

# James Atkins

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## Education

- 2022–Present **Northwestern University**, *PhD in Economics*, Evanston, IL
- Fields: Industrial Organization, Digital Markets, Applied Econometrics
  - Expected completion: Spring 2027
  - Committee: Gastón Illanes, Igal Hendel, William Rogerson
- 2018–2021 **Bocconi University**, *MSc in Economic and Social Sciences*, Milan, Italy
- 2011–2014 **University of Cambridge**, *BA (Hons.) in Economics*, United Kingdom

## Experience

- 2024–2025 **Northwestern University**, *Research Assistant to Prof. Gastón Illanes*, Evanston, IL
- Replicated and validated empirical results; redesigned data-import and cleaning pipelines to improve reproducibility and runtime.
  - Constructed product- and market-level datasets from Nielsen household panel data.
  - Estimated demand models and diagnosed data, numerical and implementation issues in estimation routines.
- 2015–2018 **DotEcon Ltd**, *Economic Consultant*, London, United Kingdom
- Designed and implemented simulation and optimization tools for bidders in spectrum and media-rights auctions.
  - Evaluated enforcement decisions by the UK Competition and Markets Authority.
  - Advised regulators on spectrum-auction design and reserve-price setting.
  - Built quantitative cost-benefit models to evaluate the economic returns to BBC R&D spending.
  - Contributed to the design and testing of a novel auction format for the Central Bank of Iceland.

## Research Projects

### Blackouts in Carriage Disputes

- Develop and estimate a dynamic bargaining model with equilibrium delay to analyze carriage disputes between TV station owners and video distributors.
- Assemble and clean data from FCC filings, DMA-level viewership and blackout records.
- Simulate counterfactuals of broadcast station consolidation and regulatory constraints on carriage negotiations.

## Skills

- Programming Python, R, SQL, Stata, Julia, Rust; working knowledge of C++
- Econometrics Demand estimation, discrete choice, panel data, causal inference (e.g., difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity)
- Data & Computing pandas, NumPy, tidyverse, scikit-learn, Git, Linux, reproducible data pipelines

## Teaching Experience

- Introduction to Microeconomics (Fall 2023, Winter 2024) ○ Complexity Economics (Fall 2025) ○ Monopoly, Competition & Public Policy (Winter 2026) ○ Senior Honors Thesis (Spring 2026)