

# KARA JONES

1014 Greene Street, Columbia SC, 29208  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joneskara/>

## EDUCATION

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**University of South Carolina | Darla Moore School of Business** May 2026 (Expected)

### **PhD in Economics**

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Jason DeBacker, University of South Carolina

**Principal Research Interests:** regional development, tax policy, tourism, applied microeconomics

### **Bachelors in International Business and Economics**

May 2018

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant | USC Economics Department** Aug 2021 – Present

- Apply econometric methods to US Bureau of Labor Statistics data to estimate casual effects of business investment
- Gather, clean, and assess US Census Bureau data using Python for business entrepreneurship research
- Research and develop a proposal and grant application for U.S. Census Bureau data access to analyze long-term impact of economic incentives

**Teaching Assistant | USC Economics Department** Aug 2021 – Present

### Courses

ECON 555: Game Theory in Economics	Spring 2024
ECON 321: Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2024, Fall 2021
ECON 711: Applied Microeconomics for Masters	Fall 2023, Fall 2022
ECON 222: Introduction to Macroeconomics	Spring 2023
ECON 221: Introduction to Microeconomics	Spring 2023, Spring 2022
ECON 224: Introduction to Economics	Spring 2022

**Senior Consultant – Change Management & Learning | IBM Consulting** Aug 2019 – Jul 2022

- Developed and executed change management strategies to secure stakeholder support for new initiatives and minimize business disruption as client transitioned to new technologies.
- Led a team of 6 analysts, provided timely feedback, conducted continuous improvement analysis, and presented project updates to client and program management.
- Analyzed the efficacy of engagement and training strategies by conducting surveys and interviews.
- Spearheaded the Sales Simulation for internal practice development and developed recommendations for future events by analyzing program data, feedback, and improvement in employees' sales skills.
- Led 20 IBM P-TECH interns in consulting activities and provided guidance, support, and direction in researching and compiling a compelling business case to present to IBM leadership.

**Fulbright English Teaching Assistant | Escola Andorrana** Sep 2018 – Jun 2019

- Improved English proficiency among university staff and 10 classes of vocational students by designing and delivering English courses.

## PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

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- Jones, K. (2022, November 18-21). *The Kia Effect: Impact of FDI in Rural America*. Southeastern Annual Economics Conference. Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA.
- *Working Paper*: Troidl, Alex and **Kara Jones**. “The Kia Effect: Impact of FDI in Rural America.”

## AWARDS & GRANTS

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- **Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau, 2023 - Present**
- **Smith Richardson Foundation, 2022** – \$250K grant to fund economic development research using U.S. Census Bureau restricted data
- **University of South Carolina Graduate School Travel Grant, 2022**
- **U.S. Fulbright Grantee: Andorra, 2018** – English Teaching Assistantship
- **Dean’s Award, 2018**
- **SC Honors College Outstanding Intern, 2016** – South Carolina Department of Commerce

## SKILLS

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- *Software*: Python, Stata, Latex, Github, zTree, WordPress
- Microsoft Suite: full proficiency with Advanced Excel, Word, and PowerPoint skills
- *Foreign Language*: fluent in French

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- **Conferences**
  - Carolina Regional Empirical Economics Day (CREED). Columbia, SC, USA. October 6, 2023.
  - Office of Tax Analysis Research Conference. Online. September 23, 2022.
  - Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop. Columbia, SC, USA. April 7-8, 2022.
- **Workshops**
  - *Academic Integrity*. USC Center for Teaching Excellence. Online. August 2023.
  - *Resilience in the Classroom*. USC Center for Teaching Excellence. Online. September 2023.
  - *AI in Higher Education*. USC Center for Teaching Excellence. Online. September 2023.
  - *Free Speech, Academic Freedom, & the Carolinian Creed*. Heterodox Academy Campus Community at USC. Columbia, SC, USA. September 2023.