

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

- Supported Professors Eva Vivalt and Stefano DellaVigna (University of California, Berkeley) as a member of the Social Science Prediction Platform (SSPP) team, assisting with research on forecast accuracy, guaranteed income policies, and spatially correlated standard errors.
- Extracted and standardized results from over 100 publicly available research papers spanning close to 1,500 key estimates and over 50,000 forecasts, cleaning, processing, and merging multiple complex datasets.
- Implemented various meta-analyses in R, running regression specifications and simulation designs to identify the determinants of forecast accuracy and behavioral patterns in forecasting.
- Maintained channels of communication with periodic updates to panel respondents via SendGrid, and assisted project teams in designing and programming forecast-eliciting surveys on Qualtrics.
- Maintained platform-wide growth and usage metrics and provided updated summary statistics for external presentations and funding applications.

Research Assistant

May 2023 – Aug. 2023

University of Toronto, Department of Economics

Toronto, ON

- Supported the research of Professor Jiaying Gu on the theory and application of econometric techniques used to screen and select valid instrumental variables.
- Extended existing code repositories implementing thresholding methods and plurality rules (Windmeijer et al., 2021) to allow for more complicated correlation structures between instruments.
- Applied the selection techniques in the empirical context of compulsory schooling laws and the returns to education in the U.S. (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 focused on implementing econometric analysis in Stata and R.
- Graded and provided detailed feedback on examinations, monthly problem sets, and term research papers.

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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 machine learning models, including logistic regression and tree-based ensemble models, on administrative data from the Sahel region to predict the burden of wasting and level of malnutrition among children.
 - Presented conclusions on model choice and accuracy, validation strategy, and identified feature importance.
- 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 benchmark time-series models, including ARDL and VARX, forecasting key macroeconomic indicators including GDP growth and its components, inflation, and unemployment rates.
 - Presented an analysis of Canada’s economic outlook post-COVID-19, providing recommendations on the Bank of Canada’s monetary policy and the evolution of its policy interest rate.

PRESENTATIONS

- The Social Science Prediction Platform**, *Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab* May 2024
- Introduced the Social Science Prediction Platform and the value of forecasting research results to an audience of practitioners in an online session, with Professors Eva Vivalt and Stefano DellaVigna.
 - Demonstrated the platform’s survey creation process, design best practices, and how to navigate the interface.

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

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

Last updated: July 11, 2026