

Lucas Sempé

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Research Focus

My research programme addresses a fundamental question for public policy: *how do we measure whether evidence and policy actually get implemented?* I approach this through three interconnected streams: (1) AI governance capacity measurement across 80 jurisdictions; (2) knowledge mobilisation effectiveness frameworks with OECD; and (3) evidence-informed policymaking conceptual models. I combine quantitative methods expertise with practical experience directing government programmes and training public servants.

Education

2022 University of East Anglia, UK

Ph.D. International Development

Thesis: *Measurement and effects of wealth inequality in schools: evidence from PISA*. Methods: multilevel analysis, novel inequality metrics for categorical data.

2014 University of London (SOAS), UK

MSc. Poverty Reduction: Policy and Practice

Professional Experience

2024–Present International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Senior Evaluation Specialist

- Lead developer, Global Observatory of AI Governance Capacity (80 jurisdictions, 2,211 policies analysed)
- Member, OECD Expert Group on Knowledge Mobilisation Effectiveness (2025–present)
- Co-lead, £500,000 evaluation of GenAI-powered mental health intervention (with Oxford Psychiatry & Girl Effect)
- Research lead on evidence-informed policymaking conceptual framework (FCDO-funded, £125,000)
- Director, RCC Impact and Open Access Fund
- Project lead: AI applications in evidence synthesis; AI in agriculture; climate change and railways
- Lead, mapping review on impact evaluation methods in fragile and conflict-affected settings

2023–Present University of Oxford

Department of Psychiatry, Honorary Visiting Fellow

- OxWell Student Survey: quasi-experimental analysis of adolescent mental health, self-harm, and social media exposure
- Co-PI on social harm and online exposure research (£10,000)

2022–2024 Queen Margaret University, UK

Institute of Global Health and Development, Research Fellow

- REDRESS Project: systematic review, evaluation design, health financing analysis, data management systems (Liberia)
- UNHCR Project: quasi-experimental analysis of refugee health access across six countries
- Health financing research for WHO: financial autonomy of primary health providers; performance-based budgeting
- Designed and taught MSc module: Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Member, AI Ethics Committee (2023–2024)

2017–2021 University of East Anglia, UK

School of International Development, Research Assistant/Associate

- Quasi-experimental evaluations in Brazil, Peru, Argentina (health and social protection integration)
- Evaluation of young offender prevention programme with Norfolk Police and Social Care (published)
- Excess mortality and vaccination analysis for LMICs (published in *The Lancet Regional Health*)

2013–2014 Ministry of Education, Peru

Director, Performance-Based Budget Programme (£2 billion annually)

- Directed programme comprising 55% of national education budget: teacher salaries, recruitment, training, assessments, school maintenance, infrastructure
- Implemented results-based cost analysis and World Bank-SWAP for educational assessments
- Political representative of Minister for Regional Government of Huánuco

2012–2013 Ministry of Housing, Peru

Director, Rural Housing Programme

- Built 215 community centres (Tambos) across fifteen regions providing public services to Indigenous communities
- Member, National Commission for climate effects mitigation in highland and Amazon areas

2014–2015 Centro de Investigación del Desarrollo Educativo, Peru

Executive Director

- World Bank-funded consultancy: training for 1,050 school principals in Peruvian Amazon
- Leadership of non-profit schools network across Peru (5), Chile (1), and Colombia (2)

Institutional Affiliations

2025–present OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI)

Expert Group Member, Evidence Web for Education – Knowledge Bridge pillar

2023–present Universidad Católica San Pablo, Peru

Associated Researcher, Centro de Gobernabilidad (CEGOB)

2023–present University of Oxford

Honorary Visiting Fellow, Department of Psychiatry

Current Research Projects

Global Observatory of AI Governance Capacity

Cross-national dataset measuring AI governance implementation capacity. 2,211 policies across 80 jurisdictions analysed using NLP-assisted coding. Key finding: UK leads globally with 7 of top 10 highest-capacity AI policies. Includes designed M.Phil module: 'Governance Capacity for Digital Policy'. Target: Regulation & Governance.

OECD Knowledge Mobilisation Framework

Co-developing framework and indicators for measuring knowledge mobilisation effectiveness in education. Drafting methods toolkit for practitioners. Part of Evidence Web for Education initiative.

AI Safety and LLM Steering Research

Technical research on steering language model behaviour using Contrastive Activation Addition. Developing safety filters for harmful outputs in mental health contexts. Implications for responsible AI governance.

Publications (Selected)

Peer-Reviewed

Sempé, L. & Esposito, L. (2025). Within-School Wealth Inequality and Learning Achievement. *Review of Income and Wealth*, 71(4).

Olabi, A., Palmer, N., ... Sempé, L., et al. (2025). Refugee integration in national health systems of LMICs. *Social Science & Medicine*.

Witter, S., Bertone, M.P., Sempé, L. et al. (2026). Financial autonomy of primary care facilities in LMICs. *BMC Health Services Research*.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., ... Sempé, L. (2023). Community-based care for older people in Brazil. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas*.

Sempé, L., Lloyd-Sherlock, P., et al. (2021). Excess mortality estimation in Peru during COVID-19. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas*.

Sempé, L. (2021). School-level inequality measurement from categorical data. *Large-scale Assessments in Education*.

Sempé, L., Billings, J., & Lloyd-Sherlock, P. (2019). Systematic review: interventions reducing avoidable displacement. *BMJ Open*.

Working Papers

Sempé, L. (2026). Measuring AI Governance Capacity: Implementation Infrastructure Across 80 Jurisdictions. Working paper.

Sempé, L., Pande, S., Kelly, C., et al. (2025). Evidence-informed Policy Making: A Conceptual Framework. 3ie/FCDO.

Sempé, L., Pande, S., et al. (2025). Evidence Mapping of Methods in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings. 3ie/FCDO.

Under Review / In Preparation

Sempé, L. & Fazel, M. Social media's influence on self-harm: quasi-experimental findings from UK student survey.

Bertone, M.P., ... Sempé, L., et al. Political economy of programme-based budgeting for health. Under review, IJHPM.

Grants (£1.1 million+ as PI/Co-PI)

2025 GenAI mental health intervention evaluation, South Africa (Co-PI, £500,000) – Girl Effect/Oxford

2025 Evidence-informed policymaking frameworks (Co-PI, £125,000) – FCDO

2025 AI-based mapping methods in conflict settings (PI, £55,000) – FCDO

2025 OECD Expert Group on Knowledge Mobilisation (Invited Expert) – OECD CERI

2023 Social harm and online exposure (Co-PI, £10,000) – University of Oxford

2017–20 Learning Communities evaluation, 6 countries (PI, £400,000) – Instituto Natura

Teaching

Higher Education Academy – Associate Fellow (2018)

Policy Schools and Civil Service Training

- SERVIR – Escuela Nacional de Administración Pública (Peru): Public Budgeting, Planning, Evaluation, Results-Based Management
- Universidad Católica San Pablo – Maestría en Gestión Pública y Políticas Públicas: Performance-based budgeting, M&E
- Abu Dhabi Government: Impact Evaluation in R (professional training)

University Teaching (Postgraduate)

- Epidemiology and Biostatistics (QMU – designed module)
- Quantitative Evidence for Development, Econometric Methods, Impact Evaluation (UEA)
- Programme Evaluation (QMU)

Professional Services

Expert Groups & Committees

- OECD CERI: Expert Group on Knowledge Mobilisation Effectiveness (2025–present)
- Queen Margaret University: AI Ethics Committee (2023–2024)
- Sociedad Peruana de Investigación Educativa: Board Member (2021–2024)

Editorial

- Revista Peruana de Investigación Educativa: Co-editor (2020–21; 2025–present), Editor (2022–24)
- Reviewer: BMJ Global Health, PLOS Global Health, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Int'l Health, BJPsych Open, Journal of Refugee Studies

Skills

Languages: Portuguese (native), Spanish (native), English (fluent), French & Italian (reading)

Statistical: R (RMarkdown, Shiny, Quarto), Stata, Python, SQL, Mplus, NVivo, QGIS

AI/ML: LLM fine-tuning and steering, RAG systems, NLP for policy analysis, systematic review automation

Country expertise: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Mexico, Peru, UAE, UK

(Last updated: January 2026)