

# RAMISHA ASGHAR

---

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

---

Researcher with 3+ years of successful experience in data collection and using software's such as Stata and R for economic modeling. Recognized consistently for performance, excellence, and contributions to success in economic research. Strengths in collaborating and problem solving backed by training in quantitative research analysis.

## SKILLS SUMMARY

---

- Proficient in STATA, R, VBA, EViews, MATLAB, LaTeX and Dynare to provide statistical analysis and interpretation for large data sets by coding (i.e. bootstrapping and looping) and implementing regression models for data visualization
- Able to effectively conduct financial analysis and macroeconomic forecasting using Bloomberg and MS Excel tools such as Data Analysis, Solver, and Goal Seek
- Proficient in both qualitative and quantitative research methods (i.e. data selection and evaluation, descriptive statistics, and case study research) and analysis for data-related tasks
- Strong problem solving and communication skills that can be utilized in team settings to perform complex tasks
- Advanced research in international trade and development economics (completed Global Trade Analysis Project)

## EDUCATION

---

### Master of Arts, Economics

*Queen's University* | School of Graduate Studies | Economics Department | Kingston, ON | 2019 – 2020

- **Master's Essay in International Trade:** "An Empirical Examination of the Relationship between Food Security and Trade Openness: A Panel Data Analysis"
- **Relevant Courses:** Microeconomic Theory, Quantitative Methods, Industrial Organization I, International Trade, Macroeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization II, Research Problems and Methodology

### Honors Bachelor of Business Administration, Specialization: Finance & Economics

*Wilfrid Laurier University* | Lazaridis School of Business & Economics | Waterloo, ON | 2015 – 2019

- **Specialization:** Finance
- **Minor:** Economics
- **Relevant Courses:** Intro to International Trade, Intermediate Micro and Macro II, International Financial Management, Applied Econometrics, Management of Financial Institutions, Advanced Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

## PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

- International Economics, Industrial Organization, Development Economics

## PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

### Economist

Survey of Economic Intelligence Division (SEID) | Canadian Economic Analysis (CEA) | Bank of Canada | Ottawa, ON | August 2022 – Present

- Participate in quarterly meetings with Canadian businesses as part of the Business Outlook Survey (BOS) to gain economic insight on firm outlook on the impact of the Bank's monetary policy
  - Lead projects on inflation expectations across firms using qualitative survey results from the BOS and Business Leaders' Pulse (BLP) to study the effects of inflation expectations on firms' price-setting behavior
-

- Used Stata and EViews to study the effects of inflation expectations on firms' prices using the Structured Vector Auto Regression (SVAR) model and basic OLS specification using BOS and BLP survey indicators

### **Trade Economist**

#### **Economic Research and Modelling | Office of the Chief Economist | Global Affairs Canada | Government of Canada | Ottawa, ON | January 2022 – August 2022**

- Lead economist for annual publication of Canada's State of Trade 2022 in collaboration with Shenjie Chen, Director of Economic Research and Modelling
- Used international merchandise trade data (i.e., manufacturing exports, employment rate, wages, labour productivity, etc.) from Statistics Canada to present analyze Canada's trade exports and imports with major trading partners since entering trade agreements
- Concurred product-level trade data for Canada, calculated utilization rates for different trade preferences to analyze the effectiveness of Canada's free trade agreements with its major trading partners
- Received training in modelling international trade at Purdue University's Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) to apply Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model

### **Trade Policy Officer for Joint Project with the World Bank and World Trade Organization**

#### **Global Affairs Canada | Government of Canada | Ottawa, ON | September 2021 – December 2021**

- Collaborated with trade policy officers and economists at the World Bank and WTO to code GATS commitments in preparation for the Services Trade Policy Database (STPD)
- Used coding techniques in Microsoft Excel to quantify the applied trade services sector by creating Services Trade Restrictions Indices (STRI) for over 10,000 commitments across 48 countries and 22 services sectors
- Provided weekly updates to research team and presented findings using indices by OECD to compare findings on the evolution on trade in services

### **Policy Research Assistant: International Economics and Monetary Policy**

#### **C.D. Howe Institute | Research Institute | Toronto, ON | March 2021 – September 2021**

- Downloaded and merged international trade data from numerous sources (i.e. Statistics Canada, UNCOMTRADE, World Development Index, International Trade Centre, etc.) to use in gravity model of Canada's export exposure to ASEAN economies for *ASEAN-Canada International Trade Policy* paper; presented data in figures (using Excel and Stata)
- Reports to the Vice President and Director of Research with project findings; manages data gathering for Monetary Policy Council meetings to synthesize in report/figures (presented on C.D. Howe Website)
- Contributed to the international trade project: *Canada's Green Procurement Policy Initiative*; provided summary of best practices and policy recommendations to the Canadian Steel Producers Association on behalf of the Institute
- Used Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (LFS) data for labour market paper, which studies the labour market effects of the pandemic on wage disparities between males and females across provinces and territories; used panel data analysis and standard OLS regression modelling with control variables (i.e. macroeconomic, age, gender, etc.)

