POOYA KARAMBAKHSH

BSc, MSc, GradCert, MA, PhD

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SUMMARY

Economist, data strategist, and researcher with nearly two decades of interdisciplinary experience spanning political economy, geotechnical engineering, and applied data systems. I design and implement human-centred, technically rigorous data solutions that help nonprofits, advocacy groups, and public institutions turn complex information into actionable insight.

Skilled in advanced data analysis, CRM integration, and workflow optimisation, I combine hands-on technical expertise with a collaborative, capacity-building approach. My work is grounded in a commitment to impact, clarity, and long-term maintainability, enabling organisations to make informed decisions and deliver meaningful outcomes.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

PhD in Political Economy   **Nov 2019 – Oct 2024**
MA (Research) in Political Economy   **Nov 2017 – Jun 2019**
Graduate Certificate in Political Economy   **Jul 2016 – Jun 2017**
The University of Sydney
MSc in Geotechnical Engineering   **Sep 2006 – Dec 2008**
BSc in (Civil) Geotechnical Engineering   **Sep 2001 – Jul 2006**
Sharif University of Technology / Engineers Australia (Assessor)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Database Specialist   **Jan 2025 – Jul 2025**
The Australia Institute   *Canberra, Australia*

Purpose: Public Policy and Advocacy

Data and Systems Manager   **Jan 2024 – Now**
Knowledge & Database Administrator   **Jun 2023 – Dec 2023**
Dress for Success (NSW & ACT)   *Sydney, Australia*

Purpose: Empowering Women in Securing and Retaining Employment

Business & Programs Data Analyst (National) Jul 2021 – Jun 2022
Business Quality Support Officer (National) Jan 2021 – Jun 2021
Project Officer (Journey of Hope) Jan 2021 – Mar 2021
Program Quality Support Officer (3 States) Jan 2020 – Dec 2020
Program Quality Support Officer (NSW) Mar 2019 – Dec 2019
Save the Children Australia *Sydney, Australia*

Purpose: Empowering Underprivileged Children and Families

Data Analyst / Database Administrator Apr 2018 – Jul 2020
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation *Sydney, Australia*

Purpose: Supporting People Living with HIV

Research Assistant/PhD Candidate Jun 2012 – Jan 2016
ARC Centre for Geotechnical Science and Engineering **Newcastle, Australia**

Project: Numerical simulation of geotechnical problems (particle flow & penetrometer tests)

Casual Academic Sep 2013 – Jul 2015
The University of Newcastle *Newcastle, Australia*

Courses: Geomechanics 1 & 2

Geotechnical Engineer Apr 2011 – Apr 2012
Tamavan Consulting Engineers *Tehran, Iran*

Project: Nargesi Earthfill Dam

Geotechnical Engineer Dec 2009 – Feb 2011
Fars School Renewal General Office *Shiraz, Iran*

Projects: Construction and renovation of 200+ schools

Geotech Engineer/PA to Project Manager Sep 2008 - Jul 2009
International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology *Tehran, Iran*

Project: Construction of new advanced laboratories

Teaching Assistant Sep 2007 - Jun 2008
Sharif University of Technology *Tehran, Iran*

Courses: Undergraduate and advanced foundation engineering

Civil Engineer Feb 2006 - Sep 2006
Sangtash *Shiraz, Iran*

Projects: Metro Line and Station

VOLUNTEERING/OTHER EXPERIENCES

Blogger (Researcher, Writer, Web Admin)   **May 2013 – Now**
Think Hammerly   *Sydney, Australia*

Policy Officer (Volunteer)   **Dec 2017 – Apr 2018**
African Sub-Sahara International Development Agency (ASSIDA) *Sydney, Australia*

Project Officer (Volunteer)   **Jan 2017 – Jun 2017**
All Together Now   *Sydney, Australia*

Political Engagement Volunteer   **May 2016 – Dec 2016**
Micah Australia   *Sydney, Australia*

Poverty Alleviation Advocate   **Feb 2017 – Aug 2017**
RESULTS Australia   *Sydney, Australia*

Online & Social Media Campaigner   **Oct 2014 – Mar 2015**
State and Local Council Candidate   *Newcastle, Australia*

