STEVEN KERR

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EDUCATION

M.Sc. Data Science for Public Policy   **Sep 2021—May 2024**

The Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany

- Interdisciplinary program focusing on applying data science to policy questions
- Receiving merit-based partial tuition waiver (8,625€)
- Current Grade: 1.23/A (scale 1-6, 1 = best)

B.A. Economics, *with honors*   **Aug 2015—Apr 2019**

Pepperdine University, Los Angeles, California, USA

- Thesis: "Effects of Foreign Exchange Rates on US-Japan Trade Relations"
- Final Grade: 3.68/A- (scale 0-4, 4 = best)

Certificate in Dispute Resolution   **Aug 2017—Apr 2019**

Pepperdine Law School, Los Angeles, California, USA

- Eight credit hours (96 classroom hours) studying conflict management and dispute resolution
- Submitted four separate 20+ page reports applying concepts to real-world conflicts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Junior Data Scientist   **Jun 2022—present**

Berlin, Germany

- Working with clients to develop, initiate, and implement new projects in the field of global health, particularly pandemic preparedness and response
- Conducting landscape analyses on policy initiatives in global health, understanding financial flows, and assessing implications of recommendations made by policy actors on an ongoing basis

Procurement Analyst, U.S. Space Force   **Aug 2019—Jul 2021**

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Procured supplies and services necessary to support $800M U.S. satellite launch program
- Generated time series forecasts, conducted industry analyses, and frequently drafted 30+ page reports presenting decision-makers with viable options during negotiations

Accreditation Assistant, Pepperdine University   **Jan 2019—Apr 2019**

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Supported Pepperdine University's 5-Year Economics Department Review by running focus groups involving 15% of senior Economics students to gauge programme effectiveness
- Analyzed survey data and presented findings to Economics faculty and staff

Director of Education, Pepperdine Model United Nations   **Apr 2018—Apr 2019**

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Led weekly 1hr 30min sessions to train 30+ undergraduate and graduate students in research methods, policy analysis, memo writing, public speaking and debate skills
- Formulated reports on a diverse set of topics such as external debt sustainability, financing for renewable energy projects, and the economic impact of intellectual property transfer

Economics Tutor, Pepperdine University   **Aug 2018—Dec 2018**

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Demonstrated knowledge of advanced economic theory while tutoring 15 undergraduate students
- Created individual progress plans and organized group review sessions ahead of exams

Procurement Intern, U.S. Air Force   **Jun 2018—Aug 2018**

Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

- Assisted with the procurement of $1M base-wide transition to cloud infrastructure
- Received formal on-the-job training in market research, price analysis, and acquisition strategy

Research Assistant, Pepperdine University   **May 2017—Jun 2017**

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Conducted qualitative study examining student perspectives on diversity at Pepperdine University
- Performed literature review, ran 12 focus groups, and transcribed student interviews
- Generated report synthesizing findings and presented key takeaways at research symposium

Associate Editor, Pepperdine University   **Jan 2016—Apr 2017**

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Evaluated submissions for the *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research*
- Nominated submissions based on academic rigor, organizational structure, and grammar

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Detecting COVID-related Fake News with Machine Learning   **May 2022**

Machine Learning (GRAD-C24)

- Built a fake news detection algorithm with Python using the Covid-19 Fake News dataset comprising 10,700 Covid-related social media posts labeled either "real" or "fake"
- Measured the extent to which fake news algorithms degrade over time due to temporal shifts in fake news content

UK COVID Dashboard Disaggregated by Age Group   **Dec 2021**

Introduction to Data Science (GRAD-C11)

- Utilized R to create a shiny app-hosted dashboard to track COVID case rates in England with added functionality of disaggregating case rates by age group
- Accessed UK government APIs to obtain COVID case rate data and geodata

Validating COVID Self-Tests with Image Recognition   **Dec 2021**
Data Structures & Algorithms (GRAD-C9)
- Developed an algorithm capable of validating COVID self-tests using image recognition
- Used data from the MNIST database of handwritten digits, a collection of more than 70,000 examples, to train the Machine Learning algorithm to recognize handwritten serial numbers and COVID test results using Python

Effects of Foreign Exchange Rates on U.S.-Japan Trade Relations   **Apr 2019**
Applied Econometrics (ECON 410)
- Utilized R to examine the extent to which fluctuations in the U.S. dollar-Japanese yen (USD-JPY) exchange rate impact bilateral trade between the U.S. and Japan
- Performed Granger causality tests, impulse-response tests, and vector autoregression (VAR) analyses to test hypothesis using statistical packages in R

Diversity, Faith, and the Role They Play at Pepperdine University   **Jul 2018**
Seaver College Research and Scholarly Achievement Symposium
- Analyzed student interviews and cross-sectional survey data as part of qualitative study
- Summarized findings in formal report and presented key findings to faculty and students

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

R
Passed LinkedIn Skill Assessment for R (Top 5%)
- Frequently use R to clean, wrangle, model, and visualize data for projects and papers
- Advanced familiarity with tidverse (tidyr, dplyr, ggplot), sf (geocoding), and shiny packages

Python/Jupyter Notebook
- Utilize Python to prepare data, fit machine learning models, and visualize results
- Advanced experience with pandas, numpy, sklearn, matplotlib and seaborn packages

SQL
Certificate in Using Databases with Python
- Experience with creating, retrieving, updating, and deleting database information with SQL
- Used SQL to create a database of web-scraped geo-location data for data visualization project

Machine Learning
- Developed a ML algorithm capable of validating COVID-19 rapid self-tests using image recognition
- Currently implementing a project that combines ML and Natural Language Processing to detect fake social media posts about public health

Other Coding Skills
- Git/GitHub
- Bash/Command Line
- Shiny Apps & Dashboards
- Web-scraping (HTML/CSS/XML)
- API Requests

MS Office
- Advanced experience with using Excel formulas, functions, and pivot tables
- Frequently format reports, incorporate graphs & charts, and create mock-ups in Word
- Routinely deliver presentations, trainings, and briefings using PowerPoint

HONORS & AWARDS

- **Contracting Civilian-in-Training of the Year, U.S. Space Force** — **2020**
- **Regents' Scholar Award (Top Academic Scholarship), Pepperdine University** — **2015—2019**
- **Cum Laude, Pepperdine University** — **2019**
- **Best Delegate Award, National Model United Nations (China)** — **2018**
- **Position Paper Award, National Model United Nations (New York)** — **2018**
- **Blanche E. Seaver Faculty-Staff Scholarship, Pepperdine University** — **2018**
- **Dean's List, Pepperdine University** — **2017**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **Data Science Society, Hertie School** — **2021-Present**
- **Pride Network, Hertie School** — **2021-Present**
- **Sigma Iota Rho (ΣIP) National Honors Society** — **2017—2019**
- **Student Government Representative, Pepperdine University** — **2016—2017**
- **Step Forward Program, Pepperdine University** — **2015—2017**

LANGUAGES

English	Spanish	French	German
Native	B2	B1	A2