

# KAREN JEFFREY

Political Economist | Data Scientist

[karenjeffrey.github.io](https://karenjeffrey.github.io)

## SUMMARY

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I am a Political Economist and Data Scientist with expertise in survey design, causal inference, and predictive modelling. I have completed a PhD in Political Economy, a Postdoc in Medical Informatics, and have a track record of delivering impactful, policy-relevant research.

## EMPLOYMENT

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### **2026 - Data Science & AI Fellow, University of Glasgow**

Leading a program of research on the impacts of AI on labour markets and policy responses.

### **2022 - 2024 Research Fellow in Medical Informatics, University of Edinburgh**

Conducted award-winning Medical Informatics research. Applied advanced data science techniques to analyse world class health data. Collaborated with clinicians, patients, and policy-makers.

### **2021 - 2022 Senior Intelligence Analyst in Public Health, NHS Lothian**

Led the development of the Lothian Public Health Survey. Gathered, analysed, and interpreted data and communicated findings to support Public Health planning, policy design, and service delivery.

### **2018 - 2020 Teaching Assistant in Political Economy, King's College London**

Led seminars, held office hours, and marked assignments for undergraduate students studying The Political Economy of Inequality and Microeconomics 1.

### **2017 - 2018 Senior Research Consultant, BBC Media Action**

Managed evaluations of BBC Media Action's international development interventions. Funders included: UNICEF, FCO, DFID, Global Affairs Canada.

### **2013 - 2016 Researcher, New Economics Foundation (Think tank)**

Developed and lobbied for the adoption of new measures of national success. Initiated a new research programme on "The Future of Work." Funders included: European Commission, Co-op, Kingfisher.

### **2011 - 2013 Analyst, Delta Energy and Environment (Consultancy)**

Conducted research and modelling to forecast the impact of policy and technological developments on markets for renewable energy technologies. Clients included: DECC, E.On, British Gas, Bosch.

## EDUCATION

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### **2017 - 2021 PhD Political Economy (Pass with no corrections), King's College London**

Thesis: *Essays on the Political Economy of Automation.*

### **2009 - 2010 M.Sc. Ecological Economics (Distinction), University of Edinburgh**

### **2003 - 2007 B.A. (Hons.) Media (2:1), Queen Margaret University**

## POLITICAL ECONOMY PUBLICATIONS

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**Jeffrey, K.** (2024). Measuring Automation's Impact on Labor Markets: A new approach is needed.

**Jeffrey, K.** & Matakos, K. (2024). Automation anxiety, fairness perceptions, and redistribution: How past experience conditions the response to future job loss. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.

**Jeffrey, K.** (2021). Automation and the future of work: how rhetoric shapes the response in policy preferences. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.

**Jeffrey, K.** (2021). Measuring exposure to automation: a survey approach.

## MEDICAL INFORMATICS PUBLICATIONS

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Shah, S. A., **Jeffrey, K.**, Robertson, C., Sheikh, A. (2025). Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on elective care backlog trends, recovery efforts, and capacity needs to address backlogs in Scotland (2013–2023). *The Lancet Regional Health Europe*.

McCabe, R., Kibuchi, E., Amele, S., et al. (2025). Effect modification and interaction between ethnicity and socioeconomic factors in severe COVID-19. *BMJ Open*.

**Jeffrey, K.**, Hammersley, V., Maini, R., et al. (2024). Deriving and validating a risk prediction model for long COVID: population-based, retrospective cohort study in Scotland. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*.

**Jeffrey, K.**, Woolford, L., Maini, R., et al. (2024). Identifying long COVID using electronic health records: a national observational cohort study in Scotland. *eClinicalMedicine*.

Shi, T., Millington, T., Robertson, C., et al. (2024). Risk of winter hospitalisation and death from acute respiratory infections in Scotland. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*.

Millington, T., Morrison, K., **Jeffrey, K.** et al. (2024). Caveats in reporting of national vaccine uptake. *Journal of Global Health*.

Amele, S., McCabe, R., Kibuchi, E., et al. (2024). Quality of ethnicity data within Scottish health records. *Journal of Public Health*.

Macdonald, C., Palmateer, N., McAuley, A., et al. (2024) Association between antibody response post-vaccination and severe COVID-19 outcomes. *npj Vaccines*.

Kerr, S., Greenland, S., **Jeffrey, K.**, et al. (2023). Understanding and reporting odds ratios and rate ratios in case-control studies. *Journal of Global Health*.

Morrison, K., Cullen, L., James, A., et al. (2023). Predictors of incomplete COVID-19 vaccine schedule among adults in Scotland *Vaccine*

Kerr, S., Millington, T., Rudan, I., et al. (2023). External validation of the QCovid 2 and 3 risk prediction algorithms for risk of COVID-19 hospitalisation and mortality in adults. *BMJ Open*.

## SELECTED THINK TANK REPORTS

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**Jeffrey, K.**, Abdallah, S. & Michaelson, J. (2017). [The Cost of Loneliness to UK Employers](#). London: New Economics Foundation.

**Jeffrey, K.**, Wheatley, H. & Abdallah, S. (2016). [The Happy Planet Index 2016: A Global Index of Sustainable Wellbeing](#). London: New Economics Foundation.

**Jeffrey, K.** and Michaelson, J. (2015). [Five Headline Indicators of National Success: A Clearer Picture of How the UK is Performing](#). London: New Economics Foundation.

