DIANELA ESPINOZA

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Github

Education economist specializing in impact evaluation of social programmes in developing countries. Experienced in rigorous econometric methods—regression discontinuity design, propensity score matching, and multivariable regression with fixed effects—to evaluate large-scale education interventions (Peru's Juntos and Jornada Escolar Completa programmes). At GRADE and IPA, managed longitudinal data (Young Lives Study) and coordinated research with international teams (University of Oxford, Lancaster University). Strong skills in survey design, fieldwork coordination, and statistical programming (Stata, Python, R). Led Data Analysis team coordinating 1,126 volunteers from 11 regions to deliver 13,232 tutoring hours to 700 vulnerable students in rural areas. Completing a public policy degree focusing on advanced data science methods including supervised and unsupervised machine learning techniques at LSE.

Research interests Development Economics, Education Policy, Early Childhood Development, Impact Evaluation.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

London School of Economic and Political Science (LSE)   **2025 - 2027**
MPA in Data Science for Public Policy.
Relevant coursework:
Data Analysis: Supervised learning (Lasso/Ridge regression, logistic regression, decision trees, gradient boosting, KNN); unsupervised learning (K-means, hierarchical clustering); text classification and NLP; model validation (cross-validation techniques); Python implementation (pandas, numpy, statsmodels, scikit-learn, xgboost, nltk, spacy).

University of Piura (UDEP)   **2018 - 2022**
Bachelor's Degree in Economics.
GPA:17.34/20. (US GPA: 4/4). Rank: 5/45

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCED

Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE)   **2022 - 2025**
Leading think tank in LATAM on social studies since 1980.
Research Assistant for Alan Sanchez, Senior Quantitative Researcher at the University of Oxford, and Santiago Cueto, Country Director at Peru for Young Lives Study.

- **Impact evaluation and policy analysis:** Programmed and conducted analyses using R and Stata on the short-term impacts of Jornada Escolar Completa, a programme aimed at enhancing student learning outcomes by increasing classroom hours (submitted to Journal of Human Resources).
- **Survey design and fieldwork coordination:** Designed and programmed data collection instruments for Round 7 for Peru in Young Lives Study using SurveyCTO, resulting in successful data collection from 2,219 participants. Led enumerators training for the History of Education section, which documents participants' complete educational trajectories from pre-school to higher education.

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA - Peru)   **2021 - 2022**
International research and policy advocacy organisation founded by the distinguished economist Dean Karlan.
Research Intern

- **Impact evaluation design:** Supported the development of theory of change frameworks for impact evaluations of programmes addressing the gender gap in STEM careers and intercultural bilingual pre-school education, contributing to rigorous programmes design and measurement strategies.
- **Survey implementation and quality assurance:** Programmed and supervised data collection through SurveyCTO, including monitoring survey evolution and ensuring data quality. Led training of enumerators, auditors, and back-checkers on survey protocols and IRB compliance standards. Cleaned and systematized databases in Stata for analysis.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Growing JUNTOS: Long-Term Impacts of Peru's Conditional Cash Transfer Programme on Human Capital   **Ongoing**
(Working paper)

- With *Amanda Woodman* (Research Assistant at Young Lives) and *Alan Sánchez* (Ph.D. University of Oxford), evaluating whether Peru's conditional cash transfer programme (JUNTOS) impacts long-term human capital and family formation outcomes using propensity score matching on longitudinal data (2006-2023) from 2,000+ Young Lives participants.
- **Key responsibilities:** Led data cleaning and indicator construction; designed propensity score matching methodology to evaluate secondary school completion, higher education transition, labor market entry, and early parenthood at age 22.

First years of life and El Niño Phenomenon in Peru: Impact on Early Childhood Development   **2022**
(Bachelor Thesis)

- Under the supervision of Professor *Alan Sánchez (Ph.D. University of Oxford)*, evaluated the impact of the 2017 El Niño Phenomenon on Early Childhood Development in Peru. Conducted extensive literature review on early childhood indicators, climatic shocks, and human capital formation. Systematized and cleaned data from multiple modules of the Demographic and Family Health Survey (DHS) and climatological data from the University of Delaware to assess short, medium, and long-term developmental impacts.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- Cueto, S., Rojas, V., Espinoza, D., Campos, A., & Curi, K. (2025). *¿Qué hemos aprendido del estudio longitudinal Niños del Milenio en el Perú? Nuevos hallazgos y desafíos pendientes (2018-2025)*. Lima: GRADE, Group for the Analysis of Development. Led the education section. [Link]

Policy Briefs

- Cueto, S., & Espinoza, D. (2025). *Education and Learning: Preliminary Findings from the 2023–24 Young Lives Survey (Round 7): Peru*. Young Lives Factsheet, University of Oxford. Led the writing of the education outcomes section. [Link]

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Piura (UDEP)

Research Assistant for Gabriel Natividad (Ph.D. UCLA) **2021**

- Built algorithms to scrape information from web pages with Python, and used Stata to clean the data. This process allowed me to systematize around one million data.

Teaching Assistant for undergraduate level **2019 - 2024**

- Supported instruction across multiple economics courses: Development and Environment (Prof. Augusto Mendoza, Ph.D. PUCP), Antitrust and Regulation (Prof. Sandro Navarro, Ph.D. University of Navarra), Economic Optimization 1 (Prof. Edgar Santiani), and Statistics 1 (Prof. William Reyes, M.Sc. University of Alcala).

AWARDS, HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- **2025:** Peruvian Scholarship for Public Service at LSE (1 of 6 awarded to Peruvian students).
- **2025:** Half scholarship for Lima Summer School 2025 programme.
- **2021:** Winning team member in international competition on Free Market and Anticompetitive Practices (best of 23 teams, LATAM and Spain).
- **2021:** Scholarship for Professional Specialization Programme in Economics and Finance.
- **2021:** PRONABEC scholarship supporting vulnerable students affected by pandemic.
- **2018:** Scholarship from UDEP (2018-2022) for undergraduate Economics studies (1 of 2 awarded nationally).

CONFERENCES

- **2024:** *"Speaker at the IX National Seminar - Tarapoto "*, organized by the Peruvian Society of Educational Research (SIEP). I presented the preliminary results of my working paper: Growing Together: Long-term impacts of Peru's conditional cash transfer programme on education outcomes.

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

Lima Summer School in Economics **2025**
University of Piura and University of British Columbia.

Global Policy Analysis Course. **2024**
University of Zurich

Designing and Running Randomized Evaluations Course. **2023**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Impact evaluation methodologies for social programmes. **2023**
Group of Analysis for the Development (GRADE)

Behavioral Economics for Better Public Policies - Issue 7 **2021**
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Designing a Multidimensional Poverty Index **2021**
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

EXTRACURRICULAR INFORMATION

IT skills:	Excel, Stata, R, Python, Latex, SurveyCTO, KoboToolbox, Qualtrics.
Languages:	Spanish: Native Speaker; English: Advanced.
Leadership:	Secretary, Peruvian Society at LSE, Board 2025-2026.

REFERENCES

Alan Sánchez
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University of Oxford
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Santiago Cueto
Senior Researcher
Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE)
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Vania Salas
Professor in Economics Department
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