Mana Azizsoltani

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EDUCATION

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)   Las Vegas, Nevada
PhD in Hospitality Administration   August 2022-May 2025
- Dissertation: Applications of Meta-learning in Hotel Demand Forecasting
- Advisor: Dr. Ashok Singh
- Major: Data Analytics
- GPA: 4.000

North Carolina State University (NCSU)   Raleigh, North Carolina
Master of Statistics   May 2020-May 2021
- GPA: 4.000

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)   Las Vegas, Nevada
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics   August 2017-May 2020
- GPA: 3.804
- Major GPA: 4.000

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Interests
- Predictive/statistical modeling
- Machine learning applications to hospitality
- Revenue management and gaming analytics

Research Working Experience

UNLV Department of Hospitality   Las Vegas, Nevada
Graduate Research Assistant   August 2022-Present
- Application of machine learning techniques to predict vape initiation and quitting behaviors
- Prediction of unconstrained demand in hotels using machine learning models
- Demand modeling of aggregate stadium attendance using machine learning
- Application of machine learning models to detect hypoxemia post-operation

UNLV Lee Business School   Las Vegas, Nevada
Graduate Research Assistant   August 2022-May 2022
- Worked under Dr. Yong Li in the Troesh Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Scraped, compiled, cleaned, analyzed, and visualized data on SPAC companies using R and Python

NC State Department of Public Administration   (remote)
Student Statistical Consultant   January 2021-June 2021
- Compiled, cleaned, and combined data from various databases and built a fixed effects model in R
- Created summaries, reports, and visualizations and explained them to academics of different disciplines

UNLV Department of Hospitality   Las Vegas, NV
Undergraduate Research Assistant   March 2019-May 2020
- Predicted hotel cancellations using various machine learning techniques such as: random forest, Bayesian logistic regression, support vector machines, and neural networks using R
- Used parametric bootstrapping to estimate the autocorrelation correlation coefficient of time series data

Work-In-Progress Papers

- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Ghahrian, K. [2024 Spring]. Measurement invariance assessment of the PGSI. Target: *Journal of Gambling Studies*. Stage: Journal Submission.
- **Azizsoltani, M.** [2024 Spring]. A qualitative inquiry into the key professional skills for successful school-to-work transition of college students. Target: *Journal of Vocational Behavior*. Stage: Data analysis.
- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Ghaharian, K. [2024 Spring]. A systematic review of machine learning methodologies in hotel revenue management. Target: *Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management.* Stage: Data collection.
- Gomez-Talal, I., & **Azizsoltani, M.** [2024 Summer]. Predicting cancellations in hotel room bookings with interpretable machine learning. Target: *International Journal of Hospitality Management*. Stage: Discussion.
- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Gomez-Talal, I. [2024 Summer]. Application of the meta-model to forecast hotel room demand. Target: *Current Issues in Tourism.* Stage: Data analysis.
- Bischoff, J., **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Ghaharian, K. [2024 Fall]. How do hotel customers feel about AI service technologies? A scoping review. Target: *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management.* Stage: Data Analysis.
- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Ghaharian, K. [2024 Fall]. Using supervised machine learning to predict online gamblers' behaviors. Target: *Journal of Gambling Studies*. Stage: Data analysis.
- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Lee, S. [2024 Fall]. Using physiological characteristics to predict wine quality. Target: *Journal of Applied Statistics and Machine Learning*. Stage: Manuscript composition.
- **Azizsoltani, M.** [2024 Fall]. Prediction of aggregate stadium attendance in professional European football. Target: *Journal of Sports Economics*. Stage: Data collection.
- Markey, J., VanderHoek, M., Kennally, D., Waldron, B., Antonio, S.M., **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Singh, A.K. [TBD]. Evaluation of the procedural oxygen mask® for esophagogastroduodenoscopy: A retrospective review of four years of cases. Stage: Data analysis.
- Sharma, M., Batra, K., Mukhopadhyay, D., **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Singh, A.K. [TBD]. Initiation of vape quitting behavior in teenagers. Target: *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. Stage: Data analysis.

