

STEVEN KERR

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EDUCATION

M.Sc. Data Science for Public Policy

Sep 2021—May 2023

The Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany

- Interdisciplinary program focusing on applying data science to societal problems
- 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 strategies for managing conflicts and disputes
- Submitted four 20+ page reports applying concepts to real-world conflicts and disputes

EXPERIENCE

Procurement Analyst, U.S. Space Force

Aug 2019—Jul 2021

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Procured supplies and services necessary to support execution of \$800M National Security Space Launch Services portfolio
- Conducted research, analyzed cost & pricing data, performed analyses, and generated 30+ page reports to inform Government procurement strategy
- Received formal and on-the-job training in the legal frameworks regulating public procurement

Accreditation Assistant, Pepperdine University

Jan 2019—Apr 2019

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Supported Pepperdine University's 5-Year Economics Department Review by organizing and facilitating a focus group of 20+ 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 24 sessions to train 26 undergraduate and graduate students in research methods, policy analysis, and policy memo writing

- Formulated policy briefs on a diverse set of topics including external debt sustainability, public financing for renewable energy projects, and economic impact of intellectual property transfer

Procurement Intern, U.S. Air Force

Jun 2018—Aug 2018

Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

- Assisted with procurement of tech infrastructure upgrade for U.S. Air Force Space Command HQ
- Received on-the-job training in industry analysis, public regulations, and research methods

Research Assistant, Pepperdine University

May 2017—Jun 2017

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Assisted with a qualitative research study examining issues of diversity at Pepperdine University
- Analyzed student survey data to identify trends in students' understanding of diversity
- Generated report synthesizing the study's findings and presented key takeaways to administration

Associate Editor, Pepperdine University

Jan 2016—Apr 2017

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Reviewed hundreds of pages for the *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research*
- Nominated articles for publication based on academic rigor, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organizational structure

Mini-Jobs

Jan 2015—Apr 2019

Los Angeles, California, USA

- Economics Tutor for 15 undergraduate students
- Campus Ambassador for prospective undergraduate students

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Validating COVID Self-Tests with Image Recognition

Dec 2021

Data Structures & Algorithms (GRAD-C9)

- Developed an algorithm capable of validating COVID self-test using **image recognition**
- Used data from the MNIST database of handwritten digits, a collection of more than 60,000 examples, to train the **Machine Learning** algorithm to recognize handwritten serial numbers and COVID test results using those **Python** programming language

UK COVID Dashboard Disaggregated by Age Group

Dec 2021

Introduction to Data Science (GRAD-C11)

- Created a **R** shiny app-hosted **dashboard** to track COVID case rates in England with the added option to disaggregate by age group
- Extracted COVID case rate dataset and **geodata** for all 309 local authority districts from official UK government **APIs**

Effects of Foreign Exchange Rates on U.S.-Japan Trade Relations

Apr 2019

Applied Econometrics (ECON 410)

- Examined 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
- Constructed a dataset using U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Federal Reserve data
- Utilized **R** programming language to perform Granger causality tests, impulse-response tests, and vector autoregression (VAR) analyses in order to test hypothesis

Diversity, Faith, and the Role They Play at Pepperdine University

Jun 2017

Seaver College Research and Scholarly Achievement Symposium

- Assisted with a qualitative analysis of diversity awareness at Pepperdine University
- Interpreted survey data to identify trends in the student body's understanding of diversity
- Summarized findings in formal report and presented key findings to faculty and students

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Python

- Received training in Python programming language through course projects and assignments
- Advanced experience with using pandas, numpy, and matplotlib packages to clean, manipulate, and visualize data

R

- Used R to tidy, wrangle, model, and visualize data for course projects, papers, and assignments
- Advanced familiarity with tidverse (tidyr, dplyr, ggplot), sf (geocoding), and shiny packages

MS Office Suite

- Advanced experience with using **Excel** formulas, functions, and pivot tables
- Frequently utilize **Word** to generate reports by formatting documents, incorporating graphs & charts, and creating mock-ups for printed materials
- Routinely deliver presentations, trainings, and briefings with **PowerPoint**

Misc.

- SQL
- Web-scraping
- APIs
- HTML/CSS
- XML
- Machine Learning (ML)
- Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- Markdown
- LaTeX
- Tableau

HONORS & AWARDS

- Contracting Civilian-in-Training of the Year, U.S. Air 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 (China) 2018
- Outstanding Delegation, National Model United Nations (New York) 2018
- Blanche E. Seaver Faculty-Staff Scholarship, Pepperdine University 2018
- Dean's List, Pepperdine University 2017

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Tech Society, Hertie School 2022—Present
- Pride Network, Hertie School 2021—Present
- Data Science Society, Hertie School 2021—Present
- Contracting Directorate Social Council, U.S. Space Force 2019—2021
- Economics Reading Group 2019
- Sigma Iota Rho (ΣΙΡ) National Honors Society 2017—2019
- Model United Nations 2017—2019
- Student Government Representative, Pepperdine University 2016—2017
- Great Books Colloquium 2015—2018
- Step Forward Program, Pepperdine University 2015—2017
- Colleges Against Cancer, Pepperdine University 2015—2016

LANGUAGES

<u>English</u>	<u>French</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>German</u>
Native	B2	B1	A2