www.kpuka.ca | klajdi.puka@gmail.com | 647-928-7852 Toronto, ON

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Behavioural Scientist

Jan 2024 – Present

Behavioural Science Fellow

Nov 2022 – Jan 2024

Privy Council Office, Government of Canada

Toronto, ON

- Lead the health portfolio of behavioural science research, overseeing a team of five scientists by providing scientific expertise, operational support, and strategic foresight.
- Lead and support the development and implementation of qualitative and quantitative research, including focus group interviews, nationwide surveys, and randomized trials.
- Develop and maintain close partnership with internal and external partners.
- Use advanced statistical modeling (using R, SAS, STATA, MPlus) to analyze user behaviour and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed solutions.
- Develop data management, collection, and reporting platforms (using R, HTML, JavaScript).

Adjunct Research Professor

May 2022 – Present

PhD Candidate Researcher

Sept 2016 – Apr 2021

Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Western University

London, ON

- Received and managed \$600,000 as principal investigator to lead and develop a research program focused on understanding and improving mental health problems in children.
- Published >50 scientific manuscripts and 7 book chapters, receiving recognition through >15 awards/recognitions and >10 presentations in prestigious international conferences.
- Teach graduate-level courses focused on health research methodology and biostatistics.
- Lead, supervise, and mentor a team of 11 researchers and students.

Project Scientist

Mar 2021 – Nov 2022

Institute for Mental Health Policy Research, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, ON

- Identified and leveraged nationally representative epidemiologic data, health surveys, and mortality data resulting in >10 scientific publications directly informing public health policy.
- Lead the development of grant applications securing nearly \$300,000 in external funding.
- Designed and implemented the methodological and statistical approach used by an international team of researchers to quantify and explain mortality from a variety of causes.
- Built strategic partnerships and provided leadership to an international and multidisciplinary team to effectively manage concurrent projects, deadlines, and priorities.

Statistician

Jul 2018 – Aug 2021

Department of Medicine, Western University

London, ON

- Developed the department's statistical support program, standard operating procedures, and trainee resources enhancing research quality and efficiency.
- Provided scientific expertise on research methodology, including protocol development, data analysis, and communication of results.
- Analyzed and interpreted data using a wide variety of advanced statistical methods.

EDUCATION

PhD, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Western University, 2016 – 2021 **HBSc**, Psychology and Biology, University of Toronto, 2009 – 2013