**Preston Watts**

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**EDUCATION**

**London School of Economics & Political Science,** UK July 2021

*MSc in Economics, Merit*

**Louisiana State University College of Business,** LA May 2018

*Economics B.S.*, *Empirical Economic Analysis Concentration*

* Member: Economics & ITF Club and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
* Awards: 2017 Outstanding Student in Microeconomics, 2017 Outstanding Student in Econometrics
* Tiger Athletic Foundation Scholarship
* Joseph Carmena Sr. Memorial Scholarship

**EXPERIENCE**

**GEICO,** Washington, D.C.

*Product Research and Development Analyst II*  Sept. 2021 – Oct 2021

* Collaborated on CBA’s evaluating three competing vendor products by joining their external datasets to internal data and determining the change in segmentation, premium levels, and costs associated with each product
* Wrote reusable script in R to check underwriting and rating variables produced on a repeated basis to implement in production
* Wrote functions in R with embedded SQL queries for own analysis of policyholders with special life circumstances and for other analysts to use them in later analyses
* Estimated the number of policyholders that become widowed on GEICO books and the share of those that have other changes to their policies on the same day or soon after
* Helped onboard new hires by answering questions on databases, internal resources, and ongoing projects
* Independently documented new I.T. processes relevant to the team as I learned them to reduce duplications of efforts researching data security protocols, software requests, and common I.T. bugs
* Created documentation for commonly used internal code snippets for SQL and R and instructions on downloading internally produced GEICO R packages

*Product Research and Development Analyst I* April 2021 – Sept. 2021

* Employed SQL to join and analyze millions of rows of customer data for ad hoc business questions, including analyzing changes to policies over time to estimating the volume of missing driver suspensions from vendor data
* Queried and joined data from multiple tables to acquire the number of electric vehicles GEICO insured in each zip code in the U.S. for targeted advertising at charging stations
* Participated in the Agile methodology by checking teammates work, talking about my blockers on projects, helping others with blockers, and providing feedback in retrospectives
* Compared internal data to prospective vendor data to determine the magnitude of additional traffic violations from implementing the vendor’s product
* Formatted Excel tables with R code so that similar data outputs could be produced without the need for repeated point and click manipulation
* Attended and took notes at professional webinar series from the Highway Loss Data Institute and reported on emerging industry trends and technologies to my team
* Updated the underlying data and made stylistic revisions to internal reports created with R Shiny for departmental upper management and C-suite
* Drafted email shared with upper management (AVP and V.P.) in a report style highlighting trends in the automobile industry and GEICO’s insured fleet to accompany the publishing of one of my team’s dashboards to R Server

**Economics & Policy Research Group,** Baton Rouge, LA

*Research Associate* July 2018 - May 2019

* Collaborated with colleagues to discuss strategy and obstacles on various projects ranging from how to forecast energy sector employment in the Gulf Coast states to organizing survey outings
* Wrote and designed surveys on Qualtrics to maximize response accuracy and response rate to measure the economic impact of school quality on Ascension Parish, Louisiana
* Conducted literature review relating to projects and communicated findings to superiors on a variety of topics, including an entirely independent review of early education literature
* Conveyed sophisticated results of analyses to nontechnical clients by constructing creative visualizations showing the impact on state revenues if tax legislation had passed earlier
* Wrote, organized, and annotated Stata code to clean and analyze large data sets that included panel data on all historical production by individual mineral leases in the Gulf of Mexico
* Forecast all or part of each source of Louisiana revenues—bidding, rental payments, and royalties—from offshore oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico
* Mapped leasing activity in the Gulf of Mexico using ArcMap GIS software to visualize and understand ramifications of oil and gas extraction off the gulf coast and to convey the information to clients
* Organized and led groups of students conducting field surveys across southern Louisianato sites where J-turns, a traffic structure, had been implemented to document their effects (if any) on surrounding businesses
* Analyzed macroeconomic trends and aided in generating the Louisiana unemployment forecast based upon multiple considerations, including hypothetical downward pressures such as its diminished dependence on energy or the growing gig economy

*Student Worker* Jan 2018 - May 2018

* Compiled data from different statistical sites such as the BLS, Fred Economic Data, or the Louisiana Workforce Commission for use in various projects
* Strategized with other team members on how best to divide duties based on experience for producing a discovery report for our superiors on the impacts of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act on state revenues
* Created charts and graphs for the Louisiana Health Insurance Survey compiled for the Louisiana Department of Health, which gave the department an update on the rates of coverage after the Louisiana Medicaid Expansion
* Inspected data outliers for errors and organized the errors by most probable reasons, including misclick, misunderstanding the question, using incorrect units, etc.
* Analyzed oil production data in Excel and presented results to project head, informing him of the major causal driver of tax revenue growth from leasing activity in the Gulf of Mexico

**Zachry Construction Corporation,** Houston, TX May 2016 - July 2016

*Civil Engineering Intern*

* Analyzed engineering plans to methodically break down structures to be built into components to acquire exact dimensions and subsequently attain material quantities
* Utilized Excel to record material quantities and estimate the associated costs of concrete, rebar, wood, etc.
* Engaged with engineers regarding best practices for recording and presenting cost estimates to be used by the firm in its bids for state contracts
* Employed Google Earth to lay phases of a construction project, which was used by the head of estimating and would be used in project preparation in the case of a successful bid
* Collaborated with designers to ensure proper accounting for wind pressure when constructing braces to support concrete columns during their construction
* Traveled to prospective and active construction sites to gather images and data on progress and orderliness and to obtain an accurate understanding of obstacles such as water depths
* Contacted subcontractors to request quotes for inclusion in primary bids and reported the low bids to the estimation team

**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

* Proficient: Statistics, SQL, R, Stata, Excel, Econometrics, Statistics, Forecasting, MS Office Suite
* Medium proficiency: Python, Shiny, ArcMap, Machine Learning, Data Mining

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

* Interests: Playing board games and frequenting breweries and pubs. Exploring new destinations and experiencing new things. Love being on water and am an aspiring boat owner.
* Volunteering: Flood relief work after the 2016 floods in southern Louisiana and after Hurricane Harvey in 2017.