# Houda Nait El Barj

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## Education

**Stanford University, Graduate School of Business**                    **Sep. 2022 – Jun. 2027 (Exp.)**

*PhD in Economics with Computer Science minor, GPA: 4.12/4.00.*                    *Stanford,CA*
- Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning, Econometrics, AI Alignment, Statistics, Causal Inference, Labour Economics.
- Member of Stanford AI Alignment (SAIA), AI Policy Group and Labor Economics Research Group

**University College London**                    **Sep. 2015 – May. 2019**

*BSc. in Economics, Highest Honours (80.72/100)*                    *London, UK*
- Year of Exchange at the University of Pennsylvania

## Experience

**Stanford HAI & The State of California**                    **Jan. 2023 – Current**

*AI Policy Fellow*                    *Stanford, CA*
- Conduct research and lead a policy report on Generative AI and Deepfake Policy Enforcement, outlining actionable strategies for the State of California and the city of San Jose.
- Lead technical research in AI safety, including designing evaluations to assess the extent of deceptive behaviors in LLM.
- Translated research findings on the impact of LLMs on the labor market into policy recommendations for the U.S. Senate.

**Stanford Institute of Economic Policy Research**                    **Jun. 2020 – Jun. 2022**

*Research fellow*                    *Stanford, CA*
- Conducted applied microeconomics and behavioral research using advanced econometrics and statistics.
- Led data analysis and model design for a large RCT with Meta, causally identifying social media's effect on the 2020 elections and developed risk mitigation strategies.
- Managed multiple research projects at SIEPR while coordinating with data engineers and research scientists at Microsoft.

**kara.co, A Platform for Personalized Charity Donations**                    **Mar. 2021 – Jun. 2022**

*Co-founder*                    *Stanford, CA*
- Led a team of 5 to conceive, develop, and launch Kara.co, a platform leveraging ML to match international donors with people in need, serving as a transparent and efficient medium for global financial aid.
- Conducted research on donation markets and matching theory to devise mechanisms to optimize cross-border donations.
- Designed, distributed and analyzed an extensive survey with 747 respondents to derive insights into donor preferences.
- Onboarded an initial cohort of 100 users on Kara.co, harnessing their interactions as a foundational dataset to inform and refine our ML algorithms for optimal donor-recipient matching.

**JP Morgan**                    **Jun. 2019 – Jun. 2020**

*Analyst, Emerging Markets Cross Assets Structuring Team*                    *London, UK*
- Conducted macroeconomic research across LATAM and African markets, formulating tailored investment solutions.
- Developed predictive models to establish price patterns given changing macroeconomic environment.
- Collaborated with other teams on aligning trading strategies with company goals given research findings.

**France Culture**                    **Sep. 2017 – Jun. 2018**

*Writer & Editor for "Les Chemins de la Philosophie"*                    *Paris, France*
- Conceptualized and wrote content for a top French radio program on philosophy with the French Ministry of Culture.
- Coordinated with hosts, and speakers for consistent, high-quality broadcasts, aiding its rank as the 2nd most podcasted program among public radios.

## Awards

- Stanford EDGE fellowship                    **2022-current**
- King Mohamed VI Scholarship for Bright Academic Research                    **2022-current**
- UCL Record Holder for Highest Grade in Econometrics Sequence (98.00/100)                    **2018**
- Hume-Lloyd Economics Sessional Prize, UCL (both years)                    **2016-2017**
- Concours Général in Physics and Philosophy, double laureate                    **2015**
- 2nd Highest Grade in the World in French Scientific Baccalaureate (Ranked 2/12,519)                    **2015**

## Selected Papers & Policy Reports

[1] The Effects of Facebook and Instagram on the 2020 Election: A Deactivation Experiment. *Forthcoming.*

[2] Policy Primer for Legislators and Policy Makers around AI Regulations. *Original version for the U.S. Senate. Publicly available shorter version can be found on the SAIA Research Proceedings 2023 Fall.*

[3] Reinforcement Learning from LLM Feedback to Counteract Goal Misgeneralization *Available here.*

## Personal

**Skills:** Python, R, Causal Inference, Bayesian Statistics, Experimental Design, Machine Learning, Econometrics, LaTeX.

**Languages:** *Native*: Berber, Arabic, French. *Fluent*: Spanish, English. *Limited working proficiency*: Russian.

**Personal Activities:** Write poetry (see published work), Volunteer work with displaced children in Colombia, Lebanon.