Book Chapters

- Dimitriou, C.K., & **Azizsoltani, M.** [Spring 2024]. Respecting and managing diversity, equity, and inclusion. In C.K. Dimitriou & Nunkoo, R. (Eds.), *Handbook of Tourism Leadership* (pp. TBD). Elgar, E.

Conference Presentations

- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Ghaharian, K. (2024, September 10-13). *An ordinal categorical variable approach to assessing measurement invariance using the theta parameterization for MG-CFA.* [Paper presentation]. 14th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues.
- **Azizsoltani, M.,** & Ghaharian, K. (2024, May 23-24). *An assessment of the measurement invariance of the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI).* [Paper presentation]. Nevada Annual State Conference on Problem Gambling
- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Singh, A.K. (2023, December 14). *Machine learning prediction of hotel room demand* [Paper presentation]. 6th Annual RevME Hospitality Management and Analytics Conference.
- **Azizsoltani, M.** (2023, June 13). *Detection of customer transaction decline using machine learning* [Paper presentation]. Webinar on Safer Gambling: Insights from Leading Researchers & Applicability, virtual conference.

- Ghaharian, K., & **Azizsoltani, M.** (2023, May 23-25). *Predicting declined transactions in gambling payments data* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Gambling & Risk Taking, Las Vegas, NV.
- **Azizsoltani, M.** (2023, April 15). *Teaching statistics in hospitality* [Paper presentation]. Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum, Las Vegas, NV.
- **Azizsoltani, M.**, & Singh, A.K. (2023, March 17). *Teaching statistics in hospitality using R* [Paper presentation]. 2023 Hawkes Learning Innovative Educators Summit (IES), virtual conference.
- **Azizsoltani, M.** (2023, February 19-18). *Predicting cancellations in bookings using machine learning* [Poster presentation]. 2023 West Federation of Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (WF-CHRIE), Las Vegas, NV.

Honors, Awards, & Funding
- NVDHHS Research Grant for problem gambling research. ($5,000 USD).
- Doctoral Student Travel Fund, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, December 2023 ($123.24 USD)
- DHHS Student Scholarship for International Conference of Gambling & Risk Taking. ($895 USD)
- Best Poster for "Predicting cancellations in bookings using machine learning", 2023 West Federation of Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (WF-CHRIE), Las Vegas, NV
- Semifinalist, UNLV Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition. *Predicting cancellations in bookings using machine learning.* Las Vegas, NV ($250 USD)
- Graduate Statistics Scholarship, North Carolina State University, 2020 ($1000 USD)
- Grad Rebel Advantage Scholarship, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2020 ($100 USD)
- Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2017-2020 ($10,000 USD)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Interests
- Statistics / Data analytics
- Research methods
- Revenue management / Forecasting

Teaching Working Experience
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
HOA 732: Statistical Analysis for Hospitality – Teaching Assistant

Semester	Class Size	Format
Spring 2019	*18*	*In person*
Spring 2023	*14*	*Online*
Summer 2023	*13*	*Online*

- Assisted Dr. Singh during instruction, including explanations, breakout groups, and code writing
- Taught several lectures including time series modeling, regression, and tree-based models
- Graded students' programming assignments, including homework and projects

HOA 730: Statistical Analysis for Hospitality – Teaching Assistant

Semester	Class Size	Format
Fall 2022	*19*	*Hybrid*
Fall 2023	*35*	*Online*
Spring 2024	*18*	*Online*

- Assisted Dr. Singh during instruction, including explanations, breakout groups, and code writing
- Taught several lectures including central limit theorem, t-testing, chi-square testing
- Graded students' programming assignments, including homework and projects

- Held office hours to answer students' questions regarding the material

MGT 710: New Venture Creation – Teaching Assistant

Semester	Class Size	Format
Fall 2022	*10*	*In Person*

- Assisted Dr. Li in designing the graduate-level course, including the syllabus, canvas page, and schedule
- Answered students' questions related to assignments and class material

