

David Matías-García

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Research

Fields: Energy & Environmental Economics; Industrial Organization (IO); Applied Econometrics; Regulation and Market Design

Research interests: Electricity markets, natural gas markets, climate risk and adaptation

Education

Rice University

Ph.D. Student

Ph.D. Economics

2025–2030

El Colegio de México (COLMEX)

Advisor: Gerardo Esquivel

M.Sc. Economics

2020–2022

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Advisor: José Luis Clavellina (summa cum laude)

B.Sc. Economics

2014–2019

Publications

- **Powering Through Drought: The Impact of Water Scarcity on Electricity Generation** (with Jose Belmar, Lenin Balza, Lisa Bagnoli). IDB Working Paper, 2025.
- **The Transition to Renewables: Dampening the Impact of Fossil Fuel Price Shocks on Local Inflation** (with Michelle Hallack, Magdalena Cornejo). Working paper; presented at ELAEE; *Resources Policy*.
- **Green or Growth? Understanding the Relationship between Economic Growth and CO₂ Emissions** (with Ariel Yépez, Lenin Balza, Laura Heras). IDB, 2024.
- **Navigating the Energy Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean: Price Volatility and Signaling in Short-Term Electricity Markets** (with Lenin Balza, Ricardo Rios-Zalapa, Carlos Mata). IDB, 2024.
- **Economics of Electricity Losses in Latin America and the Caribbean** (with Ariel Yépez, Raul Jiménez). IDB Book, 2024. (Drafted Chapters 5–6; led final review, edits, and visualizations.)

Academic & Professional Positions

Baker Institute for Public Policy

Center for Energy Studies — Graduate Student Fellow

Aug 2025–Present

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Energy Economist

Apr 2022–Apr 2025

- Co-authored 8+ research and policy outputs; led empirical analysis and translated results into actionable policy recommendations.
- Managed research pipeline (TORs, contracting, delivery oversight); secured \$600k+ in research funding; supervised 10+ consultants.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Research Associate

Oct 2021–Mar 2022

- Built utility-level dataset (100 utilities) on electricity tariffs and efficiency: OCR/web scraping, cleaning, and reproducible data pipelines.

National Laboratory of Public Policy (CIDE)

Research Intern

Summer 2021

- Contributed to SDG bond review and methodology for sustainability-based credit scoring for subnational governments.

Management Solutions

Oct 2019–May 2020

Business Consultant

- Designed data-driven procurement process improvements at BBVA; reduced maintenance costs by 80M+ MXN.

Banco de México

Jan 2018–Aug 2018

Research Assistant

- Compiled and analyzed subnational fiscal data (revenue, spending, debt) for internal macro and inflation-related research.

Mexican Senate, Public Finance Research Center

May 2017–Jan 2018

Research Assistant

- Supported policy publications on subnational debt sustainability and fiscal rules through data work and literature synthesis.

Honors & Funding

- Mexican Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), M.Sc. Scholarship, 2020–2022
- Chamber of Deputies (Public Finance Division), Honorable Mention — National Public Finance Award, 2019
- Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE), Essay Award (Finalist), 2019
- UNAM School of Economics Alumni Association, Academic Excellence Scholarship, 2016–2018

Skills

Econometrics/Data: Stata, R, MATLAB, Python, SQL, QGIS

Tools: L^AT_EX, Visual Studio Code

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent)