

# STEPH DE SILVA

*Data Scientist*

I'm an experienced data scientist with a diverse background and a strong technical skill set, I have experience working both internationally and domestically in industries such as development, telecommunications and finance.

A keen statistical programmer, I will be a keynote speaker at the user! conference in Brisbane in July 2018.

Currently in the midst of a career transition from classical statistics and econometric modelling into artificial intelligence and massive data sets, I'm looking for a role where I can leverage diverse experience and a strong theoretical background while learning a lot!

I have great communication and people skills and teach for Swinburne University's MBA and MPA programs.

## CONTACTS

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Website/Blog

<http://www.rex-analytics.com/>

Phone

+61 414 943 245

E-mail

[steph@rex-analytics.com](mailto:steph@rex-analytics.com)

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS

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My preferred languages right now: R, Python, Java.

Languages/platforms I've worked in previously or have experience with: Fortran, Gauss, Stata, SPSS, HTML/CSS, Javascript.

I learned to code 20 years ago – I pick up and put down languages as the project requires.

## EDUCATION

*Master of Computer Science (Current)*

I'm currently exploring forecasting in high dimensional data sets and exploring whether agent-based (AI) approaches can provide a robust method of managing massive numbers of time series with a view to submitting a masters' thesis on the topic.

*Doctor of Philosophy 2004-2008*

Research focused on finding practical, but theoretically robust solutions for testing complex time series models over multiple dimensions (panel data).

*Bachelor of Arts/Commerce 1998-2003*

Honours in Econometrics (first class – game theory). Additional majors in Economics, Latin and Ancient History.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Data Science Consultant and Strategist

*Rex Analytics / 2014– Present*

At Rex Analytics, I tailor solutions for corporate and government clients. Some projects I've worked on include:

- The Connecting Regional Communities Program, providing advice, analysis and visualization to the Victorian Government around digitization of regional communities.
- The Constant Investor, Unlisted Gems project, providing advice, analysis and visualization to Alan Kohler's flagship project.
- The National Parks and Wildlife *Enhanced Bushfire Management Program*, providing economic analysis and data strategy for the organization.

### Econometrician

*Department of Communications and the Arts / 2016*

As a part of this short term contract I contributed to two projects: the regional telecommunications database and the Chief Economist's major work on the impacts of digitization on productivity. Using Shiny/R, I designed a user interface which allowed departmental users to generate automated reporting. I also provided data visualisation, time series models and growth statistics for the productivity project.

### Unit Coordinator/eLearning Advisor

*Swinburne Online / 2015 – 2017*

I teach for Swinburne's MBA and MPA programs in finance and economics, as well undergraduate units such as statistics, marketing and business innovation. I take a team of students of varying abilities through a challenging semester of technical work, building on their skills and confidence.

I've taken courses previously rated by students at 5/10 to greater than 8/10 in a single semester.

In order to get my team through the semester, I build interactive apps, design infographics and deliver online content while having fun with it. One of my favourite hobbies!

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Coauthored Six World Bank Reports

*The World Bank 202-2015*

As the econometrician for the World Bank's Pacific education team, I wrote, produced analysis, modelling and visualisations for six World Bank reports and contributed to many more.

### Delivered the Regional Telecommunications Database

*Department of Communications and the Arts*

Delivered a database built from disparate sources using industry, government and internal departmental data. Created a Shiny interface for automated reporting.

### Coauthor, *Digital Productivity: Key Issues from*

*the Literature*

*Department of Communications and the Arts 2016*

A major departmental working paper detailing the state of play of digital productivity at both the micro and macro levels, nationally and internationally.

## LANGUAGES

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English

*Native Speaker*

Latin

*I have an undergraduate degree in Latin and some Greek – not always useful in the business context! But it makes natural language processing a key interest area.*

Sinhalese

*Basic Knowledge*

## SOCIAL

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[My LinkedIn profile](#)



[@StephdeSilva](#)



[My Github profile](#)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

### Programming

*Extensive Knowledge –  
Keynote speaker at useR!  
2018*

### Statistics + Machine Learning

*Expert Knowledge – Ph.D. in  
Econometrics and twelve years'  
modelling experience.*

### Business Skills

*Expert Knowledge – six years'  
consulting experience, three years  
teaching with Swinburne's MPA  
and MBA programs.*

## PERSONAL SKILLS

*Great communicator*

*Ability to 'switch gears' – I tailor  
communication to the audience.*

*Ten years' experience, six in  
consulting, make me a fast  
learner and able to get to speed  
in a new domain very quickly.*

*Great team leadership skills*

*Great eye for detail*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

*(Continued)*

### Econometrician

*The World Bank / 2012 – 2015*

At the World Bank, I worked with the Pacific education team and was responsible for the management of survey and data analysis, modelling and report writing. I provided support for intervention evaluation design, sample design and implementation, in-country support for teams during data collection and entry. I worked on projects from Laos, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Vanuatu, Timor Leste, Myanmar and Cambodia.

In 2014, I travelled to Laos to provide statistical support to the Research Institute located in the Ministry of Education in Laos. I co-authored six major World Bank reports and provided statistical/econometric support for many more. In Stata, I developed multi-equation system models for categorical outcomes (classification), including logit, tobit and regression models. Power calculations, RCT evaluation/design and probabilistic sampling and testing were also in my remit.

### Casual Lecturer, Associate Lecturer, Research Assistant

*The University of Sydney / 2004 – 2009*

I taught and researched advanced data science concepts such as time series modelling and forecasting, classification models, probabilistic theory, applied econometrics and data analysis.