

# Alfonso J. Rojas-Álvarez

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## **Education:**

University of Texas at Austin.

*Ph.D. in Public Policy*, LBJ School of Public Affairs.

*M.Sc. in Statistics*, Department of Statistics and Data Science, concluded 2019.

Austin, TX  
August 2016 – Summer 2022

University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy.

*Master of Public Policy, with emphasis in Applied Econometrics.*

Berkeley, CA  
May 2015

Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, Department of Graduate Studies.

*Part-time MBA*, Coursework with concentration on Finance.

San José, Costa Rica  
January – December 2011

Universidad de Costa Rica, Departments of Political Science & Economics.

*Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics coursework.*

International Summer School in Financial Economics, *Renmin University, Beijing.*

San José, Costa Rica  
May 2010

## **Research Experience and Interests:**

Environmental economics, public health, data science, quantitative methods, and data-driven policy analysis.

## **Doctoral Dissertation:**

“Essays on Three Looming Policy Crises in Latin America”

Job Market Paper 1: Pollution and Safety Incidents: A Case Study with Property and Violent Incidents in Medellín, Colombia

Paper 2: Comparison of Rural-Urban Differences In Out-Of-Pocket Expenses Among Older Mexicans With Diabetes

Paper 3: Easier Eviction and Rental Markets: A Case Study Of Costa Rica, 2010-2021

Dissertation Committee:

- Co-Chair: Peter M. Ward, PhD; UT Austin.
- Co-Chair: Andrew Waxman, PhD; UT Austin.
- Chandler Stolp, PhD, Dan Powers, PhD; UT Austin
- Leonardo Garnier, PhD; Universidad de Costa Rica

## **Professional Experience:**

ixpantia, Costa Rica.

Senior Data Science Consultant.

- Data-based innovation consultant, change management consulting.
- Data product development (R, Python, SQL, Shiny, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes)
- Project Management for environmental, energy and social sciences projects.

August 2020 - Present

Consilium Asociados, Costa Rica.

Senior Data Science Consultant.

- Data Science consulting for private clients and government agencies.
- Econometric risk modeling and forecasting for ARESEP.
- Electoral data management and forecast.
- Grant writing and implementation (UNICEF).

January 2019 - Present

Casa Presidencial de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.

Advisor to the Minister of the Presidency.

- Led presentation, negotiation, and approval of 98 bills.
- Public relations and negotiations with 38 organized groups, unions, and private sector chambers.
- Led institutional coordination for government's projects, communities, security and emergencies.
- Coordinated 17 staff members, and internal procedures inside "Casa Presidencial".

2011- August 2013

Instituto Costarricense del Deporte y la Recreación, Costa Rica.

February 2011- August 2011

Economic Advisor to the Minister of Sports and Recreation.

Instituto Costarricense de Turismo, Costa Rica.  
Economic Advisor to the Minister of Tourism.

May 2010 - April 2011

Laura Chinchilla Presidential Campaign, Costa Rica.  
Coordinator of the Unit for Content and Strategic Analysis.

September 2009 - March 2010

### **Publications:**

“A comparison of rural–urban differences in out-of-pocket expenses among older Mexicans with diabetes”.  
(with Vazquez CE, Lopez-Ortega M and Angel JL). *Front Public Health* (2022).

“The Intersection Between the Dwelling Environment and Health and Wellbeing in Impoverished Rural Puebla, Mexico”.  
(with Ward, Peter, PhD; Sandoval, Andrea). *Journal of Rural Studies* 84 (2021): 192-210

“Understanding community health needs and forging an academic global health partnership in Puebla, Mexico: a mixed methods study” (with Remmert, Veronica; Ciaburri Christina; Sandoval, Andrea; Stephenson, Claire; Hernandez, Eder, MD; Hernandez, Luis, MD; Ward, Peter, PhD; Ainslie, Ricardo, PhD; Mercer, Tim, MD). *The Lancet Global Health, Volume 8, Special Issue, S13, April 2020.*

### **Working Papers:**

- “Migration, Earthquake Trauma, Health and Community Social Capital in four low-income communities of Puebla, Mexico.”  
(with Ainslie, Ricardo, PhD). *Pending Journal Decision.*

- Mental Health Community Wellbeing: A Study of Four Mexican Communities  
(with Ainslie, Ricardo, PhD). *Pending journal decision.*

- “Health Needs and Access to Health Care: Data from Three Rural Pueblos And One Urban Colonia In Puebla, Mexico”  
(with Remmert, Veronica; Mercer, Tim, MD). *Pending journal decision.*

### **Presentations:**

2022: SLAS International Conference. Bath, UK, 2022.

2021: LASA Hybrid Congress. Vancouver, Canada, 2021.

