

Diego Polanco

Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

dpolanconeco@umass.edu

Cellphone: +56 9 22343723

<https://dpolancon.github.io/>

Education	PhD (c) in Economics, University of Massachusetts–Amherst	2016–2026
	<i>Expected Graduation: Spring 2026.</i>	
	MA in Economic Analysis, University of Chile	2012–2013
	Professional Degree in Commercial Engineering, University of Chile	2007–2012
	BA Economics, University of Chile	2007–2011
Fields of Specialization	Political Economy, History of Economic Thought, Economic History, and Macroeconomics.	
Dissertation	Title: <i>“Essays on Chile and the United States in Comparative–Relational Perspective”</i>	
	Committee: Micheal Ash (Chair), Deepankar Basu, Keving A. Young (External Member, History Department).	
	Chapters:	
	1. <i>“Demand and Accumulation in Long-Run Capitalist Development: Unbalanced Growth and Crisis.”</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develops a formal model of capitalist accumulation under persistent unbalanced growth, integrating classical and post-Keynesian traditions to show how the feedback of capital accumulation into economic capacities creation determines dynamic stability in the long run.▪ Identifies crisis as an endogenous regime outcome, demonstrating how unbalanced growth and accumulation-demand dynamics generate distinct domains of instability, providing a taxonomy distinguishing stagnation, partial crisis, and regime crisis.	
	2. <i>“Capacity Utilization in the Center and the Periphery: Old Debates and New Estimates.”</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Revisits measurement debates on capacity utilization in historical perspective, linking theoretical controversies over “normal” versus “effective” utilization to structural asymmetries in productive capacity and external constraints.▪ Provides new empirical estimates of utilization rates using harmonized historical data, showing how technological dependence and balance-of-payments pressures shape divergent adjustment paths between the United States and Chile.	
	3. <i>“Demand-Led Profitability and Structural Crisis of Capitalism in Chile and the United States during the Fordist Era.”</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Combines long-run series on profit rates, accumulation, and utilization to examine the demand-led nature of profitability in mid-century capitalism, comparing the institutional architectures of Fordism in the United States and Chile’s adaptation as a case of the capitalist periphery.▪ Redefines the structural crisis of Fordism as a profitability crisis, identifying an investment function that causally links profitability with accumulation demand. In this manner, showcases how profitability dynamics and investment effects differ across center and periphery.	
	4. <i>“Revisiting the Political Economy of the Rise and Fall of the Unidad Popular: Towards a Global Political Economy Approach.”</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reinterprets the Chilean experiment of the Unidad Popular as a regime of accumulation embedded in global political economy, emphasizing external constraint, class alliances, and technological dependence as structural determinants of crisis.	

- Identifies contested approaches of different schools of economic thought that have tackled the political economy of the rise and fall of the Unidad Popular.
- Integrates historical narrative with empirical analysis identifying the effects of the Military-Keynesian stimulus of the Vietnam War and the breakdown of Bretton Woods agreements, situating Chile's 1970–73 experience within the broader transition from Fordist to post-Fordist world capitalism.

5. **Appendix:** *"New Measurements of Capital Stocks for Chile 1900–1994."*

- Constructs a revised historical series of capital stocks using a stock-flow consistency splicing method, ensembling different secondary sources on capital stocks.
- Provides a novel dataset distinguishing net and gross measures for machinery and equipment, and residential and non-residential infrastructure.

Publications & Work in Progress

Recent Work in Progress

- Polanco, D. (2025). "Demand and Accumulation in Long-Run Capitalist Development: Unbalanced Growth and Crisis." **Job Market Paper**. [Link](#)
- Polanco, D. (2025). "The Ideological Embeddedness of Macroeconomic Indexes: Capacity Utilization in the Rise and Fall of American Keynesianism." *Working Paper*. [Link](#)
- Polanco, D. (2025). "Reconstructing Capital Stocks for Chile, 1900–1994: A Stock–Flow Consistent Approach." *Working Paper*. [Link](#)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Polanco, D. & Méndez, C. (2021). "Nostalgia for the Light: Astronomy, History and Data Science." *Cuadernos de Beauchef*, 5(1) (In Spanish) [Link](#)
- Polanco, D. & Osorio, S. (2021). "Capital Accumulation Regime and Rural–Urban Transition in Chile's Developmental State (1933–1973): A Contribution to Chilean Historiography from Heterodox Economics." *Revista Izquierdas*, 50 (In Spanish) [Link](#)
- Puga, I., Polanco, D., & Corvalán, D. (2015). "Segregation in Teacher Education and Its Role in the Social Reproduction of Inequality." *Calidad en la Educación*, 43 (Dec.) (In Spanish) [Link](#)