**Jeffrey, K.**, Mahony, S., Michaelson, J. and Abdallah, S. (2014). [Well-being at Work: A Review of the Literature](#). London: New Economics Foundation.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

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- 2023 **Royal Statistical Society's Florence Nightingale Award** for excellence in healthcare data analytics.
- 2023 **Royal Society of Edinburgh's Mary Somerville Medal** awarded to the EAVE II Team for exceptional achievement in teamwork and collaborative endeavour.
- 2013-24 **Press coverage** of research on long COVID ([online](#), TV, and radio), the future of work ([online](#)), and reports produced while working at the New Economics Foundation (BBC Daily Mail, Financial Times, Herald, Independent, ITV, Observer, Telegraph, Forbes and press in more than 30 countries worldwide).

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & FUNDRAISING

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- 2024 **Usher Institute Small Grant** University of Edinburgh (£650)
- 2022 **Data Skills for Work** The Data Lab (£300)
- 2020 **London Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Scholarship** ESRC (£9,000)  
**Small Academic Expenses Grant** Royal Economic Society (£450)  
**Post-Graduate Research Bursary Grants** King's College London (£1,000)
- 2019 **Post-Graduate Research Bursary Grants** King's College London (£500)  
**Cohort Activity Grant** ESRC (£1,600)
- 2018 **Research Development Fund** King's College London (£2,000)
- 2017 **London Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Doctoral Scholarship** ESRC (£68,000)  
**Bentham PhD Fellowship** University College London (£64,000, declined)
- 2011-16 Contributed to successful tenders for funding from European Commission, E.On, British Gas, Vattenfall, Bosch, Vaillant, DECC, Co-op, & Kingfisher Group.

## TEACHING & SUPERVISION

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- 2018-20 **Teaching Assistant** The Political Economy of Inequality, King's College London  
2018-19 **Teaching Assistant** Microeconomics 1, King's College London  
2016 **Volunteer GCSE Maths Tutor** Action Tutoring  
2015-16 **Masters Supervision** for MSc in Ecological Economics, University of Edinburgh.

## INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2024 **International Conference** Royal Statistical Society  
2023 **Medical Informatics Seminar** University of Edinburgh  
2022 **National Strategic Network for Long COVID** NHS National Services Scotland  
**Academic GPs Meeting on Long COVID** University of Edinburgh  
**Primary Care Practitioners' Session** Public Health Scotland  
2021 **Political Science & Political Economy Seminar** London School of Economics  
2020 **Political Behaviour Colloquium** European University Institute  
**Global Online Meeting** Economic Science Association  
**Early Career Network Conference** Political Studies Association  
**Early Career Researcher Seminar** University of Southampton  
**NORFACE TECHNO Group** Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
**Quantitative Political Economy Seminar** King's College London  
**Centre for Experimental Social Sciences Conference** New York University  
2019 **Centre for British Politics, PhD Conference** King's College London  
2018 **AI Safety and Policy Event** Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Policy Network  
2016 **Parliamentary Roundtable: How Should We Measure National Success?** UK Government  
2015 **Five Headline Indicators of National Success: Report Launch** Royal Statistical Society  
2014 **European Social Survey Policy Seminar** OECD

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2021-present **Reviewer** BMJ Open; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; European Journal of Political Economy; European Economic Review; Political Science Research & Methods.  
2023-2024 **Impact Committee** Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh  
2021-2023 **Journal Club Organiser** Medical Informatics Group, University of Edinburgh.  
2018 **Conference Organiser and Chair** AI and Automation: Implications for researchers in the social sciences. One-day conference hosted at King's College London.  
2018-20 **Reading Group Organiser** Formal Theory Group, King's College London.  
2016 **Event Organiser and Chair** An evening in conversation with Ed Miliband MP and Nick Srnicek. The Future of Work: Harnessing new technologies to benefit all.  
2014-16 **Secretariat** for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Wellbeing Economics.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024-present | Fully Accredited Researcher under the Digital Economy Act (2017)                        |
| 2021-present | European Association of Labour Economists                                               |
| 2020-21      | Royal Economic Society<br>American Economic Association<br>Economic Science Association |
| 2011-14      | Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (Associate Member)                |
| 2010-11      | International Society for Ecological Economics                                          |

## TRAINING

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| 2024 | <b>Research, GDPR and Confidentiality (renewal)</b> Medical Research Council<br><b>Safe Researcher Training</b> UK Data Service<br><b>Data Science for Domain Scientists</b> Data Science Unit, University of Edinburgh |
| 2023 | <b>Aspiring Manager Program</b> University of Edinburgh<br><b>Data Science in Stratified Healthcare &amp; Precision Medicine</b> University of Edinburgh                                                                |
| 2022 | <b>Machine Learning with Python</b> ED-DaSH, University of Edinburgh<br><b>High-Dimensional Statistics in R</b> ED-DaSH, University of Edinburgh<br><b>GIT for Me: Introduction to GitHub</b> Jumping Rivers            |
| 2021 | <b>Managing Difficult Conversations</b> NHS Professionals                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2018 | <b>Introduction to R for Biostatistics and Health Informatics</b> King's College London<br><b>PhD Summer School: Applied Microeconomics</b> University of Lancaster                                                     |
| 2017 | <b>Principles of Economics with Calculus (MOOC)</b> California Institute of Technology<br><b>Calculus 1a and Calculus 1b (MOOC)</b> Massachusetts Institute of Technology                                               |
| 2014 | <b>Introduction to Statistics Using SPSS</b> Imperial College London                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2013 | <b>Statistics: Making Sense of Data (MOOC)</b> University of Toronto<br><b>Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in Python (MOOC)</b> MIT                                                                    |

## SOFTWARE SKILLS

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R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics, SPSS, Microsoft Office

## REFEREES

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Available on request.