

## **Economics Student Profile April 2016**

**Kewei Diao, Economics Graduate Student 2015/16**



It was not until I finished my undergraduate study of Economics at Memorial University did I first realize how economic principals determine the development of real world economy and policy-making. When I took my first Econometrics course in undergraduate studies, I have mastered the basic principles and applications of econometric techniques. I started to realize how important econometrics means to empirical research. Without a doubt, it is the set of tools that economics provides to tackle different problems. Unlike in other fields, economists are not constrained to study a particular type of question, or to do “the same thing” over and over. Instead, by combining economic theory with the set of mathematical, statistical, and computational tools that economics provides, I am able to extract from the data useful information about a wide range of topics. The fact that these tools can be applied not only to guide public policy, but also to learn about everyday human behavior, keeps fascinating me.

In 2011, I honorably participated in Innovation Program of Shanghai Municipal Education Commission Project - Risk measurement of OTC derivatives in China interbank market. During the research, not only did I have a comprehensive understanding of issues in China financial market and the vital role of financial market plays in the economic development in China but

also the significance of econometric analysis. When deal with a vast amount of economic and financial data, only through econometrics methods can we deeply infer the relationship among all kinds of variables and discover the regularity of economic and financial phenomena. This facet of economics intrigued me very much and I decided to pursue further studies in Economics.

In 2014, I was accepted in to the Master of Arts (Economic) program at Memorial University of Newfoundland. During the first semester of my Master's program, I successfully completed core courses including advanced microeconomics, advanced macroeconomics, and advanced econometrics. In the meanwhile, the economic department offered me an opportunity to work at Student Help Center to provide assistance for students enrolled in Introduction to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics with textbook problems, study assignments and lecture materials. Currently, I am working on my master thesis which investigates the relationship between human capital development and economic growth in Canada using the Autoregressive Distribution Lag (ARDL) approach in the framework of endogenous growth theories. Through those studies and research experience, I equipped myself with various tools used in economic analysis.

My study and research experience at Memorial University provide me with a good start towards carrying out independent research and analysis. My research interest lied in the intrinsic links between macroeconomic fundamentals and stock market performance, stock market volatility, and stock price forecasting. My goal is to be an analysis at a leading financial institution. So I decided to further my economic studies and improve my research capability through the Ph.D. program. I sincerely hope that I can make a contribution to financial markets in the future.

I would like to conclude with my favorite economic quote from an American economist, Cebrows Arthur:

*“Information is power; the information domain is the future battlefield.”*

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