Farnaz Nasiri

Application for the

Digital Economics and AI Tutorial

Stanford University

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1. Contact Information

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2. Graduate Studies

I am a third-year Ph.D. student in Economics at The Pennsylvania State University, where I began my doctoral studies in Fall 2024.

My graduate training includes microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory, econometrics, industrial organization, international trade, and empirical research methods. My research combines economic modeling with empirical analysis, using large-scale datasets and computational tools to study the behavior of households and firms.

Before joining Penn State, I completed an M.Sc. in Economics at Sharif University of Technology. I also hold a B.Sc. in Materials Engineering from Sharif University of Technology.

My background has motivated my interest in computational approaches to economic research and the ways emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, can transform economic decision-making and market outcomes.

3. Research Interests

My primary research interests are in applied microeconomics, industrial organization, and the economics of technology.

I am particularly interested in how information, uncertainty, and institutional constraints shape the decisions of households and firms. Methodologically, I am interested in combining structural economic models, causal inference, and computational methods to study these questions.

The growing adoption of artificial intelligence raises important questions about firm productivity, market structure, competition, and the allocation of economic resources. I am interested in developing my understanding of these issues and exploring how AI-based methods can complement traditional economic analysis.

4. Ongoing and Recent Research

Wildfire Risk, Insurance Markets, and Housing Development in California

My current empirical research examines how wildfire exposure and insurance market conditions affect housing markets in California. Using property-level transaction records, geographic measures of wildfire risk, and insurance market data, I investigate the relationship between environmental risk, housing prices, land values, and residential development.

The project explores how changes in insurance availability and costs influence the incentives of households and developers, with implications for spatial allocation and local housing supply.

Agricultural Profitability and Rural-to-Urban Migration

In related research, I examine household migration decisions under agricultural income uncertainty. I have developed a dynamic model in which rural households choose whether to remain in agriculture or migrate to urban areas, accounting for income risk, heterogeneous migration costs, and forward-looking behavior.

I use computational methods, including simulation-based estimation, to quantify migration responses and evaluate the welfare implications of changes in agricultural profitability and income risk.

This research builds on my master's thesis at Sharif University of Technology, which studied the causal effect of agricultural profitability on rural-to-urban migration using panel data and instrumental variables.

5. Motivation for Attending

I am interested in attending the Digital Economics and AI Tutorial to strengthen my understanding of the economic implications of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, as well as emerging empirical and computational approaches in this area.

My background in industrial organization, applied microeconomics, and computational modeling provides a foundation for engaging with these topics. I would particularly welcome the opportunity to learn about recent research on AI adoption, firm behavior, productivity, and market competition.