

# James Symons-Hicks

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## Profile

I am a Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant at the LSE Centre for Macroeconomics, focusing on Fiscal Policy, Productivity & Growth, and Family Macroeconomics. I have also worked as a research assistant at University College London with a focus on financial decision-making and experimental economics. My research interests include macroeconomics, financial economics, behavioural economics, and experimental economics.

## Education

**MSc Economics** **Sep 2023 – Sep 2024**  
*University College London* **Grade: Distinction**

*Awarded Dean's List in Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences*

*Thesis: "A Q-Learning Approach to Algorithmic Market Making for Risky Securities."*

**BSc Economics** **Sep 2020 – Jun 2023**  
*University College London* **Grade: First Class Honours**

*Thesis: "Unravelling the Influence of Retail Investors on Liquidity and Volatility in UK Markets."*

## Academic Positions

**Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant** **September 2024 – Present**  
*Centre for Macroeconomics, London School of Economics* *London, UK*

- Working with Prof. Matthias Doepke and Dr. Ethan Ilzetzki.
- Projects relating to Fiscal Policy, Productivity & Growth (Ilzetzki), and Family Macroeconomics (Doepke).

**Research Assistant** **May 2022 – September 2024**  
*University College London* *London, UK*

- Worked with Prof. Antonio Guarino.
- Multiple projects relating to financial decision-making and experimental economics.

## Research & Publications

**The Influence of Market Dynamics on Retail Investor Attention** | [Link](#) **Oct 2023**  
• *Published in UCL Journal of Economics 2023.*

**Impacts of the EU Referendum Decision on the Welsh Economy** | [Link](#) **Jun 2022**  
• *Shortlisted for UCL's Explore Econ Conference 2022.*

**Economics with Humans: The Importance of Behavioural Economics** | [Link](#) **Jan 2022**  
• *Blog article for The Economic Tribune.*

## Other Research Experience

**Peer Reviewer, UCL Journal of Economics** **2024, 2025**

**Student Research Fellow, UCL Economic Tribune** **Oct 2022 – Jul 2023**

**Presenter & Panel Discussion Member, Discover Economics Project** **June 2023**

**Scientific Committee, UCL Explore Econ Conference** **June 2023**

## Technical Skills

**Languages:** English (Native), Spanish (Advanced).

**Programming:** *Proficient* - Stata, MATLAB, Python, R,  $\LaTeX$ . *Familiar* - Mathematica.

**Other:** Microsoft Excel (proficient), Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work, LTA Level 2 Tennis Coach.