Zahra Khanalizadeh (She/Her)

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Education

University of Washington — Seattle, WA
Ph.D. in Economics — *2021 – 2026 (Expected)*
Advisors: Alan Griffith and Jason Kerwin

Smith School of Business, Queen's University — Ontario, Canada
M.Sc. in Management, Analytics — *2021*
Thesis: Market Efficiency and Bidder Pay-offs in Double-Sided Auctions (Advisor: Guang Li)

Sharif University of Technology — Tehran, Iran
M.Sc. in Economics — *2020*
Thesis: Comparing the Market Equilibrium in the Pay-as-Bid and Uniform Price Settings of Auctions in Wholesale Electricity Markets (Advisors: M.H. Rahmati and M. Vesal)

Sharif University of Technology — Tehran, Iran
B.Sc. in Computer Engineering (Software) — *2017*

Research Interests

Causal Inference, Experimentation, Online Platforms, Causal Machine Learning, Labor Economics

Research in Progress

Two-Sided Prioritized Ranking: A Coherency-Preserving Design for Marketplace Experiments
Co-authored with Mahyar Habibi and Negar Ziaeian
Oral Presentation at CODE@MIT 2024; Poster presentation at Ad Frontiers 2025; Under review; arXiv

Distinguishing Biases from Personal Preferences: An Honest Machine Learning Approach
Co-authored with Mahyar Habibi and Negar Ziaeian; [Extended Abstract](#)

Extending the Reproductive Horizon: Exploring Beliefs, Preferences, and Decision-Making
Co-authored with Negar Ziaeian

Select Coursework

Econometric Theory, Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Causal Modeling, Design and Analysis of Experiments, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Non-parametric and Empirical Industrial Organization

Work Experience

Teaching Assistant, *University of Washington* — 2022 – Present
- *Courses:* Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Probability and Statistics, Elements of Statistical Methods
- Instructed and facilitated exercises, led labs and office hours, and assessed assignments and exams.

Research Assistant, *Smith School of Business* — 2021
- Conducted numerical analysis on the pricing behavior of sellers in online marketplaces.
- Ran experiments and executed tests including Markov chain convergence tests and time series stationarity tests.

Skills

Programming: Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, SQL, Excel; Familiar with Spark and Azure
Libraries/Packages: Pandas, NumPy, SciPy, Scikit-learn, PyTorch, EconML, Tidyverse
Data Visualization: Seaborn, Matplotlib, ggplot2, ArcGIS; Familiar with Tableau
Quantitative: Causal Inference, Experimental Design, Causal Machine Learning, Demand Estimation

Honors and Awards

ACM EC'25 Travel Grant Awarded for Accepted Poster Presentation — 2025
Graduate School Conference Presentation Award *(University of Washington)* — 2024
Jeff McGill Graduate Fellowship *(Queen's University)* — 2021
Finalist in the National Scientific Olympiad in Economics *(Iran)* — 2017
Top 0.1% in Nationwide University Entrance Exam out of 300,000 applicants *(Iran)* — 2012