Zemar Hakim

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Education

Queen's University *2022-2027 (Expected)*
PhD, Economics

Toronto Metropolitan University *2020-2021*
MA, International Economics and Finance

Wilfrid Laurier University *2015-2019*
BA, Honours Economics

Research

Environmental and Climate Economics, Development Economics, Energy, Applied Econometrics, Causal Inference

Proximity to the Plague: Measuring Locust Exposure and Child Health. Job Market Paper. [PDF]

Wildfire Smoke, Air Quality, and the Limits of Short-Run Labour-Market Impacts in Canadian Cities. With Christopher S. Cotton. Submitted to *PNAS*, August 2026. [PDF]

Drought-Proof Generosity: Index Insurance and Informal Livestock Lending in Northern Kenya. Working paper, April 2026. [PDF]

Born into Drought: Early-Life Exposure and Child Health in Angola. Work in progress.

What Replaces the Sun? Wildfire Smoke, Solar Losses, and Emissions. Work in progress

Economic Shocks: Power Outages and Economic Activity. With Zachary Robb. Work in progress

Policy Papers and Other Contributions

Patent Monetization Promotion and SSO Participation. White paper. With Charles River Associates, 2026.

G7 Sanctions Matching Report. Policy report. With Global Affairs Canada. Presented during Canada's G7 Presidency, 2025.

Conferences

Applied Economics Conference, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade (2026): *Wildfire Smoke, Air Quality, and the Limits of Short-Run Labour-Market Impacts in Canadian Cities*

Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver (2026): *Born into Drought: Early-Life Exposure and Child Health in Angola*

Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings, Université du Québec à Montréal (2025): *Proximity to the Plague: Measuring Locust Exposure and Child Health*

Canadian Development Economics Study Group, Concordia University, Montréal (2025): *Proximity to the Plague: Measuring Locust Exposure and Child Health*

Awards

Mac Urquhart PhD Award for best second-year paper in Economics ($2,500)	*2026*
Economics Department Award ($10,000 x 4)	*2022-2026*
E. Gay Mitchell Graduate Fellowship in Finance ($8,000)	*2024*
Ontario Graduate Scholarship ($15,000 x 2)	*2020, 2022*
Dean's List ($1,500)	*2018*
Wilfrid Laurier Entrance Scholarship ($15,000)	*2015*

Professional Experience

Senior Associate (Summer Intern) *Toronto, Ontario*
Charles River Associates *2026*

- White Paper: Patent Monetization Promotion and SSO Participation.
- Conducted quantitative and economic analysis for 5 litigation and merger engagements.
- Built automated codebook to support replication.
- Built and maintained econometric models in R and Stata to evaluate damages and market dynamics.
- Conducted industry research and translated findings into clear reports and presentations for clients.

Senior Research Analyst (Consultant) *Ottawa, Ontario*
Global Affairs Canada *2022-2026*

- Policy Paper: G7 Sanctions Gap Analysis
- Designed automated data pipelines in R, Python, and SQL with over 500 million records from 4 federal departments.
- Developed causal and predictive models to quantify the impact of sanctions and conflicts, forecasting trade flows worth more than $2 trillion annually and identifying anomalous transaction patterns across G7 economies.
- Managed 2 direct reports and supported over 20 ministerial briefings.
- Engineered architecture integrating over 25,000 records across allied jurisdictions, and built interactive dashboards for 3 federal departments.

Economics Expert (Contract) *2025-2026*
Mercor

- Designed AI training data for large language models across 4 projects.
- Diagnosed model failure modes in logic, numerical reasoning and code generation.

Research Assistant *2020-2026*

- Philippe Kabore: Data cleaning and analysis
- Cherie Metcalf: Data visualization and basic analysis
- Hyunju Lee: Literature Review; Overreaction and the Value of Information in a Pandemic

Teaching Assistant *2020-2026*

- ECON 290: Energy Economics
- PPEC 200: Introduction to the Study of Politics, Philosophy and Economics
- ECON 110: Head TA, Principles of Economics
- ECON 111: Head TA, Introductory Microeconomics
- ECON 112: Head TA, Introductory Macroeconomics
- ECON 430: Issues in Economic History
- ECON 831: Issues in North American Economic History
- ECN 606: International Monetary Economics

President and CEO *Waterloo, Ontario*
Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union *2019 – 2020*

- Elected to represent over 17,000 students, managing an $11 million budget and a team of 5 direct reports to deliver operations, services, and advocacy across institutional, municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government.
- Created and led the university's first institutional committee on student basic needs, addressing food insecurity and housing, and sustained service continuity through emerging crises including the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technical Skills

Programming Languages: R, Python, SQL, Stata, MATLAB, ArcGIS, QGIS, PostGIS

Cloud and Collaboration: GitHub, Microsoft Office (incl. Power BI), Google Suite (incl. GCP), AWS (S3, EC2), Jupyter, LaTeX, Google Earth Engine, Databricks

Languages: English, French, Urdu

Volunteering and Community Activity

Shepherds of Good Hope - Ottawa Homeless Service
Mississauga Food Bank

Citizenship

Canadian

References

Christopher Cotton
Professor, Jarislowsky-Deutsch Chair in Economic and Financial Policy, and Director of the John Deutsch Institute
Queen's University
cc159@queensu.ca

Nahim Bin Zahur
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
Queen's University
nz17@queensu.ca

Huw Lloyd-Ellis
Professor, Department of Economics
Queen's University
lloydelh@queensu.ca