

# Alfonso J. Rojas-Álvarez

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## Education

- University of Texas at Austin 2022  
*Ph.D. in Public Policy*, LBJ School of Public Affairs  
*M.Sc. in Statistics*, Department of Statistics and Data Science, concluded 2019
- University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy 2015  
*Master of Public Policy*, with emphasis in *Applied Econometrics*
- Universidad de Costa Rica, Departments of Political Science & Economics 2010  
*Bachelor's Degree in Political Science*, Economics coursework

## 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.”

Chairs: Peter M. Ward, Andrew Waxman

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

## Teaching Experience

UT Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs

Instructor, *Introduction to Empirical Methods* (MPAff Core Course). Spring 2023, Fall 2023

Instructor, *Quantitative Readiness Program*. Summer, 2023

Team leader, *Executive Certificate in Data Literacy and Evidence Building*. NYU, UMD, UT Austin. Fall 2023

Instructor, *Fundamentals of Statistics and Algebra for Public Policy*. Fall 2022

TA, *Applied Economics for Policy Analysis*. Prof. Andrew Waxman, Prof. Sheila Olmstead. Fall 2018, Fall 2020

TA, *Environmental Economics*. Prof. Sheila Olmstead. Spring 2018, Spring 2021

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*. 2016

Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, School of International Affairs (San José, Costa Rica)

Instructor, *Economic Geography*. 2016

UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business

Graduate School Instructor, *Microeconomic Analysis for Business Decisions*. Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015. Prof. Aaron Bodoh-Creed, Prof. Todd Fitch

Graduate School Instructor, *People Power and Organizations*. Spring 2015. Prof. Gary Katzenstein

Universidad Internacional de las Americas, School of International Affairs (San José, Costa Rica)

Instructor, *International Economics*. 2012, 2013

## Publications

“Pollution and Safety Incidents: A Case Study with Property and Violent Incidents in Medellin, Colombia, 2017-2019”  
*Front Environmental Health* (Forthcoming, 2023)

“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

“Expansion of Health care Coverage in Two Federal Counties: Mexico and the United States.” (with Moreno, Carlos, PhD, Angel, JL, PhD). Best poster award at ICAA 2023 Conference.

“Are College Students more anxious? A binational study during COVID-19.” (with Milligan, Melanie)

“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*

“Acquisition of heroin, cocaine and marijuana among people who use heroin regularly.” (with Olmstead, Todd, PhD)

“Effects of Removing the GRE requirement for graduate admissions at the LBJ School, 2013-2023.” (with Luby, Martin, PhD)

“US-Mexico Elites Study: a binational survey of political perspectives in bordering countries.” (with Moreno, Carlos, PhD)

## Presentations

2023: ICAA 2023 Conference. California, 2023; NASPAA 2023 Annual Conference. Pennsylvania, 2023

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

## Professional Experience

ixpantia, Costa Rica. Senior Data Science Consultant.	2020 - Present
Consilium Asociados, Costa Rica. Senior Data Science Consultant.	2019 - Present
Casa Presidencial de Costa Rica, Costa Rica. Advisor to the Minister of the Presidency.	2011- 2013
Instituto Costarricense del Deporte y la Recreación, Costa Rica. Economic Advisor to the Minister of Sports and Recreation.	2011
Instituto Costarricense de Turismo, Costa Rica. Economic Advisor to the Minister of Tourism.	2010 - 2011

## Professional and Academic Service

ConectaR 2024 Data Science Conference Organizing Committee, 2024.  
Skillspire, Introduction to Data Analytics Instructor, 2022.  
ConectaR 2021 Data Science Conference Organizing Committee, 2021.  
Panel Organizer, SLAS 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.