

Kai L. Chan, PhD

Economist with experience in consulting, finance, policy/government, competitiveness, and technology. Unique combination of creativity, intuition and rigour to generate fresh insights into complex problems.

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EXPERIENCE

ECONOMIC CITIES & SPECIAL ZONES AUTHORITIES (ECZA)

Senior director, research & studies – Regulator & public policy

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

2024-present

- Assess SEZ business cases (CBA-EIA-FIA); Produce research & reports to support SEZ initiatives; Manage economic data

ABU DHABI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ECONOMIC STRATEGY OFFICE)

Head of economics – Government & public policy

Abu Dhabi, UAE

2021-2023

- Advise leadership on the economy and global macroeconomic trends; Analyse impact of global economy on local outcomes
- Produce economic publications on Abu Dhabi economy; Drive economic research to support the economic diversification strategy

DUBAI FUTURE FOUNDATION

Non-resident fellow – Think tank

Dubai, UAE

2021-2022

- Collaborate on scholarly projects; Support research on measuring future readiness

WHITESHIELD PARTNERS

Senior manager – Strategy & public policy advisory

Dubai, UAE

2020-2021

- Assist governments with their development goals; Develop strategies for managing Covid-19; Develop performance indices

AIOWALA TECHNOLOGIES

Founder & partner – Technology (artificial intelligence)

Montréal, Canada

2018-2020

- Drive development of firm; Integrate firm within AI ecosystem; Business development

ORMUCO INC.

Senior VP finance & legal – Technology (cloud software)

Montréal, Canada

2017-2018

- Part of senior management team; Support CEO / founder in strategic planning; Manage the financial position of the company

INSEAD – INNOVATION & POLICY INITIATIVE

Distinguished fellow – Academia & research

Abu Dhabi, UAE

2014-2018

- Collaborate on scholarly research (esp. on innovation and policy) and support INSEAD's academic commitments

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE / MINISTER OF STATE OFFICE (EMIRATES COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL)

Advisor & economist (competitiveness and statistics) – Government & public policy

Dubai, UAE

2011-2017

- Perform research on economic & governmental policies; Track global performance indices; Benchmark national competitiveness
- Secondment to Expo 2020 Dubai bid team (model visitor traffic and ticketing strategy (chapter 11 of bid dossier))

FG COMPANIES, LLC

Associate & economist (specialty finance) – Merchant banking

New York, USA

2007-2011

- Conduct economic analysis; Produce bespoke research on specialty finance and economics; Publish newsletter
- Help raise debt and equity capital for specialty finance companies; Sell non-performing consumer finance receivables

OLIVER WYMAN, FINANCIAL SERVICES

Consultant (financial services) – Management and risk consulting

Singapore, Republic of

2005-2007

- Build models to analyse credit and default events to support banks, hedge funds, private equity firms, etc.
- Projects: Basel II portfolio reforms (Hong Kong); Basel II credit model validation (Dublin); Bank retail lending strategy (Bangkok)

INTERNSHIPS

SAL. OPPENHEIM JR & CIE. KGaA (Private bank for high net worth individuals)

Intern (M&A, operations) – Private & investment banking

Cologne & Frankfurt, Germany

Summer 2004 & Summer 2005

LECG (Economic consulting firm providing expert support in legal cases)

Intern (research analyst) – Economic consulting

Toronto, Canada & Washington DC, USA

Summer 1999 & Summer 2001

PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (SELECT)

- International Government Communications Forum 2020:** "Communications treasures extracted from data piles"
- Asia Global Institute:** "AI and inequality: How smart machines exacerbate demographic bias and inequality"
- Internationalisation of Universities and the National Language (KU Leuven):** "The Power Language Index"
- Kazakhstan Growth Forum 2016:** "The UAE's competitiveness strategy"
- Munich Economic Summit 2016 (Migration: Challenge or Opportunity?):** "Immigrating into the workforce"
- Smart Data Summit 2016:** "Using robust data and modelling to win Expo 2020" (keynote)
- World Strategy Summit 2015:** "Competitiveness to transform Dubai into a global city"
- Emerging Markets Summit 2011: BRIC & Beyond:** "Economic outlook for investing in emerging markets"
- 9th Annual Canada Cup of Investment Management:** "Investing in BRICs and emerging markets"

Sharjah, UAE
Hong Kong, China
Leuven, Belgium
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Munich, Germany
Dubai, UAE
Abu Dhabi, UAE
New York, USA
Toronto, Canada

ARTICLES / RESEARCH (SELECT)

- *Internationalisation of Universities and the National Language (KU Leuven)*: "The Power Language Index" (Jun 2020)
- *INSEAD Knowledge*: "The world's smartest countries" (Jul 2017)
- *WEF Agenda*: "Which countries provide their citizens with the best higher education?" (May 2017)
- *INSEAD Knowledge*: "A new global measure of gender progress" (Mar 2017)
- *WEF Agenda*: "These are the most powerful languages in the world" (Dec 2016)
- *Working Paper*: "Canada's governing class: Who rules the country?" (Sep 2014)