2020: SLAS 2020 Conference, Amsterdam; XXXVIII International Congress of LASA, Guadalajara, México; 6<sup>th</sup> Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Dubai, UAE; Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, International Affairs Seminar; San Judas University, Political Affairs Seminar.

2019: ConectaR 2019 Data Science Latin American Conference, University of Costa Rica; SPSA Annual Meeting Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico; I Latin American and Caribbean HSG Pre-Conferences on Health Systems Research, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC.

2018: APPAM International Conference, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Mexico City, 2018.

### **Research Projects:**

COVID-19 Mobility Project, UT COVID-19 Consortium, 2020-2021.

President's Award for Global Learning 2021, Texas Global.

President's Award for Global Learning 2020, Texas Global.

President's Award for Global Learning 2019, Texas Global.

Political Climate and Risk, Autoridad Reguladora de los Servicios Públicos, Costa Rica, 2019.

Juvenile Incarceration Project, CSG Justice Center on juvenile incarceration, 2019.

Social Policy Evaluation, Child and Family Research Partnership Research Assistant, 2016-2017.

Data Analyst, Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab, 2015.

Policy Consultant, REDF, San Francisco, California 2015. (Master’s Thesis Title: *From the Social Enterprise to the Job Market*).

Small Business Lending, Beneficial State Bank, Oakland, California, 2014.

Multi-Sector Leadership, Haas School of Business Research Assistant, 2014-2015.

Access to Credit for Small Business and Nonprofits, San Francisco Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector, 2014.

Accreditation for School of Political Science, Evaluation Research Assistant, University of Costa Rica, 2007

### **Grants and Fellowships:**

University Graduate Continuing Fellowship, Office of Graduate Studies, UT Austin, 2021.  
Ashbel Smith COVID Relief Fellowship, 2021.  
C.B. Smith, Sr. Centennial Chair Fellowship, 2021.  
Dissertation Research Fellowship, Latino Research Institute, UT Austin, 2021.  
President's Award for Global Learning, Texas Global, UT Austin, 2021. \$35,000 grant competition.  
OGS Summer Research Fellowship, Office of Graduate Studies, UT Austin, 2020.  
President's Award for Global Learning, Texas Global, UT Austin, 2019. \$35,000 grant competition.  
Graduate Student Development Award, Office of Graduate Studies, UT Austin, 2019.  
Barbara Jordan Development Fellowship, LBJ School of Public Affairs, UT Austin, 2018.  
Graduate Recruitment Fellowship, Office of Graduate Studies, UT Austin, 2016.  
Graduate Fellowship, Goldman School of Public Policy, UC Berkeley, 2014.

### **Teaching Experience:**

UT Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs.  
- Instructor, *Introduction to Empirical Methods* (MPAff Core Course).  
Spring 2023.  
- Instructor, *Fundamentals of Statistics and Algebra for Public Policy*  
Fall 2022.  
- TA, *Applied Economics for Policy Analysis*.  
Fall 2018, Fall 2020. With Prof. Andrew Waxman, Prof. Sheila Olmstead  
- TA, *Environmental Economics*.  
Spring 2018, Spring 2021. Prof. Sheila Olmstead  
- Co-instructor, *Global Learning Seminar*.  
Spring 2019, Spring 2021.

Universidad Internacional de las Americas, School of International Affairs (San José, Costa Rica).  
- Instructor, *Political Geography*.  
I, II long session, August 2016.

Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, School of International Affairs (San José, Costa Rica).  
- Instructor, *Economic Geography*.  
I, II long session, August 2016

UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business.  
- Graduate School Instructor, *Microeconomic Analysis for Business Decisions*.  
Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015. With Prof. Aaron Bodoh-Creed, Prof. Todd Fitch.  
- Graduate School Instructor, *People Power and Organizations*.  
Spring 2015. With Prof. Gary Katzenstein.

Universidad Internacional de las Americas, School of International Affairs (San José, Costa Rica).  
- Instructor, *International Economics*.  
I, II and III long session, August 2012-2013.

### **Professional and Academic Service:**

ConectaR 2024 Data Science Conference Organizing Committee, 2024.  
ConectaR 2021 Data Science Conference Organizing Committee, 2021.  
Panel Organizer, SLAL International Conference, Bath, UK, 2022.  
Panel Organizer, LASA Hybrid Conference, Canada, 2021.  
Grant Evaluator and Reviewer, United Way of Texas, 2018.  
External Reviewer, USAID, Global Development Lab, 2014.

### **Other Skills and Training:**

Programming: Stata, R, Python, SAS, SPSS, Matlab, LaTeX, ArcGIS, qGIS, Excel VBA, SQL.  
Data Science Specialization. Johns Hopkins University, 2016.  
Management with Leadership Seminar. INCAE Business School, 2011.  
Leadership, Organizing and Action: Leading Change. Harvard Kennedy School, 2011.