

# KENSLEY BLAISE

School of Economics  
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**Profile:** Economist with six years of central banking and macroeconomic modelling experience. My background includes near and medium-term forecasting. I have a track record of successfully leading forecasting projects. Additionally, I have experience advising senior policymakers and giving technical guidance to junior staff members.

## EDUCATION

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### University of East Anglia (UEA)

*Ph.D. Candidate in Economics*

*Thesis: Digital Currencies and the Macroeconomy.*

Norwich, UK

*Oct. 2020 – March 2025*

### University of East Anglia (UEA)

*MSc. Economics with Distinction*

*Dissertation: UK Monetary Policy Post-Brexit: A Time-Varying VAR Analysis.*

Norwich, UK

*Oct. 2017 – sept. 2018*

### State University of Haiti

*Bsc. Economics (ranked first out of 400 students)*

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

*Oct. 2009 – Sept. 2013*

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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### ProEco (Economic Think Tank)

*Economist-Consultant (remote)*

*May 2024 – Present*

- Developing innovative nowcasting models for seven Latin American and Caribbean economies, leveraging machine learning to enhance forecast accuracy and support high-stakes investment analysis for top-tier institutions.
- Training 3 early-career economists in Python programming, unstructured data analysis, and nowcasting model development, resulting in improved team capability to handle large datasets and build real-time forecasting model.

### Office of the Prime Minister of Haiti

*Economic Policy Consultant (on part-time leave from the Central Bank)*

*Mars 2020 – Sept. 2020*

- Produced a report on monetary financing and its negative consequences on inflation and investment in Haiti. This work is an assessment of a report addressed by the IMF to the government regarding public policy management in the country.
- Appointed by the deputy chief of staff as part a 3-member economist team devoted to monitoring the evolution of key economic indicators in Haiti. Developed forecasting models and wrote semi-monthly reports on policy interventions of the government.
- Spearheaded speech drafting and communication initiatives related to monetary and fiscal matters in the country to improve clarity of information disseminated to the general public.

### Central Bank of Haiti

*Economist at the Monetary and Economic Analysis Directorate*

*Oct. 2018 – Sept. 2020*

- Built nowcasting models to predict economic activity in Haiti. The model leveraged data on electricity consumption per region, tax exemption filings and debit/credit card transactions to track economic activity in the country.
- Produced an assessment of reduced-form Vector Autoregressive and various univariate models used for medium-term forecasting in regards to machine learning techniques. This led to the adoption of deep learning models in the suite of tools employed to forecast inflation and nominal exchange rate paths.

- Spearheaded a 4-member team appointed to run fast-track surveys on business sentiments, inflation expectations and capital inflows. I supervised the production of 6 surveys between 2018 and 2020. The conclusions were instrumental to the board of the Bank and the management of monetary policy in the country.
- Led the external sector side of a 3-member team appointed to build a Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model for the Haitian economy. The model is now used as one of the primary sources to simulate shocks and study the reaction of the local economy.
- Built a database between Haiti and its key partners with various risk indicators to analyse Haiti's economy exposure to international shocks. Data and analysis from the database is reported as part of documents submitted to the monetary policy committee to make interest rate policy decisions.
- Produced a policy note on the impacts of covid-19 on the real economy with clear policy implementation suggestion. The document served as the basis of an agreement between the Ministry of Finance and the Bank to coordinate their effort to smooth the negative impacts of Covid-19 on the economy.

## Central Bank of Haiti

*Economist at the International Economy Directorate (External Statistics Unit)*

*Oct. 2014 – Sept. 2017*

- Created a high-frequency trade indicator between Haiti and the rest of the world. The indicator uses weekly trade reporting from the customs administrations to analyze trends in imports and exports activity. This indicator is used by the international currency reserve committee within the Bank to forecast demand for US dollars on the local market.
- Leveraged data on importations of foods, construction inputs and energy to build a high-frequency tracker of predicted consumer price fluctuations. The model has produced very strong and robust estimates of the volatility of the inflation in Haiti.
- Led a team appointed to write the quarterly report of the external sector of the economy. The report analyzes the evolution of the balance of payments and the impacts of international shocks on the local economy.
- Oversaw statistics reporting to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. I also work with various divisions at the IMF to improve the quality of data collection and management at the central Bank.
- Coordinated two surveys on capital inflows and outflows in Haiti. The first one looked at foreign direct investments and portfolio investments. The second one covered remittances.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Crash course on Python, *Module Organizer, Postgraduate, 2024, UEA.*
- Time Series Analysis, *Co-organizer, Postgraduate, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, UEA.*
- Econometric Methods, *Teaching Assistant, Postgraduate, 2021-2022, UEA.*

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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- *A Continuous-time Theory of Currency Substitution.*
- *Currency Competition and Monetary Non-neutrality (with Simone Valente).*
- *Can Firms' Reports Improve Forecasts During Times of Large Shocks? (with Andrea Calef).*

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

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UEA internal seminar (2024) • University of Piraeus Econometric workshop (2023) • Digital currency conference at Warwick University (2022) • Oxford University (Economics Department summer School presentation) • IMF Macroeconomic Forecasting (2019) • IMF Macroeconomic Diagnostic Workshop (2020) •

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- **UEA:** Full scholarship for my doctoral studies (tuition and stipends)
- **British Government:** Full scholarship for my master's degree (tuition and stipends)
- **State University of Haiti:** USD 1000 prize for the best undergraduate dissertation award
- **State University of Haiti:** Full scholarship for my undergraduate studies
- **National Higher School of Technology:** Full scholarship for my undergraduate studies

## SOFTWARE AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

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- *Software:* Proficiency in R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, Git, GitHub, and LaTeX.
- *Language:* French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (Advanced), and Haitian Creole (native),