EDUCATION

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, USA

PhD, MA (economics, "Three essays on monetary policy in small open developing economies")

1999-2005

- **Dissertation committee**: Paul Krugman (main advisor), Alan Blinder, Hyun Song Shin, Gene Grossman (external)
- **Scholarships**: International Finance Section Fellowship (outstanding student in international economics); Graduate School summer fellowship (summer research grant); Assistant Master Fellowship (outstanding student in graduate community)
- **Academics**: Woodrow Wilson School lecturer in calculus for MPA students; Preceptor for economics classes; Senior-thesis advisor to undergraduates writing their theses in economics; Research assistant in international trade for Prof. Gene Grossman
- **Administration**: Assistant Master at Butler College (working with College staff to coordinate residential college life)
- **Extracurricular**: Columnist for the *Daily Princetonian*; Social chair of Graduate Economics Club; Participant in Noon-Time Hockey (community hockey league); Princeton intramurals (organised hockey team and played in various other sports)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (TRINITY COLLEGE)

Toronto, Canada

Hon BSc (economics & mathematics)

1995-1999

- **Scholarships**: Mary Child Scholarship (outstanding 4th year); Lorne T. Morgan Gold Medal in Economics (outstanding 4th year in economics); Trinity College Scholar (outstanding graduating student at Trinity); Safarian Scholarship in Economics (outstanding 3rd year in economics); Charles Stephenson MacInnes Scholarship (outstanding 3rd year at Trinity)
- **Academics**: Lecturer in microeconomics (summer 2002); Teaching assistant in various undergraduate economics courses; Research assistant on impact of foreign direct investments on Canadian economy for Prof. A. Edward Safarian (summer 2000)
- **Extracurricular**: Trinity College tour guide; Judo Club; Peer academic advisor in economics

TEACHING

- **University of Hong Kong**: Guest lecturer (managing public services in the transitional nature of Bangladesh)
- **Princeton University**: Lecturer (MPA math); Preceptor (development, macroecon, microecon, public finance)
- **Concordia University**: Lecturer (microeconomics, statistics for economics)
- **University of Toronto**: Lecturer (microeconomics); Teaching assistant (introductory economics, urban economics)

Hong Kong, China
Princeton, USA
Montréal, Canada
Toronto, Canada

COURSES & CERTIFICATIONS

CONTINUING STUDIES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Harvard Kennedy School (Harvard University)**: Innovation for Economic Development
- **The Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania)**: Leading and Managing People
- **Kiel Institute for the World Economy**: Kiel Institute Summer School on Economic Policy
- **Barcelona Graduate School of Economics**: Barcelona Banking Summer School
- **Universitat Pompeu Fabra**: Barcelona Macroeconomics Summer School
- **Institute for Cultural Diplomacy**: Canada-Meets-Germany

Boston, USA
Philadelphia, USA
Kiel, Germany
Barcelona, Spain
Barcelona, Spain
Berlin, Germany

LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMMES

- **Chinese (Mandarin)**: Mandarin House
- **French**: ACCORD; Institut de Français; École Québec Monde
- **German**: Goethe Institut
- **Russian**: Liden & Denz

Shanghai, China
Paris; Villefranche sur Mer; Québec
Berlin; Frankfurt
Saint Petersburg, Russia

SECURITIES & FINANCE LICENSES & ACCREDITATIONS

- **Series 7, 63, 79**: (General securities rep; Securities sales agent; Investment banking rep)

New York, USA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interests: Gastronomy; ice hockey (Dubai Mighty Camels men's league champions 2012); martial arts (Brazilian jiu-jitsu purple belt; 10+ years Muay Thai); running (high school MVP and Ontario finals for cross-country; Dubai Vertical Marathon x4); travel (www.naturalbornvagabond.com; visited > 50 countries); trekking (summitted Mt Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (5,895m); Mt Toubkal, Morocco (4,167m); and Mt Fuji, Japan (3,776m)).

Positions: Canada-Meets-Germany (member); ASC interviewer for Princeton University; Princeton Association of New York City (ex-board member); University of Toronto Alumni Association (ex-board member).

Languages: English (native), Cantonese (native), French (B2), Mandarin Chinese (L4), German (B1), and Russian (A1).

About me: (i) Born on the streets of rural China (literally) to peasant parents. (ii) Ben Bernanke gave me his fish tank when he left Princeton to work at the Federal Reserve. (iii) Paul Krugman (2008 Nobel laureate) gave me his copy of Robert Mundell's (1999 Nobel laureate) original 1960s edition textbook on international economics. (iv) Previous jobs included: 6 years as a busboy and waiter (Organ Grinder); 1 year as a stock boy in a supermarket (Loblaws); and 3 years as a bartender (Harbourfront Centre).