ELENO CASTRO

32 Calvin St. Somerville, MA 02143

📞 857-701-3224 ✉ eleno_castro@hks.harvard.edu in linkedin.com/in/elenocastro 👤 www.elenocastro.com

EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government	**Sep 2020 – May 2022**
Master in Public Administration in International Development	*Cambridge, Massachusetts*
Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios	**Jan 2012 – Dec 2016**
Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Business	*La Libertad, El Salvador*

HONORS

Presidential Scholarship, *Harvard University*	**2020 – 2022**
Magna Cum Laude, *Rank 1 out 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**
Research Assistant for **Prof. Maria Micaela Sviatschi,** *Princeton University*	**Feb 2021 – Present**
Summer Research Assistant for **Daniel Li Chen,** *The World Bank*	**Jun 2021 – Sep 2021**
Summer Research Assistant for **Lelys Dinarte,** *The World Bank*	**May 2021 – Sep 2021**

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.

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

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 primary 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

- **The Monopoly of Peace: Gang Criminality and Political Elections in El Salvador**, co-authored, on going

    This paper studies the extent to which gangs affect political elections across El Salvador by identifying gang-controlled neighborhoods and focusing on homicides during electoral seasons as an influencing mechanism. To conduct our analysis, we geolocated the homicides reported daily in the registry of the National Civil Police from 2005 to 2019 in relation to electoral results reported at the polling-station level. We used the 2012 truce as an exogenous shock in crime revealing gangs' presence and used penitentiary data from the General Directorate of Prisons for robustness measures. We also interviewed six journalists and former campaign directors. Using Two-Way Fixed-Effect estimations, our results based on more than 450,000 weekly observations show a decrease in murders at the time of elections specifically in gang-controlled areas. We also find little to no effect of gang control on turnover. This suggests that gangs in El Salvador instrumentalize peace and not violence, if any instrument, to seek advantages.

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

- **El Salvador: Migration, remittances, and education**, co-authored, International Organization for Migration

    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 impact 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.

    http://mic.iom.int/descargas/ElSalvadorMigracionRemesasEducacion2022.pdf

- **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

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)

Others: 94th percentile in quantitative reasoning on the GRE