

## Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Manuel Torres Lajo to our team as a volunteer research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Manuel Torres Lajo has been active with our project since 2020-05-20 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Peru. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Manuel Torres Lajo, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts over 70 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see [www.coronanet-project.org](http://www.coronanet-project.org).

Manuel Torres Lajo has been a country expert for Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Peru. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Peru as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

In addition to being a country expert, Manuel Torres Lajo took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Regional Manager:** This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.
- **Data validation:** This role involves re-coding data previously collected by other RAs in order to verify and ensure coding consistency. This role, which is only open to experienced and high-performing RAs at CoronaNet, requires extensive additional training in the project's collection procedures, high attention to detail, and ability to work well in a team setting.
- **Research Article:** Manuel Torres Lajo has written a research article that has been published in the CoronaNet Working Paper Series. This project included developing and executing a research plan, engaging in original data analysis, and writing in clear and concise language accessible for policy makers and the public. Manuel Torres Lajo went through an intensive training and has proven excellent scholarly research expertise. The article can be found online via [www.coronanet-project.org](http://www.coronanet-project.org)

07/14/2021

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Manuel Torres Lajo for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

**Luca Messerschmidt**

Principal Investigator  
CoronaNet Research Team

**CoronaNet Research Team**

Joan Barceló (NYU Abu Dhabi)  
Cindy Cheng (TU Munich)  
Vanja Grujic (Universidade de Brasília)  
Allison Spencer Hartnett (Yale University)  
Robert Kubinec (NYU Abu Dhabi)  
Luca Messerschmidt (TU Munich)  
Timothy A. Model (Havighurst Fellow at the Miami University)  
Caress Schenk (Nazarbayev University)  
Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir (TU Munich)