

Kasra Babashahi, BEng, MA

Systems Analyst/Consultant



Kasra joined Watson in 2023 with a strong background in GIS, databases, and economic geography. He successfully completed his master's degree where he examined the financing of Canada's artificial intelligence tech sector through a mixed-methods inquiry.

His capabilities make him a valuable asset at Watson in the areas of data administration, demographics, land needs forecasting, affordable housing studies, and real estate market analysis.

EDUCATION

2021, York University
Master of Arts, Geography

2019, Semnan University, Iran
Bachelor's degree, Urban Development Engineering

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current

Consultant, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

- Manages and updates databases for internal use and external products.
- Ensures data integrity by developing, testing, implementing, and performing database maintenance functions and data audits.
- Utilizes ArcGIS and/or QGIS to support spatial technical analysis for projects.
- Supports the Planning and Land Economics team, specializing in demographics and land needs assessments.

2021-2022

Geospatial Analyst, Urban Farm Initiative

- Utilized GIS for location planning.
- Gathered and processed data from municipalities, census, and ArcGIS Rest APIs using Python and automation scripts.
- Created a database of potential community garden sites using PostgreSQL and PostGIS.



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY cont'd

- Analyzed water infrastructure, zoning guidelines, and maps to identify potential sites for community gardens.
- Conducted district-scale socio-economic suitability and impact assessments to develop acquisition priorities.
- Participated in the preparation of site acquisition proposals.

2019-2022

Research Assistant, York University

- Worked on the SSHRC insight grant-funded project “From Entrepreneurship to Rentiership? The Changing Dynamics of Innovation in Technoscientific Capitalism.”
- Conducted a critical discourse analysis of Canadian policy and government documents related to the AI sector utilizing NVivo for qualitative data analysis.
- Constructed a database containing financial, spatial, and IP information of AI startups across Canada, utilizing JSON, SQL, and Python in the process.
- Contacted and interviewed senior and executive-level professionals working in the Canadian AI industry.

2019-2021

Teaching Assistant, York University

- Served as a lab instructor for advanced GIS courses.

2017-2019

GIS Technician & Assistant planner, Arsanbana Architecture and planning consulting firm

- Conducted GIS analysis, managed spatial databases, and created maps.
- Collected data, prepared questionnaires, and conducted interviews and surveys.
- Analyzed demographic information, wrote reports and created presentations.

EXPERTISE

- GIS Analysis
- PostgreSQL
- Automation
- Land Needs Assessments
- Housing Studies