MGT 709: New Venture Feasability – Teaching Assistant

Semester	Class Size	Format
Fall 2022	*12*	*In Person*

- Assisted Dr. Li in designing the graduate-level course, including the syllabus, canvas page, and schedule
- Answered students' questions related to assignments and class material

Guest Lectures
- Ms. Zhanna Kozlova, Capstone Project in Data Science, Spring 2023, Breda, NL (in person)
- Dr. Ashok Singh, HOA 730, multiple semesters (online and in person)
    - Chi-square Testing
    - Introduction to R and RStudio
    - Correlation and measures of association
    - Comparison of means
- Dr. Ashok Singh, HOA 732, multiple semesters (online and in person)
    - Time series modeling
    - Regression analysis
    - Machine learning modeling
    - Random Forest and XGBoost
- Mr. Mohsen Azizsoltani
    - FAB 390 – Spirits and Liquors
    - FAB 290 – Controlling and Selling to a Profit
- Ms. Scarlett Baughman, Success in College, HMD 100, Spring 2023 (in person)
- Dr. Anthony Lucas, Mathematics of Casino Games, HOA 536, Fall 2023 (in person)

Other Teaching Experience
Self-Employed   Las Vegas, NV
Private Tutor   August 2019-Present
- Tutor high school and college students in a variety of statistics and math classes
- Simplify and explain complex concepts in mathematics and statistics to diverse clients

Various Public Schools   Barcelona, Spain
Substitute Teacher   September 2021-November 2021
- Taught elementary-level English, physical education, and mathematics classes in English and Spanish at various elementary schools in the Barcelona metropolitan area

College of Southern Nevada   Las Vegas, NV
Tutor of Mathematics   January 2019-May 2019
- Tutored college students at various math levels to facilitate a better understanding of math concepts
- Simplified and explained mathematical concepts in easy-to-understand language
- Collaborated with other tutors to develop new techniques to teach students

OUTREACH & SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Academic Service

- Faculty Advisor for BBB Student Organization. UNLV College of Hospitality. Phocuswright Conference, Miami, FL (November 2023)
- Ad-hoc Online Curriculum Committee, UNLV College of Hospitality
- Data Analytics Certificate Subcommittee, UNLV College of Hospitality
- Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Applied Statistics and Machine Learning*

Community Service & Outreach

UNLV Lee Business School   Las Vegas, Nevada
Graduate Assistant   August 2023-Present

- Work under Chris Utterback to inaugurate and grow the Kerestesi Center for Insurance and Risk Management
- Facilitate student and community engagement by representing UNLV at a variety of events
- Mentor, advise, tutor, and lead undergraduate students

Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS) – UNLV Chapter   Las Vegas, Nevada
Founder & President   May 2023-Present

- Charter a GIS chapter on UNLV campus to educate students about the insurance industry
- Build a professional community around the insurance industry, connecting students to opportunities

Cultural Diversity Foundation's Annual Educational Taste of Excellence   Las Vegas, Nevada
Board Member & Director of Operations   March 2022-Present

- Help plan, organize, and manage a wine and food event of 1000 attendees at the Westgate
- Solicited, trained, and managed 100 volunteers, including UNLV and CSN students
- Contributed to a 25% growth in attendees over a three-year period, resulting in over $100,000 raised for student scholarships

Troesh Center for Entrepreneurship   Las Vegas, Nevada
Graduate Assistant   August 2022-May 2023

- Organized, planned, and worked the 2022 Troesh Research Conference
- Set up and worked the 2022 Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers conference
- 1-on-1 mentorship of entrepreneurship students

UNLV Soccer Club   Las Vegas, Nevada
Founder & President   January 2019-February 2023

- Founded an organization that unites students of different backgrounds through soccer
- Increased club membership by 150%
- Planned, organized, and hosted watch parties, soccer tournaments, and pickup games

Barcelona Book Club   Barcelona, Spain
Co-Founder   October 2021-January 2022

- Founded and headed a book club of 15 members from 9 different countries

Nevada Risk and Insurance Management Society   Las Vegas, Nevada
Executive Board Member   September 2019-May 2020

