

Minda Belete

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Residency

UAE Golden Visa Holder (10-year residency visa)

Education

B.A. in Economics, Minor in Applied Mathematics

New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE

2018 – 2022

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Computational Social Science & Center for Interacting Urban Networks, NYU Abu Dhabi

Aug 2022 – Present; PI: Etienne Wasmer

- Developed pipelines to extract and analyze biographical trajectories and labor migration patterns using fine-tuned large language models (e.g., Llama 3.2).
- Conducted geospatial analysis of urban commuter flows integrating Python, QGIS, and API data (Google Maps, OpenStreetMap) to assess labor market dynamics.
- Collaborated on projects addressing spatial economics, and labor mobility.
- Supported data collection, preprocessing, and visualization efforts to produce research reports and academic papers.

Research Assistant, DevLab, Post-Graduation Practical Training Program, NYU Abu Dhabi

June 2022 – Aug 2022

- Semi-automated literature review processes and meta-data analysis using NLP techniques on large academic publications.
- Developed topic modeling pipelines to extract themes and sentiment from economic texts.

Research Assistant Intern, Ethiopian Economics Association, Addis Ababa

Jun 2021 – Sep 2021

- Developed an algorithm to crawl academic databases and extract metadata from relevant economics papers.
- Semi-automated information extraction process from thousands of economic studies using NLP techniques, significantly speeding up data filtering and collecting.
- Provided training in Python and NLP techniques training on data management to EEA staff and their Ph.D student members
- Applied topic modeling and sentiment analysis to extract insights from economic papers.

Technical Skills

- **Programming & Data Analysis:** Python, R, STATA, Matlab, QGIS, GeoPandas
- **Machine Learning & NLP:** Fine-tuning LLMs, Named Entity Recognition, Topic Modeling, Sentiment Analysis
- **Geospatial Analysis:** Remote Sensing, GIS data acquisition, and processing
- **Research Methods:** Literature reviews, academic report writing, systematic meta-analysis

Research Projects (In progress for publication)

- **Trajectory of Notable People in History**
An interdisciplinary project linking biographical trajectories to urban growth metrics.
- **Urban Commuter Flows & Labor Market Dynamics**
Analyzed intra- and inter-city commuting data to assess monopsony power in labor markets.
- **Gender-based Price Discrimination (Pink Tax)**
Investigated pricing disparities in personal care products using large-scale web scraping and NLP.
- **Predicting City Locations using Machine Learning** *Collaborating with Etienne Wasmer, NYU Abu Dhabi*

Awards & Volunteering

- Social Science Capstone Project Award for Excellence, NYU Abu Dhabi (2022)
Recognized for innovative research on gender-based price discrimination.
- Organized a Python Bootcamp at the Ethiopian Economics Association to train staff in data science and NLP techniques.

Courses Currently Enrolled in (online)

- Data Science Lab
- AI and Deep Learning Lab

References

- **Dr. Etienne Wasmer**
Program Head of Economics; Professor of Economics, NYU Abu Dhabi
Current Principal Investigator (PI), Former advisor ew1555@nyu.edu
- **Dr. Samreen Malik**
Associate Professor of Economics, NYU Abu Dhabi
Current Co-PI samreen.malik@nyu.edu
- **Dr. Morgan Hardy**
Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU Abu Dhabi
Professor who taught me Research Design and former Principal Investigator morgan.hardy@nyu.edu
- **Dr. Nancy W.Gleason**
Professor of Practice of Political Science; Director, Hilary Ballon Center for Teaching and Learning
Course Instructor ng73@nyu.edu