

# Isabela Munevar Escalante

As an economist and Ph.D. candidate, I am dedicated to researching and influencing policy in the education and labor market sector, with a focus on gender and income equality. I possess a unique combination of expertise in both policy design and implementation, as well as academic research. My passion lies in bridging the gap between rigorous academic research and practical policy design and implementation. I am also highly skilled in networking and collaborating with others, effectively communicating my ideas, and persuading others to join me in bringing them to fruition.

## Education

- 2018 – 2024 Ph.D. Economics and Education, Columbia University, New York, U.S.
- 2014 – 2016 M.A. Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2010 – 2014 B.A. Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

## Publications

- [Elacqua, G., Munevar, I., Sanchez, F., & Santos, H. \(2021\). The impact of decentralized decision-making on student outcomes and teacher quality: Evidence from Colombia. World Development, 141, 105378.](#)
- [Álvarez, H., Elacqua, G., Mendez, C., Munevar, I., Vásquez, D. Hablemos de política educativa en América Latina y el Caribe #8: Colegios privados en tiempos de COVID-19. \(2021\). Interamerican Development Bank.](#)
- [Bertoni, E., Elacqua, G., Mendez, C., Montalva, V., Munevar, I., Olses, A., Roman, A. \(2020\). Seleccionar y asignar docentes en América Latina y el Caribe: Un camino para la calidad y equidad en educación. Interamerican Development Bank.](#)

## Working Papers

- Munevar, I. (2022). Catholic schools: Selection driven performance and gender biases? (Draft upon request)
- Chegwin, V.C., Munevar, I., Sanchez, F. (2022). Local autonomy and the provision of local public goods: Evidence from a Colombian natural experiment. J.P. Faguet & S. Pal. (Ed.). *Global Perspectives on Decentralized Governance: Ways to Create Effective and Democratic Political Systems*. London, United Kingdom, LSE press. (Forthcoming 2023- draft upon request)

## Work in Progress

- Catholic Schools: College attendance and Gender Gaps
- School's value added and spending decisions (With Julio Rodriguez and Gregory Elacqua)
- Elite universities and top position in the public sector: Evidence from Chile (with Julio Rodriguez)
- Commuting to school together: evidence from Bogota Ciempiés (With Valentina Chegwin and Rafael Hernandez)
- Child Care and Academic Performance in the Long Term: Evidence for Colombia. (With Raquel Bernal and Fabio Sanchez)

## Research and policy experience

Aug 2018- Present	Independent researcher, associated to Teachers College, Columbia University. Main research is on labor and development economics with special focus on gender and income gaps and gender stereotypes formation.
Aug 2021- Present	Research assistant for Professor Peter Bergman at The Learning Collider. Teachers College, Columbia University.

Aug 2020 – May 2021	Research assistant for Professor Judith Scott-Clayton at the Policy Lab: Socioeconomic Mobility at the College-to-Work Transition. Teachers College, Columbia University.
Sep 2018- May 2020	Independent Consultant for the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), Education Division, to lead and conduct research on, administrative decentralization of educational resources, teacher hiring contests and private school's affectation during COVID-19 pandemic.
Sep 2018 – May 2019	Research assistant for Professor Judith Scott-Clayton, Teachers College, Columbia University.
Dec 2016 – Aug 2018	Research and project assistant at the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), Education Division, Bogota, Colombia (until Oct 2017) and Washington D.C. (since Oct 2017)
Oct 2015 – Nov 2016	Research and project assistant at the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), Education and Social Protection Division, Bogotá, Colombia.
Jan 2015 - Sept 2015	Research Assistant of Professor Fabio Sánchez, Center for Economic Development Studies (CEDE), Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia.
May 2014 - Dec 2014	Junior Consultan, Econometría Consultores, Bogotá, Colombia.
Aug 2013 - Apr 2014	Research Assistant of Professor Juan Carlos Mendieta, Center for Economic Development Studies (CEDE), Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia.

## Teaching Experience

Aug 2014 – Dec 2015	Teacher Assistant of Professor David Bardey, Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate level), Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia.
Jan 2015 – June 2017	Teacher Assistant of the Professor Guillermo Perry, Introduction to Colombian Economy (Undergraduate level), Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia.
Aug 2019 – Dec 2019	Teacher Assistant of the Professor Judith Scott-Clayton, Economics and Education (Master's level). Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, United States.

## Honors and Grants

- International Peace Scholarship awardee for two consecutive years (2019-2021). 20k total.
- Awarded a 100% forgivable loan of COP \$400,000,000 (100k-150k) granted by the Colombian Government for the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Ph.D. program.
- Economics and Education researcc fellowship (2021 & 2022), Teachers college, Columbia University 3.5k total
- Education Policy Dissertation Research Fellowships (2022), EPSA, Teachers college, Columbia University 6k
- Student research grant, Center for Development Economics and Policy, Columbia University department. 2.5k

## Interests and Abilities

Labor economics, development economics, and gender economics.

## Languages and IT Skills

- Spanish and English (bilingual), Portuguese (basic)
- STATA(Advanced),
- ARCGIS (Intermediate)
- R (Intermediate)
- Python (Intermediate)