Malek Hassouneh

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Education

University of Toronto Aug. 2022 – June 2023
Master of Arts in Economics *Toronto, ON*

- cGPA: 3.91/4.00
- Relevant Coursework: Econometrics I & II (Ph.D.), Advanced Methods for Empirical Microeconomics (Ph.D.), Economic Applications of Machine Learning

McGill University Sept. 2019 – June 2022
Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Honours), Minor in Mathematics *Montréal, QC*

- cGPA: 3.96/4.00
- Graduating Honours: First Class Honours, Dean's Honour List
- Relevant Coursework: Generalized Linear Models (M.Sc.), Time Series Analysis (M.Sc.), Stochastic Processes

Research Experience

Pre-Doctoral Fellow Sept. 2023 – Nov. 2025
University of Toronto, Department of Economics *Toronto, ON*

- Conducted research with Professors Eva Vivalt and Stefano DellaVigna (University of California, Berkeley), studying forecast accuracy as part of the Social Science Prediction Platform team, estimating employment effects of a guaranteed income experiment, and developing estimation techniques for spatially correlated standard errors.
- Extracted, validated, and standardized results from over 100 research papers comprising nearly 1,500 key estimates and over 50,000 forecasts, querying backend databases and cleaning, processing, and merging large-scale datasets.
- Conducted statistical meta-analyses in R, estimating empirical regression specifications and implementing simulation-based designs to identify behavioural patterns underlying forecasts and the determinants of accuracy.
- Collaborated with cross-functional research teams and external stakeholders to design, program, and deploy forecast-eliciting surveys in Qualtrics, coordinating panel respondent communications through SendGrid.
- Managed platform-wide growth and usage metrics, preparing summaries, data visualizations, and detailed analytical notes on empirical research findings for internal reporting, external presentations, and grant applications.
- Supported project coordination by organizing research activities across multiple concurrent projects, managing competing deadlines and shifting research priorities while ensuring timely delivery of analytical outputs.
- Developed and maintained well-documented research workflows, codebases, and data pipelines on GitHub, automating analytical tasks and facilitating reproducible analysis, knowledge sharing, and team onboarding.

Research Assistant May 2023 – Aug. 2023
University of Toronto, Department of Economics *Toronto, ON*

- Conducted research with Professor Jiaying Gu on the theory and application of econometric techniques used to screen and select valid instrumental variables for credible causal identification and inference in empirical settings.
- Extended, validated, and debugged existing code repositories in R implementing econometric thresholding methods and plurality rules (Windmeijer et al., 2021) to support more complex correlation structures between instruments.
- Applied the statistical selection techniques in the empirical context of compulsory schooling laws and the returns to education in the U.S. using replication packages (Stephens & Yang, 2014), providing revised causal estimates.

Teaching Assistant Sept. 2022 – Apr. 2023
University of Toronto, Department of Economics *Mississauga, ON*

- Performed instructional support duties for an introductory econometrics course (ECO375 – Applied Econometrics I), taught by Professors Eduardo Souza-Rodrigues and Jiaying Gu.
- Held weekly tutorials and office hours, explaining statistical concepts and methodologies and providing technical guidance on conducting econometric analysis in Stata and R to students with varied technical backgrounds.
- Evaluated and provided detailed feedback on examinations, monthly problem sets, and term research papers, assessing students' research design, application of econometric methods, and interpretation of empirical results.

Research Contributions

Income Shocks and Intrahousehold Dynamics: Evidence from a Guaranteed Income Experiment
Rhodes et al., *NBER Working Paper* No. 35589, August 2026.

The Employment Effects of a Guaranteed Income: Experimental Evidence from Two U.S. States
Vivalt et al., *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, August 2026.

AI-Assisted Teams Outperform AI-Led Teams but Not Human-Only Teams in Assessing Research Reproducibility in Quantitative Social Science
Brodeur et al., *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, May 2026.

Forecasting Social Science: Evidence from 100 Projects
DellaVigna & Vivalt, *NBER Working Paper* No. 34493, April 2026.

Using Multiple Outcomes to Adjust Standard Errors for Spatial Correlation
DellaVigna et al., *NBER Working Paper* No. 33716, April 2025.

Research Projects

The Econometric Game, *VSAE University of Amsterdam* Mar. 2023 – Apr. 2023

- Represented the University of Toronto at a case-study competition, supervised by Professor Jiaying Gu.
- Developed data-driven predictive machine learning models in Python, including logistic regression and tree-based ensemble models, using administrative data from the Sahel region to predict nutritional outcomes among children.
- Presented conclusions on model choice and accuracy, comparing model performance across validation strategies, interpreting feature importance, and communicating the strengths and limitations of modelling approaches.

The Governor's Challenge, *Bank of Canada* June 2021 – Nov. 2021

- Represented McGill University at a monetary policy competition, supervised by Professors John W. Galbraith and Francisco Alvarez-Cuadrado.
- Estimated and evaluated benchmark time-series models in R, including ARDL and VARX, forecasting key macroeconomic indicators such as GDP growth and its components, inflation, and unemployment rates.
- Presented an analysis of Canada's macroeconomic outlook post-COVID-19, highlighting emerging opportunities and risks, and providing recommendations on the Bank of Canada's monetary policy and its policy interest rate.

Presentations

The Social Science Prediction Platform, *Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab* May 2024

- Delivered an online workshop introducing the Social Science Prediction Platform and the value of forecasting research outcomes to an audience of practitioners, with Professors Eva Vivalt and Stefano DellaVigna.
- Demonstrated the platform's functionality, survey creation process, and interface navigation, presenting survey design best practices based on previous research findings to support broader adoption of the platform.

Awards & Fellowships

Allen Oliver Fellowship, *McGill University* ($3,000) June 2022

- Awarded to the student who stands highest in First Class Honours in the Department of Economics.

James McGill Entrance Scholarship, *McGill University* ($3,000) Sept. 2019

- Awarded to students on the basis of academic achievement upon admission.

Technical Skills

Programming & Statistical Software: R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, Mathematica
Data & Analytics: SQL (PostgreSQL), Power BI, Shiny, Excel
Development & Research: Git, Qualtrics, GIS (QGIS), LaTeX, PowerPoint
Languages: English (Fluent), French (Intermediate), Arabic (Native)

Last updated: November 10, 2026