Book Chapters

- Morales, A. M., Figueroa, U., Hurtado, M. T., Ortiz, P., **Polanco, D.**, & Muñoz, N. (2019). "Social Exclusion of Incarcerated Individuals." In Contesse, J. & Contreras, L. (Eds.), *The Unsustainable Situation of Prisons in Chile: Debate on Prison and Human Rights*, pp. 15–56. Editorial Jurídica de Chile (In Spanish) [Link](#)

Other Publications

- Osorio, S. & **Polanco, D.** (2021). "Brief N°2: Union Affiliation Rates and Average Sizes in Chile, 1932–2010." Union Statistics Repository (In Spanish) [[Repository](#)]
- Polanco, D. (2019). "The Profit Rate in Chile: 1900–2010." *UMass Amherst Economics Department Working Paper Series*, No. 2019-17 [Link](#)
- Berlien, K., Franken, H., Pavez, P., **Polanco, D.**, & Varela, P. (2016). "Participation of Women in the Chilean Economy." Subsecretaría de Economía y Empresas de Menor Tamañ – Isonoma Consultorías Sociales Ltda (In Spanish) [Link](#)

Research Experience

Academic Research Assistantships

- **Dr. Matt Vidal** (Loughborough University, UK): Data collection and R package programming for analysis of U.S. profit rates across Fordist and Post-Fordist eras (2024).
- **Dr. Jordan Norris** (NYU–Abu Dhabi, UAE): Spatial economics projects examining regional disparities and macroeconomic outcomes (2022–2024).
- **Dr. Gregor Semieniuk** (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA): Assembled datasets to study determinants of investment and financing of the energy transition (2020).

- **Dr. Roberto Veneziani** (Queen Mary University of London, UK) and **Dr. Nicolás Grau** (University of Chile): Data management and analysis of U.S. household poverty measures using microdata (2014).

Public Policy and Applied Research Consulting

- **Research Consultant, Isónoma Consultorías Sociales** 2015–2016
 - Conducted diagnostics for “Women’s Inclusion in the Chilean Economy,” performing regression-based projections and producing policy recommendations for Chile’s Ministry of Economy.
 - Evaluated the program “PAIF 24-Hour Socio-Criminal Risk Factors in Juvenile Delinquency: A Gender Perspective,” combining administrative data analysis and field validation to inform multisystemic therapy interventions.
- **Research Analyst, Fundación Paz Ciudadana** 2015
 - Conducted prison fieldwork to create a nationally representative inmate database for “Social Exclusion of People Deprived of Liberty,” producing socioeconomic indicators and executive reports for the Ministry of the Interior.
 - Implemented survival models for “Recidivism in Concessioned Prisons,” informing national prison management policy and co-authoring the technical report and executive summaries.
- **Data Analyst, Syntaxys Consultores** 2014–2016
 - Conducted quantitative data collection and indicator development for “Spending on Children and Adolescents at the Local Level,” commissioned by Chile’s National Council for Children.
 - Developed sales forecasting models (ARIMA) for Homecenter–Sodimac and created data visualizations for strategic planning.
 - Built predictive models of dropout risk for the University of Chile’s *Bachillerato* Program, contributing to an early-warning system for student retention.
 - Supported statistical infrastructure assessment for Ecuador’s Ministry of Knowledge and Human Talent, improving labor–education policy metrics.

Teaching and Advising Experience

Wesleyan University (CT, USA) — Lecturer (2021)

- Developed and taught original courses: *Political Economy of Latin American Development* (upper-level undergraduate) and *Globalization and Development* (intro-level).
- **Graduate Placement** [by recommendation letter]: J.D. — Fordham University School of Law (2023–2024 AY).

Amherst College (MA, USA) — Teaching Associate (2017–2019)

- Led the Stata Lab for Applied Econometrics; hands-on methods training and thesis support for undergraduates.
- Advised senior theses on empirical strategy, replication, and data workflows.

University of Massachusetts Amherst (MA, USA) — Lecturer & Teaching Assistant (2016–2025)

- Re-designed and taught *Introduction to Macroeconomics, Economic Development, and Comparative Approaches to Economic Systems*.
- Supported *Introduction to Microeconomics, Econometrics* (Fall 2020, Spring 2021), and *Money and Banking* (Spring 2019).
- **Graduate Placement** [by recommendation letter]: M.S. in Nonprofit Management — Columbia University (2024).

