 - September 2014

State Senator Mark Leno's District Office   San Francisco, CA

- Fielded constituent calls, connecting callers to relevant local government services

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Skills

- **Expert**: Python, R, Excel. **Advanced**: Tableau, GIS, SQL, Git, Linux.
- Spanish proficiency (conducting interviews, facilitating meetings, translating)