

# Jorge Andrés Lastra Cerda

Community Psychologist with focus on Data Science for Public Policy

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 Jorge Lastra Cerda  Github Page

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## Academic / Research work experience

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08/2021 – 01/2023 Macul, Chile	<b>Research Associate, MIDE UC</b>  Conducted comprehensive research on education, evaluation, and innovation, contributing to the development of key projects. Drafted academic reports, effectively communicating complex data and findings. Prepared and delivered presentations to diverse audiences, explaining research methodologies and results.
05/2022 Santiago, Chile	<b>Workshop Organizer and Facilitator - Text Analysis with Semantic Markers and NLP, Ministry General Secretariat of Government</b>  At the request of the Chief of the Department of Studies, I designed and conducted a workshop on Excel, Colab and R in the context of digital transformation and text analysis.
02/2021 Online	<b>Political Advisor, Pre-presidential elections Nicaragua</b> Conducted a qualitative and quantitative study for the presidential pre-candidate elections in Nicaragua. Presented results using digital tools.
12/2020 – 01/2021 Online	<b>Research associate - Analysis of public consultation on Gender Equality Policy, Merlin Research</b>  Conducted research for the "Public Consultation on the Gender Equality Policy", contributing to the development of informed and effective policies. Drafted reports and codebooks, ensuring accurate and comprehensive analysis of consultation data. Prepared and presented findings to stakeholders.
11/2019 – 09/2020 Vitacura, Chile	<b>Research assistant "Proyecto Diálogos", Merlin Research</b>  Worked with large-scale open-ended interview corpus; supported discourse analysis and semantic coding/codebook development, and produced analytical outputs (graphs/tables) for reporting; contributed to documenting categories/themes. The project was a unique national research that sought to investigate the perceptions of more than 15,000 Chileans about the future.
07/2019 – 12/2020 Santiago, Chile	<b>Teaching assistant - Public Policy Analysis in Chile, Universidad Alberto Hurtado</b>  Supported the formative process of fifth-year psychology students by organizing, helped with course readings, and guiding public policy analysis.

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## Other professional experience

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08/2023 – present Berlin, Germany	<b>Educator and Project Coordinator, Child and Youth Development, Kita Reh-Kids - KIDZ Präventiv gGmbH</b>  Developed projects to enhance children's interpersonal skills and their integration. Also at a Familienzentrum, I coordinated a 'Mittagstisch' cooking event.
03/2018 – 12/2018 Ñuñoa, Chile	<b>Internship - Coordinator of Community intervention, Portas Foundation</b>  Conducted a community diagnosis to identify improvement areas within the foundation. Analyzed and solved problems related to networking and outreach.
02/2018 – 02/2019 Santiago Centro, Chile	<b>Comprehensive Support Tutor, Universidad Alberto Hurtado</b>  Accompaniment in socio-affective, vocational, and academic areas in students of psychology.

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## Education

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10/2025 – Present Konstanz, Germany	<b>MSc Social and Economic Data Science</b> , Universität Konstanz ↗
07/2024 – 11/2024 Online	<b>Certificate Data Analyst</b> , DataCamp ↗ Tracks: Data Analyst in Python and Associate Data Analyst in SQL
05/2021 – 12/2021 Online	<b>Diploma in Data Science for Public Policy</b> , Pontifical Catholic University of Chile ↗ Applied data science methods to public policy with an emphasis on econometrics
2014 – 2019 Santiago, Chile	<b>Bachelor of Arts in Psychology</b> , Universidad Alberto Hurtado ↗ Academic Excellence Scholarship

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## Technical skills & languages

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<b>Microsoft 365</b> Advanced	<b>NLP</b> Semantic markers, AntConc, codebook development	<b>SQL</b> Basic querying
<b>Python</b> Pandas, numpy, data cleaning	<b>Streamlit</b> Basic prototyping	<b>Web Scraping</b> Beautiful Soup

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## Languages

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**Spanish** — Native language • **English** — C1 certified • **German** — B2 Certified

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## Courses - MOOC

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11/2020 – 01/2021 Macul, Chile	<b>Ecology and Environmental Leadership Training School for Young People</b> , Municipalidad de Macul ↗
04/2020 – 05/2020 Online	<b>Economics for critical citizenship</b> , Open University of Recoleta ↗
03/2019 – 04/2019 Online	<b>Introduction to feminist theories</b> , UAbierta platform - University of Chile ↗
05/2017 – 07/2017 Online	<b>Mobile apps development</b> , "Programa Activate" - Complutense University of Madrid and Google ↗

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## Volunteering and political participation

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2019 – 2022	<b>Grassroots movement</b> , 2019 - 2020 Villa Santa Elena Assembly 2021 - 2022 Constituent Communal Assembly of Macul ↗
10/2020 – 01/2021	<b>Organizer of "Fronts of Arts and Culture"</b> , "Fuerza Común" movement ↗
2015 – 2016	<b>President of Electoral body</b> , Psychology - Alberto Hurtado University
2012 – 2015	<b>Tutor and organizer</b> , Alternative educational project "Future on the way"

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## Work Samples (available upon request)

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### NLP Analysis of Chilean Politicians' Statements

Pipeline that processes statements from Chilean politicians, applying sentiment analysis and topic modeling to uncover key themes in public discourse.

### Dashboard prototype for NLP analysis of Chilean Politicians' statements

In progress  
For ICSS course on the MSc. Social and Economic Data Science (Konstanz)