Universidad de Santiago de Chile (Chile) — Lecturer & Advisor (2024–2025)

- Taught *Research Design Seminar* (Master in Management & Public Policy) and *Applied Macroeconomics* (undergraduate elective).
- Supervised master’s and undergraduate theses on local government corruption, governance and monopoly power, gender equity, and distributive conflict dynamics.

Universidad de Chile (Chile) — Teaching Associate & Assistant (2009–2013, 2025)

- Co-developed syllabus and materials for *Social History of Chile* (Sociology); delivered lectures on the 1925–1973 period.
- **Graduate Placement** [by recommendation letter]: M.A. in Applied Political Studies — University of Santiago, Chile.
- Supported *Economic Development*, *Econometrics and Data Analysis with Stata*, *Introduction to Political Economy*, *Microeconomics*, and *Macroeconomics* courses at undergraduate and graduate level.
- Mentored visiting European undergraduates on thesis projects in emerging markets (Institute of International Studies).

Thesis Supervised

- **Arturo Mancilla** (in progress). *Wages, Unemployment, and Endogenous Cycles in Greater Santiago*. Thesis to obtain the degree of Commercial Engineer, major in Economics. Faculty of Administration and Economics, University of Santiago, Chile.
- **María Rebeca Segura** (M.A. 2025). *Strengthening Municipal Structures to Prevent Corruption in Local Governments*. Master in Management and Public Policy. Faculty of Administration and Economics, University of Santiago, Chile.
- **Felipe Carrasco** (M.A. 2024). *Awarding in Agile Procurement in Chile: A Comparative Study between SMEs and Large Companies using a Discrete Choice Model (2022–2024)*. Master in Management and Public Policy. Faculty of Administration and Economics, University of Santiago, Chile.
- **Javiera Miranda** (M.A. 2024). *Analysis of the Child Support Debtors Registry: A Feminist Political Economy Perspective on its Redistributive Effects in Gender Conflict*. Master in Management and Public Policy. Faculty of Administration and Economics, University of Santiago, Chile.

Research Interests

Political economy of capitalist development; Macroeconomics of growth and distribution; State formation; Varieties of Latin American capitalism.

Teaching Interests

Political Economy; Macroeconomics; Public Policy; Latin American Economic History; Quantitative Methods; Computational Social Sciences; Applied Time Series Econometrics; Mathematical Methods for Historical Inquiry.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

PERI Fellowship — Funding from the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) for doctoral dissertation development (2024).
2nd Place (shared) — Historiographical Contest marking the 50th anniversary of the electoral victory of the Popular Unity in Chile (2023).
CONICYT Fellowship — Government fellowship awarded by the Chilean National Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation to fund 4 years of doctoral studies in Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
CNED Research Grant — Research grant awarded by the Chilean National Council of Education to support research on the Chilean education system; resulted in the publication of Puga, Polanco & Corvalán (2015).

Conference Presentations

Panel Chair

- “Political Economy of the Rise and Fall of Unidad Popular: Tensions, Legacies and Perspectives.” *VII National Congress of Economic History (CNHE)*, Viña del Mar, July 2025. Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.

Presentations

- “Revisiting the Political Economy of the Rise and Fall of Unidad Popular: A Global Political Economy Approach.” *VII National Congress of Economic History (CNHE)*, Viña del Mar, July 2025. Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.

- “Industrial Patronage and Socialist Revolution: The Labour Process under Chile’s Developmental Era.” *International Labour Process Conference*, Santiago, April 2025. Universidad Alberto Hurtado.
- “Advancing a Marxist Research Program on Variegated Capitalism” (with Matt Vidal). *International Labour Process Conference*, Santiago, April 2025. Universidad Alberto Hurtado.
- “Chile in the Developmental Era: A Perspective from Variegated Capitalism.” *VI National Congress of Economic History (CNHE)*, Viña del Mar, [date check]. Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.
- “Chile in the Developmental Era: A Perspective from Variegated Capitalism.” *SASE 2023: Socio-Economics in a Transitioning World*, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 2023.
- “Dystopian Urban Development on the Chilean Coastline and Emergence of Resistances: The Case of Los Molles.” *Historical Materialism Montreal*, University of Quebec, Montreal, May 2018.