- Served as the intermediary between the professional chapter and the student chapter at UNLV
- Educated students about the insurance industry and connected them to employers
- Organized a Christmas gala of 220 attendees from the insurance industry

AMSTAT Student Chapter   Las Vegas, Nevada
Vice President   January 2019- May 2020
- Hosted and solicited volunteers for the event "State of Data Science in Las Vegas"
- Connected students of mathematics and statistics to job opportunities

University of Nevada, Las Vegas   Las Vegas, Nevada
Rebel Ambassador   April 2019-May 2020
- Give guidance to prospective UNLV students and their families
- Travel to local high schools to promote UNLV

Extracurricular Activities
The Rebel Revolution   Las Vegas, Nevada
Co-creator & Host   September 2023-Present
- Write and record a podcast that highlights the innovations happening on UNLV's campus
- Market, promote, and advertise UNLV as a center for innovation and scholarship

Manalogue Blogs   Multi-location
Author & Creator   September 2021-Present
- *Becoming Dr. Mana*: An account of my journey through my PhD
- *Europe 2023:* A recap of my multi-purpose European summer trip in 2023
- *Americanito en Barcelona*: A week-by-week account of my adventures living abroad in Spain in 2021

The Job Forum Podcast   Las Vegas, Nevada
Creator & Host   September 2022-December 2023
- Write and record a podcast about recent graduates' journeys through college and into the workforce, bringing guests of different disciplines.

KUNV HD2 Radio   Las Vegas, Nevada
Radio Host   September 2022-December 2022
- Host for two hours on the UNLV HD2 radio station
- Read public service announcements and keep track of music and advertisements

Honors, Awards, and Acknowledgements
- Mentorship Certification – University of Nevada, Las Vegas. May 2024. Las Vegas, NV
- Invited Guest, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas. December 2023, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Invited Guest, Breda University of Applied Sciences. June 2023. Breda, Netherlands
- Student Speaker, *UNLV Hospitality Mentor Ceremony*. May 3, 2023. Las Vegas, NV
- Financial Literacy & Wellness Certification – University of Nevada, Las Vegas. May 2023
- Outstanding Service Award, *Cultural Diversity Foundation's Educational Taste of Excellence*. March 25, 2023. Las Vegas, NV
- Panelist, *Food Service CEO Symposium*, February 27, 2023. Las Vegas, NV

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE
Complete Actuarial Solutions Co. (CASCO)   Washington D.C.
Actuarial Intern   May 2019-July 2019
- Summarized insurance claims data for automotive, workers' compensation, medical malpractice, and other lines of coverage and created visual representations in Microsoft Excel to see reserving patterns
- Created actuarial triangles and analyzed loss development factors to understand claim development

- Worked with actuaries to create reserving and valuation reports for clients

Universal Retirement   Las Vegas, NV
Finance Intern   April 2019-May 2019
- Analyzed and calculated various retirement plans to create visual representations for clients in Microsoft Excel
- Explained and recommended retirement plans to people of different financial backgrounds
- Worked with financial advisors to develop appropriate financial plans for clients

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE
AAA Water   Walnut Creek, CA
Office Clerk   July 2018-October 2018
- Manually prepared and moved inventory in warehouse and entered orders into WATER software
- Contacted customers to schedule appointments for water filter service

Aquatic Experts   Maui, HI
Service Provider   May 2018-July 2018
- Serviced both commercial and residential pools, aquariums, ponds, and water filters
- Collaborated with other service providers on large-scale, contracted projects
- Canvassed new clients and solicited new accounts by attending community events and going door-to-door

SKILLS
- Bilingual: fluent in **Spanish** and **English**, verbal and written
- Basic proficiency in **Catalan** (verbal and written) and **Farsi** (verbal)
- Experience in **Microsoft Office**, **R(Studio/Shiny), Python, Docker, HTML, XML**
- Seasoned in **data analytics/science/mining**, **machine learning**, and **statistical modeling/inference**
- Create, design, and maintain a personal Jekyll website