

ELENO CASTRO

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Master in Public Administration in International Development

Sep 2020 – May 2022

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios

Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Business

Jan 2012 – Dec 2016

La Libertad, El Salvador

HONORS

Presidential Scholarship, *Harvard University*

2020 – 2022

Magna Cum Laude, *Rank 1 out of 69, Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios*

2016

Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship Award, *Spanish cooperation in El Salvador*

2015

Scholarship for Academic Excellence, *Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios*

2012 – 2015

School Award for Academic Excellence, 99.9th percentile on national test

2011

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for **Prof. Michela Carlana**, *Harvard Kennedy School*

Aug 2021 – Present

- Supported in implementing an RCT that aims to identify gender and race biases in teachers and improve teaching practices.

Research Assistant for **Prof. Maria Micaela Sviatschi**, *Princeton University*

Feb 2021 – Present

- Conducted econometric analysis to determine the causality of a security program on educational indicators.

Summer Research Assistant for **Daniel Li Chen**, *The World Bank*

Jun 2021 – Sep 2021

- Supported a statistical analysis to evaluate the impact of an RCT intended to improve decision-making by judges with high levels of gender bias.

Summer Research Assistant for **Lelys Dinarte**, *The World Bank*

May 2021 – Sep 2021

- Replicated multiple econometric analyses to determine the true effect of COVID-19 on the increase in remittances to Mexico ([see article](#)) to anticipate peer-review comments.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Jul 2017 – Sep 2020

Economic Consultant at the Education Division

San Salvador, El Salvador

- Planned and executed operations of the education sector in El Salvador and other regional projects in Central America, Mexico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic; working with ministries of education, private companies, multilateral organizations like UNICEF and the UN, universities like the University of Chicago and local think tanks.
- Analyzed education statistics, carried out economics literature reviews, identified educational challenges in Latin America to propose public policies.
- Conducted applied research to design early childhood policy interventions in El Salvador.
- Supported the design of an experimental evaluation (RCT) which aims at improving the education of abandoned children in El Salvador.

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) – Fomilenio II

Jun 2016 – Apr 2017

Economic Consultant

La Libertad, El Salvador

- Conducted statistical analyses to evaluate the economic benefits of public and private investments in El Salvador

Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios

Jun 2013 – Feb 2017

Teaching Assistant

La Libertad, El Salvador

- Courses: Mathematics II; Algebra I; Microeconomics I and II; Strategic Planning; Economics and Uncertainty.

RELEVANT RESEARCH

- **Gangs at School: Exploring the Socioemotional skills of Students in Central America**, draft

This study describes the existing gaps between students exposed to different degrees of violence, highlighting differences in the development of socio-emotional skills and the levels of resilience. Young people in gang contexts present lower levels of resilience, associated with an affective detachment that they maintain with their main caregivers. In addition, students in such contexts have lower expectations of the future, locus of control, and less attachment to their teachers than youth in non-gang contexts. Young people who claim to participate in gangs also present statistical differences in their levels of resilience and the development of socio-emotional skills and are characterized by the rest of their peers by having lower levels of empathy, solidarity, and expectations for the future.

https://www.elenocastro.com/assets/pdf/gangs_at_school.pdf

- **Elections and Crime in El Salvador**, co-authored, on going

This study highlights the significant relevance of violence as a way of influencing elections within El Salvador and paves the way for further research about the causes and potential solutions to these challenges. We find that gang-controlled municipalities experience a surge in violence of around 30% right before elections, that higher crime during this period is associated with a increase in political competition, and that electoral participation could be reduced.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/4q8a7ww2e6k96yd/Paper_Castro_0513.pdf

- **El Salvador: Migration, remittances, and education**, co-authored, forthcoming in Inter-American Development Bank Publications

This study explores the effect of the migration of a household member on schooling in El Salvador. The results show that the migration of a household member has a negative effect on the school attendance of boys and girls in the country of origin. This negative effect does not appear to result from receiving remittances but rather the absence of a family member.

- **The educational costs of the health crisis in Latin America and Caribbean**, co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank Publications

This study argues that the health crisis (COVID-19) threatens to reverse the inclusion and educational achievement levels of students in the last decade in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the short term, it is expected that at least 1.2 million young people of school age could drop out of the education system, and that of this group, 38% will come from the poor strata, 44% will be from the vulnerable middle class, and 18% will belong to the middle class consolidated.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002838>

- **Education Policy Brief Latin America and the Caribbean 3: A lost decade?**, co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank Publications

This study explores educational policy alternatives to mitigate the high costs of the pandemic in education in Latin America.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002839>

- **The role of Central American trade in developing El Salvador's high-value exports**. Repositorio Digital de Ciencia y Cultura de El Salvador, 2020

This study found that El Salvador likely benefits from trade deviations that allow it to export high value-added products to Central America and not to the rest of the world.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10972/4053>

- **What are the main educational challenges in Mesoamerica?** Co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank, 2019

Note describing the main challenges of Mesoamerica, pointing out mainly the low educational quality and school dropout in the region.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001807>

- **Mesoamerica: Are the schools and their context safe?** Co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank, 2019

Note that describes the contexts of schools in Mesoamerica and how neighborhoods with high levels of violence impede the development of social-emotional and learning skills.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001958>

- **El Salvador: Better education to more children is within reach**. Co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank, 2018

This study describes challenges in the education sector in El Salvador, specifically on education financing, teacher quality, national evaluations and secondary education.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001300>

ARTICLES AND BLOGS

- *Education Caught COVID 19*. Latin American Policy Journal, 2021
- *Bonus or demographic bill? The pandemic puts the promise of youth in Mesoamerica at risk*. VOX Lacea, 2020
- *Same storm, different ships*. Inter-American Development Bank, 2020
- *Will homicides remain low in El Salvador?* EL Faro, 2020
- *The challenge for Mesoamerica: education*. Inter-American Development Bank, 2019
- *Education is not eaten*. Inter-American Development Bank, 2018

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

ESEN Mentorship Program

Sep 2019 – Present

Mentor

San Salvador, El Salvador

- Share my experience and give advice to other young students who want to start their professional career in developing public policy in El Salvador.

Microeconomic Data Research Project

Oct 2015 – Sep 2016

Research

San Salvador, El Salvador

- Developed Python scripts to analyze unstructured real estate, employment, and car sales classified ads to increase the availability of high-frequency data in El Salvador using open-source data analysis tools.

Vitae

Sep 2012 – Dec 2016

Co-founder, Operational Principal

San Salvador, El Salvador

- Led environmental projects in student communities; implemented a recycling project in public schools

Fe y Alegría Foundation

Dec 2014 – Jan 2015

Marketing and Project Assistant

Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Assisted with a fundraising campaign for programs to increase environmental protection awareness in underprivileged schools in northern Argentina.

SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, Stata, Tableau, Power BI, QGIS, Visual Basic, LaTeX

Training: Project Management for Results (PM4R), *Inter-American Development Bank*

Data for the effectiveness of public policies, *Inter-American Development Bank*

Using Python for Research, *HarvardX*

Foundations of Development Policy, *MITx*

Languages: Spanish (native), English (proficient)