

# ALMA VELAZQUEZ

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## EDUCATION

### University of Southern California

*B.A. International Relations (Hons.)*

*Minor in Business Finance*

**Concentrations:** International Political Economy & Latin America

Los Angeles, CA

2013 – 2017

**Thesis Title:** *Structural Change & Innovation in Latin American Export Industries*

**Research Interests:** Economic Development, Industrial Policy, International Trade & Investment, Innovation Policy

## EXPERIENCE

### Associate Senior Data Analyst | Cerner Corporation

Kansas City, MO

2018 – Present

- Conducted statistical analysis and feature engineering for development of predictive, machine-learned models in Python.
- Developed a seasonal model and identified external regressors for a financial time series forecast in R.
- Designed and extracted datasets using SQL.

### Research Intern | Centro de Análisis y Difusión de la Economía Paraguaya (CADEP)

Asunción, Paraguay

2017 – 2018

- Gathered, interpreted and visualized Paraguayan micro- and macroeconomic data.
- Compiled and maintained multinational database of trade & investment flows.
- Communicated insights in Spanish-language and data-driven policy briefs with senior researchers on China, SGP+ benefits, science, technology & innovation policy, and youth unemployment.

### Research Assistant | World Leaders on Social Media Project

Los Angeles, CA

2017 – 2017

- Assisted Dr. Pablo Barberá with data collection, coding, and qualitative analysis of head of state social media strategies.

### China-LatAm Economic Relations Analyst | U.S. Dept. of State VSFS Program

Los Angeles, CA

2016 – 2017

- Drafted policy papers on critical areas of bi- and multilateral interest and country-specific fact sheets with data visualizations.
- Conducted open-source research on trade & investment flows.

### Research Assistant | Near Crises in World Politics Project

Los Angeles, CA

2016 – 2017

- Analyzed case submissions of 20-person research team for international relations database according to coding criteria.
- Maintained Dr. Patrick James's Near Crisis database describing over a century of world politics behavior.

### Global Initiatives Intern | Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles, CA

2016 – 2016

- Wrote weekly trade briefs for government delegations and generated monthly analysis on LA export trends.

### Latin America Correspondent | Glimpse from the Globe

Los Angeles, CA

2015 – 2017

- Authored analytical articles on Latin American trade & finance for USC's international affairs journal.

### Junior Associate for Mexico | GetGlobal (formerly GeoSkoPe)

Los Angeles, CA

2015 – 2016

- Produced country-specific briefs and info-graphics.
- conducted market research using Mexican business press.

## SKILLS

**Programming:** R, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, SQL, HTML/CSS

**Libraries:** data.table, dplyr, forecast, ggplot2, pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib

**Languages:** Spanish (native), English (native), French (fluent), Guaraní (advanced), Portuguese (beginner)

## CONFERENCES

**2017:** 2do. Encuentro de Politólogos/as del Paraguay (presented): “Exportación e innovación: un enfoque al caso paraguayo”

**2017:** USC 19th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (co-presented): “The New Cuban Economy”