References

Micheal Ash (Dissertation Advisor). PhD Economics, University of California, Berkeley. Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Graduate Program Director, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Email: mash@econs.umass.edu.

Matt Vidal PhD Sociology, University of Wisconsin–Madison. Reader in Sociology and Political Economy, Institute for International Management and Entrepreneurship, Loughborough University London. Email: m.vidal@lboro.ac.uk.

Fernando Leiva PhD Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Professor of Latin American and Latinx Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz. Email: fleiva@ucsc.edu.

Dissertation Summary

Dissertation Title: “*Essays on Chile and the United States in Comparative-Historical Perspective during the Fordist Era*”

Overview. The dissertation develops a demand-led, comparative–historical political economy of Chile and the United States across the Fordist era. It formalizes how capacity utilization (u), distribution, and institutionally conditioned technique choice (θ) co-produce growth dynamics and crisis types; constructs center–periphery-consistent measures and datasets; estimates profitability measures and decomposition analysis, and channels of investment propagation; and revisits the debate on the political economy of the rise and fall of the Unidad Popular (1970–1973) as a critical juncture of world history shaped by global-to-periphery transmission and domestic conflict.

Chapter 1: “*Demand and Accumulation in Long-Run Capitalist Development: Unbalanced Growth and Crisis*”

This chapter builds a demand-led dynamic system where u and the investment share φ co-evolve with an endogenous capacity-building law $\hat{y}^p = \theta \hat{k}$, with θ conditioned by distribution (ω) and institutions (Λ). When $\theta \neq 1$, balanced-growth closure fails, intrinsic instability emerges, and convergence is not guaranteed. The model reconciles bi-causality between accumulation and output, embeds a Harrodian reversal, and classifies dynamics into stagnation tendencies, partial crises manageable under current institutional landscape, and accumulation-regime crises that require institutional–technological reconfiguration. These thresholds yield testable criteria for the empirical chapters.

Chapter 2: “*Capacity Utilization in the Center and the Periphery: Old Debates, New Measures, and Data*”

This essay revisits capacity-utilization measurement, showing why survey indices and potential-output filters are model-dependent and fragile in center–periphery contexts. It proposes an econometric identification consistent with the distribution–technology link and assembles a U.S.–Chile, stock–flow-consistent dataset that reconciles historical benchmarks for Chile and harmonizes U.S. series to national accounts. Comparative diagnostics indicates that measures embedding distribution/technology might provide higher explanatory power for growth and furnish a credible utilization

series for subsequent profitability analyses.

Chapter 3: *“Demand-Led Profitability and Structural Crisis in Chile and the United States during the Fordist Era”*

This essay links capacity utilization to profitability and investment through a decomposition that distinguishes demand, technology, and distributional channels. I identify stagnation tendencies as configurations where profitability fails to transmit to accumulation despite positive demand signals, and I estimate long-run multipliers from utilization, capital productivity, and the wage share into investment. The empirical strategy fits alternative investment specifications (e.g., Keynes–Robinson, Bhaduri–Marglin, Foley–Michl) to the United States and Chile as demonstrative Center and Periphery cases, allowing parameters and elasticities to differ across regimes. Results show that demand and technology jointly drive profitability’s effect on accumulation in the Center, while distribution and external-constraint-consistent utilization dynamics play a comparatively larger role in the Periphery. The chapter thus provides a comparative map of how demand, technique, and distribution interact to generate or inhibit accumulation, clarifying when observed slowdowns reflect genuine stagnation tendencies rather than transitory shocks.

Chapter 4: *“Revisiting the Political Economy of the Rise and Fall of the Unidad Popular: A Global Political Economy Approach”*

This chapter reframes the Unidad Popular (1970–1973) as a critical juncture generated by the interaction of domestic distributive conflict and an external constraint transmitted from the core to the periphery. It synthesizes neoliberal, neo-structuralist, and dependency research programs to situate contested approaches to the period which was defining for Chile’s and World History. Hypothesizing that the Military-Keynesian Demand Stimulus of the Korea and Vietnam War Era caused a positive and later reversed shock on Chile’s terms of trade, this essay provides new empirical evidence identifying impulse responses functions tracing effects on the economic crisis faced by the socialist revolution. The pattern of rising leverage of the working class on the distributive conflict and its subsequent 1973 reversal, and post-coup volatility supports an external-constraint mechanism layered onto domestic conflict. In this fashion, the dissertation closes with a more concrete event-study knitting a layered abstract to concrete analysis contributing to the emergent field of historical political economy with time series methods.