

RAFAELA BASTIDAS RIPALDA

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IDB Clearance: Grade 6 (Senior Associate)

SKILLS

- **Quantitative Analysis:** Research, Econometrics, Policy Analysis, Data Processing (traditional & non-traditional)
- **Programming & Tools:** Python, R, STATA; Machine Learning, Text Analytics (NLP, Topic Modeling, LLMs), Geospatial Analysis, Power BI, Looker Studio
- **Visualization & Reporting:** Dashboard development, data storytelling, performance tracking, analytical reports, presentations
- **Other Tools:** Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf, Streamlit
- **Languages:** Spanish (Native) | English (Fluent) | Portuguese (Basic)

EXPERIENCE

Economics and Data, Research Consultant - Office of Strategic Planning and Dev. Effectiveness

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Washington DC, USA

2023 - Present

- Conducted quantitative research and econometric analysis on policy-based lending operations, analyzing 8,000+ policy conditions across LAC portfolio using Python and NLP techniques to evaluate policy effectiveness and institutional compliance
- Created interactive dashboards enabling Bank-wide portfolio monitoring of Policy-Based Loans, facilitating data-driven strategic decision-making for Board-level discussions and operational teams
- Leveraged text analysis, NLP and Generative AI to identify and classify structural reforms from newspaper articles across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), supporting policy monitoring efforts.
- Synthesized complex analytical findings into policy briefs, technical notes, and presentations for senior management and country teams

Senior Consultant - Analytics and Data Science

Kin Analytics, Quito, Ecuador

2022 - 2023

- Automated data analysis workflows and report generation for financial information, reducing processing time by 70% through Python scripting and improving data consistency
- Developed and deployed interactive dashboards to evaluate risk factors, delivering actionable insights that support informed decision-making
- Performed comprehensive credit risk modeling, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to calculate expected losses and enhance risk management strategies

Individual Consultant (World Bank-funded Project)

Ministry of Economics & Finance, Quito, Ecuador

2020 - 2021

- Research project: "Methodology Development for Expenditure Monitoring & Optimization"
- Led public financial management initiative managing 120,000+ health payment records during COVID-19 emergency, developing STATA-based methodology for budget execution monitoring, data validation, and expenditure prioritization
- Optimized National Treasury databases by implementing data quality protocols and automated reconciliation processes, reducing errors by 35% and supporting transparent fiscal management
- Developed analytical frameworks for fiscal resource allocation and created structured databases for budget tracking, providing evidence-based policy recommendations to ministry authorities on expenditure optimization during fiscal crisis

Team-Based Consultant (CAF-funded Project)

Ministry of Economics & Finance, Quito, Ecuador

2020

- Research project: "Social Spending Quality Analysis - Methodology Development"
- Developed data processing system and dashboard to prioritize USD 10.8M in state provider payments, integrating multiple data sources
- Facilitated training workshop for 40+ ministry staff on workflow automation using statistical software, driving adoption across departments

Short Term Consultant (World Bank Project)

World Bank, Washington DC, USA (remote)

2020

- Research project: "Determinants of Total Factor Productivity Growth, Resource Misallocation and Labor Demand in Ecuador"
- Conducted quantitative research on productivity determinants in Ecuador's manufacturing sector, analyzing capital and labor distortions using econometric models and large national datasets

Data Analyst

National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), Quito, Ecuador

2019

- Designed and implemented automated data pipeline for labor demand indicators with monthly updates
- Data cleaning, validation, and integration from multiple government and survey sources
- Established data quality protocols and standardization procedures to ensure consistency across multiple data sources

Jr. Economist

Econlogic, Quito, Ecuador

2017 - 2019

- Collaborated in research projects related to productivity (TFP) for the World Bank, World Economic Forum, and Inter-American Development Bank
- Conducted analysis of productivity and resource allocation within Ecuadorian companies (STATA)
- Processed large-scale national databases to construct statistical indicators of productivity and developed visualizations

Intern / Research Assistant: Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

2017

Research Assistant: Macroeconomics Consistency Report (RCM)

2016

EDUCATION

MSc Data Science, Statistics Department - Distinction (1.1 First Class Honors)

University College London (UCL), London, UK

2022

- Dissertation: Topic modeling (NLP) in newspaper articles: an example from Brazil
- Fully funded Scholarship: Chevening Scholarship, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office

BSc Economics, Specialization in Econometrics - Graduation score: 10 (1.1 First Class Honors)

Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE), Quito, Ecuador

2018

- Dissertation: Modeling Total Factor Productivity (TFP) of formal and informal companies in Ecuador
- Academic Excellence Scholarship // Sports Merit Scholarship

BSc Economics and Management - Cum laude

Université Grenoble Alpes - Dual Degree, completed remotely, Grenoble, France

2017

PUBLICATIONS

- Bastidas Ripalda, R., Hansen, S., Leon-Diaz, J., & Muvdi, Y. (2025). [Tracking the Reform Process from Newspaper Data](#). Inter-American Development Bank, Technical Note.
- Bastidas Ripalda, R. (2022). [Topic Modelling in News Articles: An Example from Brazil](#).
- Contributor for: Vijil, M. (2021). [Determinantes del Crecimiento de la Demanda Laboral y de la Productividad del Sector Privado](#). World Bank, Jobs Working Paper, Issue No. 59.
- Acosta, N., Rodríguez, S., & Bastidas, R. (2020). [The effect of increasing land value capture on the gross value added of the construction sector](#). Applied Economics Letters, 1-5.
- Bastidas, R., & Acosta, N. (2019). [Misallocation and manufacturing TFP in Ecuador: formal, semi-formal and informal firms](#). Journal of Economic Structures, 8(1), 16.
- Bastidas Ripalda, R. (2018). [Productividad total de factores de las empresas formales e informales del Ecuador en el sector de la manufactura, período 2002-2015](#).

FELLOWSHIPS AND OTHERS

- **Fellowships:**
 - Complexity Global School, Santa Fe Institute, Colombia, 2025
 - G20 Global Leadership Program, KDI School, Korea, 2024
- World Bank Youth Summit Delegate (Washington DC, 2024 & 2025)
- Third Prize VI International Congress of Economics: Contest of Academic Articles, Ecuador, 2018