TECH SKILLS

Tableau, Power BI, Python, C++, Visual Basic	Data Analysis
Abaqus, Flac, AutoCAD, Yade, PFC3D	Geotechnical/Civil
Salesforce, NationBuilder, The Raiser's Edge, Galaxy, Skedulo Conga, CSnet, Apricot	CRM System
Survey Monkey, Survey Gizmo, Qualtrics	Survey Design
Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, LibreOffice	Office Suites
Wordpress, Blogger	Content Management
Google Analytics, Statcounter	SEO & Analytics
MailChimp, Marketing Cloud (Pardot), Campaign Monitor	Marketing
Funraisin, Raisely	Fundraising

CERTIFICATES & LICENCES

Salesforce Certified Administrator (ID: 4366110)	Salesforce
Power BI Data Analyst Associate (ID: A3B80BCBB0774675)	Microsoft
Career Essentials in Data Analysis	Microsoft
Choosing Data Collection Methods	Int. Rescue (IRC)
Data Analysis and Action Planning	Int. Rescue (IRC)
Developing Theories of Change	Int. Rescue (IRC)
Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation	Int. Rescue (IRC)
MEAL Basics	Save the Children
Child Friendly Spaces	Save the Children
Introduction to Unconscious Bias	Grovo
Master Emotional Intelligence	Grovo
Beneficiary Feedback Mechanisms	Cornerstone
Proposal Writing	Cornerstone
Improving Your Technical Writing Skills	SkillSoft
Duty of Care for Workers	Kineo
Humanitarian Cross-Cutting Themes and Future Directions	Humanitarian U
International Normative Framework in Humanitarian Protection	ProCap
Most Significant Change	Clear Horizon
Intermediate SQL for Data Scientists	LinkedIn
Business Analytics: Marketing Data	LinkedIn
PowerBI Essential Training	LinkedIn
Python for Data Visualisation	LinkedIn
Python Essential Training	LinkedIn
Learning Data Analytics	NASBA / LinkedIn
Project Management Foundations: Requirements	PMI / LinkedIn
Data Science Foundations: Python Scientific Stack	LinkedIn
Advance Your Python Skills for Data Science (Learning Path)	LinkedIn
More Python Tips, Tricks, and Techniques for Data Science	NASBA / LinkedIn
Python Data Analysis	NASBA / LinkedIn
Tips for Better Business Writing	NASBA / LinkedIn
Project Management: Solving Common Project Problems	PMI / LinkedIn

HONOURS & AWARDS

RTP (Tuition + Living Expenses)   **2020–2023**
RTP (Tuition Fee)   **2017–2019**
The University of Sydney

UNIPRS and UNRSE Research Scholarships   **2012–2015**
The University of Newcastle

Ranked top 1% (144 / 50,000)   **2006**
Postgraduate National Entrance Exam

Ranked top 1% (177 / 500,000)   **2001**
Undergraduate National Entrance Exam

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Historical Materialism Sydney   **Dec 2018**
The Domestic and Global Powers of Australia's Retail Workers   *Sydney, Australia*

ISEFE 2018   **Dec 2018**
The Social Structure of Accumulation   *Bandirma, Turkey*

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Papers

Karambakhsh P. (2020) "The Powers of Australian Retail Workers as a Section of the Global Working Class", Global Labour Journal, Volume 11, Issue 2, pp. 118-133.

Ahmadi, M.M., and Karambakhsh, P., Golestani, A. A. (2014) "Horizontal Stress Estimation Using CPT: a Database Approach", Sharif Journal of Science and Research, Volume 30-2, Issue 1.2, Autumn 2014, pp. 95-106.

Conference Proceedings

Karambakhsh, P. (2018) "The Social Structure of Accumulation: Theoretical-Historical Background and Contemporary Applications", The International Symposium on Economics, Finance and Econometrics (ISEFE 2018).

Ahmadi, M.M., and Karambakhsh, P. (2010) "K0 determination of Sand Using CPT Calibration Chamber", CPT10.

Ahmadi, M.M., and Karambakhsh, P. (2009) "A numerical study of the effects of calibration chamber boundary conditions on pressuremeter test results in sand", GeoHalifax 2009.

Theses

Karambakhsh, P. (2024) "Analysing the world rate of profit: A new approach", PhD thesis, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

Karambakhsh, P. (2019) "Transnational Australia", MA (Research) thesis, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

Karambakhsh, P. (2008) "Determination of lateral pressure of sandy soil using results of calibration of cone penetration test" M.Sc. thesis (Farsi), Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.