

POOYA KARAMBAKHSH

BSc, MSc, GRADCERT, MA, PhD

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SUMMARY

Economist and data strategist with 15+ years bridging political economy, engineering, and applied data systems. I build human-centred solutions that help nonprofits, advocacy groups, and public institutions turn complex data into actionable insight. Skilled in CRM integration, workflow optimisation, and advanced analytics, I combine technical expertise with a collaborative, capacity-building approach to deliver measurable impact and long-term resilience.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

PhD in Political Economy (2019–2024)
MA (Research) in Political Economy
Graduate Certificate in Political Economy
The University of Sydney

MSc in Geotechnical Engineering
BSc in (Civil) Geotechnical Engineering
Sharif University of Technology

KEY SKILLS

Data & Analytics: Power BI, EViews, Python
CRM Systems: Salesforce, NationBuilder
Fundraising: Funraisin, Raisely
Automation: Zapier, Make, Power Automate
Languages: English & Persian (fluent), Arabic & Tongan (working knowledge)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Macroeconomic and Research Mentor
National Reserve Bank of Tonga/Australian Volunteers Program

Sep 2025 – Now
Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Purpose: Capacity Building in Research and Data Analysis

Database Specialist
The Australia Institute

Jan 2025 – Jul 2025
Canberra, Australia

Purpose: Public Policy and Advocacy

Data and Systems Manager
Knowledge & Database Administrator
Dress for Success (NSW & ACT)

Jan 2024 – Jun 2025
Jun 2023 – Dec 2023
Sydney, Australia

Purpose: Empowering Women in Securing and Retaining Employment

Business & Programs Data Analyst (National)	Jul 2021 – Jun 2022
Business Quality Support Officer (National)	Jan 2021 – Jun 2021
Project Officer (Journey of Hope)	Jan 2021 – Mar 2021
Program Quality Support Officer (3 States)	Jan 2020 – Dec 2020
Program Quality Support Officer (NSW)	Mar 2019 – Dec 2019
<i>Save the Children Australia</i>	<i>Sydney, Australia</i>

Purpose: Empowering Underprivileged Children and Families

Data Analyst / Database Administrator	Apr 2018 – Jul 2020
<i>Bobby Goldsmith Foundation</i>	<i>Sydney, Australia</i>

Purpose: Supporting People Living with HIV

Research Assistant/PhD Candidate	Jun 2012 – Jan 2016
ARC Centre for Geotechnical Science and Engineering	Newcastle, Australia

Project: Numerical simulation of geotechnical problems (particle flow & penetrometer tests)

Casual Academic	Sep 2013 – Jul 2015
<i>The University of Newcastle</i>	<i>Newcastle, Australia</i>

Courses: Geomechanics 1 & 2

Geotechnical Engineer	Apr 2011 – Apr 2012
<i>Tamavan Consulting Engineers</i>	<i>Tehran, Iran</i>

Project: Nargesi Earthfill Dam

Geotechnical Engineer	Dec 2009 – Feb 2011
<i>Fars School Renewal General Office</i>	<i>Shiraz, Iran</i>

Projects: Construction and renovation of 200+ schools

Geotech Engineer/PA to Project Manager	Sep 2008 - Jul 2009
<i>International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology</i>	<i>Tehran, Iran</i>

Project: Construction of new advanced laboratories

Teaching Assistant	Sep 2007 - Jun 2008
<i>Sharif University of Technology</i>	<i>Tehran, Iran</i>

Courses: Undergraduate and advanced foundation engineering

Civil Engineer	Feb 2006 - Sep 2006
<i>Sangtash</i>	<i>Shiraz, Iran</i>

Projects: Metro Line and Station

VOLUNTEERING/OTHER EXPERIENCES

Blogger (Researcher, Writer, Web Admin)

Think Hammerly

May 2013 – Now

Sydney, Australia

Policy Officer (Volunteer)

African Sub-Sahara International Development Agency (ASSIDA)

Dec 2017 – Apr 2018

Sydney, Australia

Project Officer (Volunteer)

All Together Now

Jan 2017 – Jun 2017

Sydney, Australia

Political Engagement Volunteer

Micah Australia

May 2016 – Dec 2016

Sydney, Australia

Poverty Alleviation Advocate

RESULTS Australia

Feb 2017 – Aug 2017

Sydney, Australia

Online & Social Media Campaigner

State and Local Council Candidate

Oct 2014 – Mar 2015

Newcastle, Australia

TECH SKILLS

Tableau, Power BI, Python, C++, Visual Basic

Data Analysis

Salesforce, NationBuilder, Galaxy, CSnet, Apricot

CRM System

Survey Monkey, Survey Gizmo, Qualtrics

Survey Design

Google Analytics, Statcounter

SEO & Analytics

MailChimp, Marketing Cloud (Pardot), Campaign Monitor

Marketing

Funraisin, Raisely

Fundraising

Zapier, Make, Power Automate

Automation

SELECTED CERTIFICATES

Salesforce Certified Administrator (ID: 4366110)

Salesforce

Power BI Data Analyst Associate (ID: A3B80BCBB0774675)

Microsoft

HONOURS & AWARDS

RTP (Tuition + Living Expenses)	2020–2023
RTP (Tuition Fee)	2017–2019
<i>The University of Sydney</i>	
UNIPRS and UNRSE Research Scholarships	2012–2015
<i>The University of Newcastle</i>	
Ranked top 1% (144 / 50,000)	2006
<i>Postgraduate National Entrance Exam</i>	
Ranked top 1% (177 / 500,000)	2001
<i>Undergraduate National Entrance Exam</i>	

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Historical Materialism Sydney	Dec 2018
<i>The Domestic and Global Powers of Australia's Retail Workers</i>	<i>Sydney, Australia</i>
ISEFE 2018	Dec 2018
<i>The Social Structure of Accumulation</i>	<i>Bandirma, Turkey</i>

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Papers

- Karambakhsh P. (2020) "The Powers of Australian Retail Workers as a Section of the Global Working Class", *Global Labour Journal*, Volume 11, Issue 2, pp. 118-133.
- Ahmadi, M.M., and Karambakhsh, P., Golestani, A. A. (2014) "Horizontal Stress Estimation Using CPT: a Database Approach", *Sharif Journal of Science and Research*, Volume 30-2, Issue 1.2, Autumn 2014, pp. 95-106.

Conference Proceedings

- Karambakhsh, P. (2018) "The Social Structure of Accumulation: Theoretical-Historical Background and Contemporary Applications", *The International Symposium on Economics, Finance and Econometrics (ISEFE 2018)*.
- Ahmadi, M.M., and Karambakhsh, P. (2010) "K₀ determination of Sand Using CPT Calibration Chamber", *CPT10*.
- Ahmadi, M.M., and Karambakhsh, P. (2009) "A numerical study of the effects of calibration chamber boundary conditions on pressuremeter test results in sand", *GeoHalifax 2009*.

Theses

- Karambakhsh, P. (2024) "Analysing the world rate of profit: A new approach", PhD thesis, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.
- Karambakhsh, P. (2019) "Transnational Australia", MA (Research) thesis, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.
- Karambakhsh, P. (2008) "Determination of lateral pressure of sandy soil using results of calibration of cone penetration test" M.Sc. thesis (Farsi), Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.