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Leonardo da Rocha Loures Bueno

Current Position

2021 – present: Political Science Ph.D. Candidate – University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

2016 – present: Researcher – FGV CIDADES (Research Center of city policies – Fundação Getúlio Vargas). As an assistant researcher, I have worked on a diverse set of projects related to urban public policies (housing, public transit, health, environment, civic participation).

Previous Positions

Public Policy Doctorate at Fundação Getúlio Vargas (2018-2020)

Independent Consultant in Urban Policies

2017-2020: While pursuing my Master's and Ph.D. in Brazil, I worked as an independent consultant for multiple NGOs and local governments on housing policies and public transportation. I have worked with NGOs and international research organizations such as WRI, Bloomberg Philanthropy, ITDP, TECHO Brazil, Fundação Tide Setúbal, and Instituto Escolhas. I have also worked as a consultant for the city governments of São Paulo and São José dos Campos.

FIPE – Fundação Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas (*Institute for Economic Research*)

2015-2016: Researcher on Regional Studies. I was responsible for developing Input-Output Matrices that measured the impacts of tax reform on greenhouse gas emissions.

LCA Consultores

2013-2015: Internship in Market Intelligence. I helped to develop micro-econometric models to forecast market share and sales to big retail companies in Brazil.

Education

2021 – present: Ph.D. Political Science – UCSD, San Diego, USA.

2021 – 2023: M.A in Political Science – UCSD, San Diego, USA.

2018 – 2020: Ph.D. in Public Policy and Government, FGV/EAESP, São Paulo, Brazil

2016 – 2018: M.A in Public Policy and Government, FGV/EAESP, São Paulo, Brazil

2011 – 2015: B.A in Economics, São Paulo University (FEA/USP), São Paulo, Brazil

Fields of interest

Political Economy of Development, Urban Politics and Policy, Health Policies

Publications

Working Papers:

- *Housing, Social Cohesion, and Mental Health: Experimental Evidence from Brazilian Slums* (under review: Journal of Development Economics)
- *Retrospective voting in Brazil: a case study of São Paulo's Smart Card Policy.*
- *Race and Substantive Representation: Evidence from Brazil*

Work in Progress:

- *Health care infrastructure expansion and favored access to hospitalization*
- *From Local Power to Regional Influence: Exploring Political Favoritism in Brazil's Decentralized Healthcare System*
- *Violent Legacies of Dictatorship in Brazil*

Project Portfolio

- [TECHO \(Emergency Housing Field Experiment\)](#): Led a three-year field experiment in partnership with TECHO, evaluating the effects of emergency housing on COVID-19 distancing measures, mental well-being, and civic engagement in over 600 families across

six Brazilian states. Secured funding from MIT/GOV LAB and Emory's Global Health Institute.

- [**WRI Mexico \(Demand-Responsive Transit\)**](#): Co-authored a working paper on Demand-Responsive Transit (DRT), cataloging over 150 global cases and proposing a typology of emerging transit systems. Conducted qualitative and quantitative research, applying findings to global urban mobility challenges.
- [**LABMOB/UFRJ \(Paulista Aberta Initiative\)**](#): Led a research team studying the impacts of the "Paulista Aberta" initiative, transforming São Paulo's Paulista Avenue into a park on Sundays. Utilized survey research and synthetic control design to measure impacts on mobility, pollution, and local commerce.
- [**Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety \(BIGRS\) \(Transit Safety Areas, São Paulo\)**](#): Collaborated with Bloomberg Philanthropies and the São Paulo city government to develop a data-driven methodology for creating "transit safety areas," reducing traffic casualties and improving walkability. Applied innovative econometric techniques and worked closely with public officials.
- [**Jardim Lapena \(Participatory Urbanization Plan\)**](#): Developed a participatory urbanization plan ("Plano de Bairro") in collaboration with a local NGO, engaging residents in the peripheral community of Jardim Lapena, São Paulo. Focused on improving urban infrastructure through citizen participation and collaboration with municipal administration.
- [**São José dos Campos \(Public Transportation Auction\)**](#): Provided consultancy to the government of São José dos Campos, conducting financial viability studies for public transportation auctions. Advised on technical planning and assisted with the design of a new public transportation system for the city.
- [**Instituto Escolhas \(Electric Sector Emissions Study\)**](#): The study analyzed the impact of different electricity generation scenarios on Brazil's economy, employment, and greenhouse gas emissions, considering the increasing use of carbon-emitting energy sources (natural gas, oil, coal) in the national grid.
- [**Yellow Shared Scooters \(Transit Accidents Study\)**](#): Hired by LABMOB/UFRJ to analyze and project transit accidents involving shared electric scooters in São Paulo. Applied time-series econometric methods to assess accident patterns and future risks associated with scooter use.

- **FIPE – Fundação Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas:** I joined the team of economists that were responsible for developing price indexes for two mid-sized cities in the state of São Paulo.
- **Property Taxes:** worked with Prof. Francisco Garfias (GPS -UCSD) and The World Bank in a project related to Property Taxes in Mexico.

Teaching/ Teaching Assistantship

- 2017-2018: I was a T.A. for the econometrics course of the M.A program in Public Administration and Government at FGV.
- 2018-2019: I was a T.A. for the microeconomy course of the undergrad program in Business at FGV.
- 2021-present: series of courses on politics and quantitative methods at UCSD. List of courses: POLI 30D, POLI 100W, POLI 120F, POLI 125D, POLI 134D, GPCO 454 (quantitative methods II at GPS).
- 2024- Leading instructor for summer preparation course in Data Analytics at the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS/UCSD)

Additional courses

- 2016 - IME/USP (Institute of mathematics of São Paulo University) summer school: Introduction to Probability Calculus.
- 2016 – FGV Methods Winter School: Experimental Methods for Political Science.
- 2019 – FGV Methods Winter School: Data Science with Spatial and Temporal Data.
- 2019 – IPSA-USP Summer School: Multi-Methods Track.
- 2020 – IPSA-USP Summer School: Causal Inference Track.

Language and Software skills

Portuguese: native speaker

English: Comprehends Well, Speaks Well, Reads Well, Writes Well.

Spanish: Comprehends Well, Speaks Reasonably, Reads Well, Writes Reasonably.

Office Package: Advanced knowledge in Excel, Powerpoint and Word. Intermediary knowledge in Access.

Programming languages: R (Advanced), STATA (Advanced), LATEX (Intermediary), Python (Basic).

Awards/ Grants

Academic:

- *Research grant from MIT GOV LAB: There is no Place like Home: A study of Slum Housing Improvement in Brazil. With Prof. Natalia S. Bueno.*
- *Research grant from Emory's Global Health Institute: There is no Place like Home: A study of Slum Housing Improvement in Brazil. With Prof. Natalia S. Bueno.*
- *Scholarships: CAPES doctorate scholarship (Brazil Ministry of Education)*
- *Best poster award in Applied Methodology Section – IPSA-USP Summer School*

Non-Academic:

- *RYLA – Rotary youth leadership award – Rotary International*

Voluntary Work

- 2019-2020: Volunteer in the NGO TETO. We build wooden houses to vulnerable families.
- 2011-2012: Director of the youth movement Habonim Dror São Paulo.
- Founding member of “Faz Diferença?” (“Does it make a difference?”), an advocacy group for reducing social inequalities in Brazil.