

Yosh Halberstam

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Economist & Data Scientist | Causal Measurement Systems for Product, Growth & AI

SUMMARY

Applied economist and data scientist who builds causal measurement systems to understand what drives behavior, adoption, and outcomes at scale. Fifteen years leading empirical research across large observational datasets and complex systems, translating analysis into decision-ready insights for product, growth, and AI systems. Deep expertise in quasi-experimental design, network effects, and behavioral measurement.

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Economics — University of Toronto (2010–2021)

- Designed and executed multi-year causal measurement programs on large-scale observational data, translating analysis into durable analytical frameworks and published research.
- Designed large-scale network analytics pipelines analyzing 2.2M users and ~90M network connections to measure information diffusion and exposure bias on social platforms.
- Built audio signal-processing pipelines analyzing ~40,000 recordings and millions of frequency measurements to detect latent behavioral patterns in human speech.
- Led causal evaluations on population-scale administrative datasets showing 20–40% reductions in gender pay gaps and ~10% distributional wage effects from institutional change.
- Recruited, mentored, and managed graduate researchers, developing technical execution, analytical rigor, and independent ownership.

Senior Financial Economist — FDIC, Center for Financial Research (2021–2025)

- Designed and cognitively tested national household survey for Census Bureau financial supplement covering ~30,000 households, analyzing fintech adoption and credit access patterns.
- Built analytical validation and reporting workflows supporting production publication pipelines for flagship FDIC datasets covering ~1,300 banks, used by federal regulators and industry stakeholders.

SKILLS

Methods: Causal inference, quasi-experimental design, event studies, behavioral measurement, survey design

Tools: Stata (advanced), R (applied), Python (working), SQL (working), visualization, git

Systems: Measurement frameworks, monitoring metrics, reproducible analytics

Leadership: Cross-functional collaboration, mentoring, stakeholder communication

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics — Northwestern University

M.A., Economics — Northwestern University

B.A., Economics & East Asian Studies (summa cum laude) — Hebrew University

Awards: FDIC STAR Award (2023, 2024), Dean's Excellence Award (Toronto, 2015), Susan Bies Prize (Northwestern, 2009)