

Predoc in Economics and AI – Yale, Columbia, and ETH Zurich

Job start date: Flexible

Job duration: 1-3 years

Application deadline: 1 March 2026

Applications are welcome for predoc fellowships in the area of Economics and AI. The candidates would be advised by a team of researchers from Yale ([W. Bentley MacLeod](#)), Columbia University ([Suresh Naidu](#)), and ETH Zurich ([Elliott Ash](#)). Our team specializes in applied economics using data science methods – machine learning, natural language processing, and AI.

The ideal candidate holds (or is close to completing) a Bachelors or Masters in Economics, Computer Science, or related field and intends to seek a PhD position at a top-ranked department in economics or adjacent field after completion of the predoc. The candidate has expertise in data management, econometric analysis (including causal inference and research design), machine learning, and natural language processing (including using LLMs). We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary candidates who have done social science analysis using both causal inference research design and unstructured data (especially text). Excellent English writing skills and mastery of both Stata and Python are essential. Expertise with AI coding agents (e.g. Cursor, Copilot, Claude Code) is highly desired. The hired candidate should be willing to invest in filling in any gaps in expertise before the start of the appointment.

Predocs are expected to be involved in all steps of research, including project planning, research design, data analysis, preparing presentations, and writing manuscripts for submission to leading peer-reviewed journals. Predocs will have the opportunity to take courses, participate in seminars and conferences, and spend time at Yale, Columbia, and ETH. Previous predocs have gone onto PhD programs at (for example) Princeton, NYU, and LSE.

Applicants should have a solid foundation in economics, statistics, and computing, strong references for previous research work, a good writing sample, and competitive GRE scores.

The starting date is flexible starting March 1st, 2026. The appointment is at least one year and up to three years (contingent on good performance). Salary starts at ~63K USD.

Please apply here: [Yale/Columbia/ETH Predoc Application Form](#).