Maria Esther Sanchez Bolaños
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Education

August 2025 - Present	**University of Michigan**	*Ann Arbor, MI*
	Ph.D. in Economics & Public Policy (*Expected May 2031*)	
May 2020	**University of Kentucky (UK)**	*Lexington, KY*
	B.A. Political Science, *with Honors*	
	B.A. Environmental and Sustainability Studies (Concentration in Economics), *with Honors*	
	B.A. International Studies (Comparative Politics in Latin America), *with Honors*	
	Statistics Minor	

Research Experience

Pre-Doctoral Research Professional for Dr. Matthew J. Notowidigdo   **Chicago, IL**
Research Professional at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business   Jan. 2024 – Jul. 2025

- Led the creation, refining, and pilot implementation of an innovative experimental survey instrument targeting healthcare workers who exited the industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study, co-led by Dr. Matthew J. Notowidigdo at Booth and Dr. Marcella Alsan at Harvard University, will be the first of its kind to collect detailed employment biographies and unionization preferences of healthcare workers in pre- and post-pandemic periods.
- Conducted statistical analyses of large federal labor datasets, such as the Current Population Survey, the Current Employment Statistics program, and the Job Openings and Turnover Survey, using R and Stata to produce comprehensive economic reports on the U.S. healthcare workforce. These analyses included estimations of the extent and duration of labor shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic using structural break models.
- Spearheaded the launch and continued management of a randomized control trial (RCT), in collaboration with the Preeclampsia Foundation and J-PAL North America, to distribute 2,000 blood-pressure monitoring kits to clinics across Florida. Co-led by Dr. Matthew J. Notowidigdo and Dr. Sanjog Misra at Booth, and Dr. Marcella Alsan at Harvard University, this study evaluates how self-monitoring impacts pre- and post-natal health outcomes for women statewide, with a focus on empowering participants and enhancing maternal health outcomes.

Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation   **Chicago, IL**
Research Professional at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business   Aug. 2022 – Jan. 2024

- Led and independently managed data cleaning and analysis for an inclusivity-focused workplace study under the guidance of Dr. Marianne Bertrand and Dr. Jane Risen; successfully produced detailed, strategic reports for industry partner, fostering long-term collaboration with the Center.
- Enhanced the Rustandy Center's ESG Data Tool by incorporating and refining new ESG data from various vendors, creating summary tables of dataset metadata and maintaining clear documentation for the Booth community.
- Collaborated with the University of Chicago's Inclusive Economy Lab on an experimental audit study, conducting contact verification for apprenticeship programs, managing experimental email communications, and compiling study responses.

NORC at the University of Chicago – Economics, Justice, & Society Department   **Chicago, IL**
Research Associate   Feb. 2021 – Aug. 2022

- Supported management and analysis of the General Social Survey, the Entrepreneurship in the Population Survey, the National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth, the Color of Wealth Survey, and the Kinder Houston Area Survey.
- Completed data-oriented tasks such as cleaning datasets in R, analyzing data for reports and conference presentations, visualizing results, and managing data collection.
- Contributed to cornerstone projects by validating and translating survey instruments, managing respondent communications, developing and executing documentation procedures for large multi-year projects, and fulfilling administrative responsibilities, such as managing participant incentives.

National Academy of Sciences Kentucky Geological Survey Study   **Remote**
Research Assistant at the University of Kentucky   Feb. 2020 – Feb. 2021
- Developed the study's data collection methodologies using community-based participatory research techniques in order to engage nontraditional geoscience information stakeholders in Appalachian Kentucky.
- Assessed the impact of COVID-19 on the timeline and design of the study and assisted in the rewriting of its IRB protocol in order to avoid in-person contact for all research activities.
- Developed survey instruments and digital diary and photovoice prompts, conducted phone and video conference interviews with participants, and designed usability testing protocols.

UD Center for Experimental and Applied Economics Research Fellowship   **Newark, DE**
Research Assistant at the University of Delaware   Jun. 2019 – Aug. 2019
- Collected primary economic data in lab and field settings and conducted data quality and analysis checks.
- As head recruitment coordinator, developed a data collection strategy and all accompanying recruitment materials, increasing survey participation from 70 to over 700 participants in the span of two months.
- Received certification and training in research ethics, experimental designs, and team science communication.

Kentucky Climate and Water Awareness Study   **Lexington, KY**
Research Assistant at the University of Kentucky   Aug. 2018 – May 2019
- Developed a survey instrument to assess the current level of climate awareness in Kentucky's population with the goal of using responses to inform environmental communication materials for the public.
- Designed hard-copy versions of the survey and utilized Qualtrics software to distribute copies electronically.
- Transcribed oral interviews with Kentucky agricultural extension agents, government employees working on environmental issues, and scholarly experts at Kentucky colleges and universities to identify geographically specific climate and water resource issues in Kentucky.

Statistical and Economics Coursework (56 Credit Hours)
- **Statistics & Math:** MATH 19620 Linear Algebra, PPHA 30545 Machine Learning - R Programming, MATH 15910 Introduction to Proofs in Analysis, STA 674 Regression and Design of Experiments, STA 570 Statistical Analysis, STA 320 Introductory Probability, STA 296 Statistical Methods and Motivations, MA 213 Calculus III, MA 114 Calculus II, MA 113 Calculus I
- **Economics:** BUSN 41903 Applied Econometrics, DPSS 30000 Data Analytics in Public Policy, AEC 445G Resource and Environmental Economics, GEO 455 Globalization and the Changing Economy, ECO 202 Principles of Economics II (Macroeconomics), ECO 201 Principles of Economics I (Microeconomics)
- **Political Science**: PS 490 Honors in Political Science (Senior Thesis), PS 572 Quantitative Political Methodologies (Graduate-Level Statistics), PS 372 Political Analysis

Presentations
- Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research. *"No Thank You, Next" – Item Nonresponse of Sensitive Topics in the General Social Survey*, Chicago, IL, November 2021.
- American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2020. *Science Communication as Dialogue, not Monologue: Engaging Underserved Geological Survey Stakeholders in Appalachian Kentucky*, Remote, December 2020.
- Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars. *Evaluating the Effects of Peer Information and Social Influence on Oyster Consumption*, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, May 2020.

Honors
- 2021 Employee Recognition Award – One of six employees recognized in the Economics, Justice, and Society Department at NORC for outstanding performance
- 2019 Intercollegiate Sustainability Research Fellowship – One of six students to receive $4,500 in funding by the UK Office of Undergraduate Research to conduct research relating to sustainability
- 2018-2019 Student Ambassador of the Year by the College of Arts and Sciences
- UK Policy Debate Scholarship – Four-year, full-tuition scholarship and stipend for achievements in policy debate
- Kentucky Heritage Scholarship – Four-year scholarship for academic excellence
- 2016 Urban Debater of the Year by the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues