

*A mix between introversion and hope*

I belong to a small low-income family. I have lived 27 years in the same house, with the same people: my parents and a younger sister. I had a normal, loving and happy childhood. As a child I was always very shy, but very studious. My best time of day, if my memory serves me right, was to arrive and have lunch and arrange my stuffed animals and dolls for an interesting class (about I don't remember what), where I was the teacher.

I studied my school days in a small educational institution near my house that no longer exists today (it went bankrupt). When I finished my studies, I was the only student who entered the most important public University in the country. I never thought that it could happen, and luckily it happened. I decided to study in the business administration program with all the illusion of a family that had barely finished school. Everything was going through a good moment, until I discovered I did not feel completely comfortable in the career I had chosen. In business administration I felt too comfortable with all the subjects, a comfort that made me feel stagnant. This does not mean it is not an interesting career, because it is and quite a lot, only that what I really liked was learning challenging things that made me push myself to the point of exhaustion.

So I decided to do a double program with economy. I went from having very good grades and sunny afternoons on campus, to suffering a living blood for mathematics and econometrics. Oddly enough, I finally felt more comfortable and happy. At this point I discovered my love for the economy. It is like a platonic utopian love, you always want to learn more and more, and the more you learn and the closer you get, you realize you have much more to study.

I did my university internships at the Central Bank of Colombia and I was hired there three years ago. Without any doubt, my greatest achievement so far is my work. If at university I suffered so much for studying, working was not a field of flowers and rainbow. It was worse, more and more learning with little time. Again, I was immensely happy.

A normal day for me is full of work and hurry activities, but when I can escape from the routine I became an amateur dancer, passionate reader, frustrated painter or pilates “coach” (I am really bad with pilates, but I really like it).

The great challenge of my work is to reach the level that my colleagues and friends have as professionals. Most of them are 24 years old and with incredible programming and data capabilities, while when I entered I didn't know how to do a VLOOKUP in excel. Nevertheless, as time goes by, I learned Excel and last year I jumped to R, and if the economy had seemed utopian to me, programming was titanic and at first monstrous. I remember when I started reading codes for the first time, not long ago, it was more understandable for me to read Portuguese or Italian. Data skills today make you a translator of a complex but challenging language, and in my present, I keep studying to translate and understand it.

In a year, I am confident that I can improve my ability to understand econometrics, statistics and data management and of course, have the adventure to live alone (It's about time!). In five years, my goal is to be able to do a master's program (although I must admit in my inner self a good option would be a Phd program). I would also like to be a yoga teacher and improve my painting skills.

At the end of the day I would really like to get to the point of learning a lot to be able to be a teacher someday, but this time in economics or suddenly econometrics (one never knows) and this time not to a bunch of dirty stuffed animals but to students with utopian ideals like me.