Erika Garza-Elorduy

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SUMMARY

Social Scientist skilled in quantitative methods, data integration, literature reviews and analysis to shape policies and strategies.

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego **Expected 2025**

Master's of Science in Computational Social Science

Coursework: Data Analysis and Statistical Decision Making - Machine Learning for Social Scientists - Advanced Statistical Applications - Algorithms, Public Policy, and Ethics - Causal Inference - Current Issues in Tech Policy

Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior **August 2018 - June 2022**

Bachelor of Arts in Child Psychology

Coursework: Research Methodologies - Qualitative Research Techniques - Online Instructional Design - Research on (Youth) Development - Advanced Psychological Evaluation and Assessment

SKILLS

Programming & Data Analysis: Python, R (ML & DL), TensorFlow, Keras; data handling (pandas, NumPy, tidyverse)

Data Visualization & Research Tools: Matplotlib, ggplot2, Seaborn, Quarto; jsPsych, Prolific, OSF, DataPipe

Software & Collaboration: GitHub, VS Code, Jupyter Notebooks, RStudio, Git, MS Office, G-Suite

Research & Analysis: Literature reviews, mixed-methods research, reports, and presentations

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Lux Salvo. Mexicali, BC, Mexico **August 2023 - July 2024**

Lead Generation Specialist.
- Drove targeted lead generation for solar energy solutions in commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors.
- Optimized lead conversion by tracking key metrics and leveraging data-driven insights for business growth.

The Rhoades School. Encinitas, CA, USA **September 2022 - June 2023**

Transitional Kindergarten and Extended Day Teacher.
- Designed and delivered lesson plans to meet diverse student needs in alignment with curriculum standards.
- Enhanced engagement by 25% through customized curricula and digital tools for gifted students, via LMS.

Grupo AutoPasión. Mexicali, BC, Mexico **June 2019 - August 2020**

Training and Curriculum Specialist.
- Elevated workforce development by designing ≈35 comprehensive training programs and manuals for 200+ employees across five dealerships.
- Ensured training relevancy by aligning with best practices in adult learning and company standards.

ACADEMIC PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

Capstone Project. Development of Deep Learning Wrappers for Social Science Research under Dr. Umberto Mignozzetti. (Private, public release planned - 2025)
- Implemented and refined deep learning wrappers in Python to support model training, evaluation, and diagnostics for social science datasets; integrated TensorFlow and Keras with custom preprocessing pipelines for scalability and reproducibility.
- Presented findings at the 2025 MPSA Conference alongside Dr. Umberto Mignozzetti and co-authors.

Core Member. Innovation for Everyone (Current)
- Leading curriculum development for the AI Critical Thinking Guide, equipping educators with tools to navigate responsible AI use in the classroom
- Recipient of the Responsible Tech Youth Power Fund Grant—one of 18 organizations awarded funding from a $2.4M initiative supporting youth-led responsible tech efforts (2025)

Member. All Tech is Human's Mentorship Cohort: *Ethical AI* (2023) and (2025)

Capstone Paper. On *Artificial Intelligence and its impact on youth populations*; focused on youth's perceived vulnerability to persuasive tactics, loss of agency, and use of private data online. (2021)
- Collected and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data, using appropriate statistical techniques and software to derive meaningful and relevant insights, highlighting vulnerabilities critical to regulatory policy and privacy law.

Replication Study. *"How Quick Decisions Illuminate Moral Character"* Paper by Critcher, Inbar, & Pizarro (2013) for Inferential Statistics course project (2024) (GitHub Repository)

Research Assistant. Dr. Daniela Díaz Flores, Ph.D. thesis (2021)

Digital Resource. Digital Literacy for Parents and Educators. *The myth of the digital native generation.* (2022)

Magazine Article. Coauthored with Dr. Daniela Díaz Flores: *How social media affects the mental health of children* (2022).