### **Research Assistant: Micro-Finance, Economic Development, and International Trade**

#### **Wilfrid Laurier University | School of Business & Economics | Waterloo, ON | 2017-2019**

- Supported numerous research projects on micro-finance, economic development and international trade for Dr. Jeff Chan and Dr. Ridwan Kareem at the economics department
  - Downloaded aggregate data sets from websites (i.e. Statistics Canada) and collected key variables such as CPI index seasonally adjusted, shadow banking rates, and the risk-free monthly rate from 1960-2008
  - Contributed to the publication titled: *Market Access and Occupational Upgrading* by Dr. Jeff Chan
  - Weekly tasks included researching and analyzing relevant academic economics literature reviews focused on economic concepts relating to regional market access, increased trade resulting from railroad development in the USA
  - Performed statistical and regression analysis on regional data (American Railroads: 1880-1900) using STATA matching data from different decades in the US, with a focus on summarizing migration between different counties
  - Undertook additional training in STATA online course to learn advanced coding techniques such as looping
-

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### Graduate Teaching Assistant:

#### Course ECON110 (Principles of Economics)

Queen's University | School of Graduate Studies | Economics Department | Kingston, ON | 2019 - 2020

- Graded undergraduate assignments for introductory microeconomics (ECON 110)
- Provided students insights on economic concepts during office hours in small groups of 4-5 student and one-on-one
- Effectively communicated key ideas to improve students understanding of course material

### Undergraduate Teaching Assistant:

#### Course BU111 (Understanding the Business Environment)

Wilfrid Laurier University | School of Business & Economics | Waterloo, ON | 2017 - 2019

- Assisted students with course material by providing lectures and presentations on key concepts such as business models, time value of money, and the case method
- Supported students in their academic progress by providing feedback on assignments and presentations
- Taught course material in a classroom setting with 60 students; provided one-on-one with students during weekly office hours
- Attended weekly staff meetings and teaching assistant training sessions every semester

## WORKING PAPERS/ CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLICATIONS

---

**Working Paper:** "Trade, Structural Change, and Labour Market Transitions in Vietnam | Commerce, changement structurel et transitions du marché du travail au Vietnam" **Coauthored project** with Dr. Brian McCaig:

- Gathered, merged, and cleaned data sets from Vietnam's Census data and Vietnam Household Living Standards Surveys (VHLSS) (2002 to 2018) using Stata Software
- Researched literature, provided summaries on existing contributions to the field, and worked collaboratively to perform model on dynamic path of adjustment of Vietnam's trade policy (WTO accession and U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement)
- Used econometric programming language to run dynamic adjustment path in Stata using loops and other coding techniques across numerous samples (i.e. entire population, females, males, etc.) for robustness check
- Used LaTeX (in Overleaf) to write paper and present results using LaTeX coding language
- Presented paper at the *Canadian Economic Association Conference (CEA, 2021)*, participated as a discussant to the field: Trade, Labour, and Migration

**Master's Essay in International Trade:** "An Empirical Examination of the Relationship between Food Security and Trade Openness: A Panel Data Analysis | Un examen empirique de la relation entre la sécurité alimentaire et l'ouverture commerciale : une analyse des données d'un panel"; **Supervisor:** Professor Beverly Lapham at *Queen's University*

- Used World Development Index and UN Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO) data gathered for 86 countries (developed and developing) from 1990 to 2013 to draw comparisons across high and low-income countries
- Key variables used in model include: GDP per capita, agricultural and food trade openness, urbanization rate, foreign direct investment, and instrument variables (i.e. temperature and rainfall anomalies)
- Implemented econometric modelling such as two-stage least squares (2SLS) and used instrument variables to address endogeneity bias within the model and have unbiased estimators; researched on existing literature
- Found valid instruments for developing and low-income countries suggesting importance of trade policies to address food insecurity within these regions

## AWARDS

---

- Graduate Studies Award, Queen's University, 2020
  - CIBC Finance Scholarship, 2019
  - Undergraduate Tuition Bursary, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2018
-

- In-Course Scholarship -Business Faculty, 2018
- The Walter Metzger Memorial Bursary Fund for Ontario Residents -Undergraduate, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2016
- President's Gold Scholarship -Business Faculty, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2015

## REFERENCES

---

Jeff Chan, Assistant Professor, Economics Department, Wilfrid Laurier University Contact

Information:

Phone: 519.884.0710.x3197 Email:

[jchan@wlu.ca](mailto:jchan@wlu.ca)

Beverly Lapham, Professor, Economics Department, Queen's University Contact

Information:

Phone: 613.533.2297.

Email: [laphamb@econ.queensu.ca](mailto:laphamb@econ.queensu.ca)

Brian McCaig, Associate Professor; Director, Laurier Centre for Economic Research and Policy Analysis, Economics Department, Wilfrid Laurier University Contact

Information:

Phone: 519.884.0710.x4941

Email: [bmccaig@wlu.ca](mailto:bmccaig@wlu.ca)

---