

Rafaela Bastidas Ripalda

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Website: <https://rafaelabastidas.github.io/>

Skills: Analytical skills, Strong Communication, Python, R Programming, STATA, Data Visualization, Power BI, Looker Studio, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Econometrics, Text Analytics, LLM Applications, Topic Modeling, Story-Telling with Data, Geospatial Data (GeoPandas), Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf.

EXPERIENCE

Inter-American Development Bank

Washington DC, USA

Economics and Data Science Consultant - SPD/SMO

July 2023 – current job

- Applied text analysis and LLM-based models to extract and classify structural reforms from newspaper articles across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).
- Applied geospatial analysis using Python and GeoPandas to identify subnational areas in LAC vulnerable to natural disasters, supporting the policy evaluation of IDB-financed operations (*ongoing*).
- Developed a dashboard for Policy-Based Loans (PBLs), offering insights to the Board of Directors and Upper Management for risk monitoring and early detection of issues.
- Applied NLP techniques to process and classify policy conditions of PBLs.

Kin Analytics

Quito, Ecuador

Senior Consultant - Analytics and Data Science

September 2022 – June 2023

- Generated scripts for the automatization of data analysis and report generation of financial information.
- Developed and deployed interactive dashboards to evaluate risk factors, delivering actionable insights that supported informed decision-making.
- Performed comprehensive credit risk modeling, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to calculate expected losses and enhance risk management strategies.

Ministry of Economics & Finance

Quito, Ecuador

Consultant

June 2020 – August 2021

- Developed code and co-led the implementation of a methodology to manage and prioritize over 120,000 health-related payments, addressing critical needs during the health emergency.
- Led an initiative to optimize National Treasury databases, improving operational efficiency and reducing errors by leveraging statistical software (STATA).
- Developed a novel database on fiscal resource allocation to optimize reallocation to priority areas during the pandemic, providing actionable recommendations to ministry authorities.

Consultant for Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

December 2019 – May 2020

- Developed code and a dashboard to process and prioritize the payment of 10.8 million dollars to state providers.
- Led a workshop for over 40 participants for automation of repetitive tasks using code (STATA), resulting in the adoption of statistical software practices in multiple departments within the ministry.

World Bank

Washington DC, USA (remote)

Short Term Consultant

February 2020 – June 2020

- Conducted research to evaluate capital and labor distortions in Ecuador's manufacturing sector.
- Formulated a public policy note for the Ministry of Economics and Finance to boost Ecuador's manufacturing companies' productivity by approximately 7%.

National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC)

Quito, Ecuador

Data Analyst

April 2019 – December 2019

- Conducted economic research to develop a methodology for analyzing labor demand across sectors in Ecuador.
- Designed and implemented a data pipeline for labor demand analysis, creating indicators and automating the process for seamless monthly updates.

Econlogic

Jr. Economist

Quito, Ecuador

July 2017 - April 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 utilizing statistical software.
- Processed large-scale national databases to construct statistical indicators of productivity, and developed visualizations.

EDUCATION

University College London (UCL)

London, UK

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

Dissertation: Topic modeling (NLP) in newspaper articles: an example from Brazil

Fully funded Scholarship: Chevening Scholarship

Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE)

Quito, Ecuador

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

Dissertation: Modeling Total Factor Productivity (TFP) of formal and informal companies in Ecuador

Academic Excellence Scholarship

Université Grenoble Alpes

Grenoble, France (remote)

BSc Economics and Management - *Cum laude*

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

Quito, Ecuador

Intern/ Research Assistant

June 2016 - February 2017

Macroeconomics Consistency Report (RCM)

Quito, Ecuador

Research Assistant

January 2016 - January 2017

PUBLICATIONS

- Bastidas Ripalda, R., Hansen, S., Leon-Diaz, J., & Muvdi, Y. (2025). [Tracking the Reform Process from Newspaper Data](https://doi.org/10.18235/0013467). <https://doi.org/10.18235/0013467>
- 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](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Languages:** Spanish (*Native*); English (*Fluent*); Portuguese (*Intermediate*)
- *Other activities:* Statistics Society Member, UCL
Co-founder of the Debate Club - School of Economics PUCE
Founder of the “Economic Outlook” Project of Academic Events - School of Economics PUCE

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Fellowship G20 Global Leadership Program, KDI School, Korea (2024).
- Chevening Scholarship, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom (2021-2022).
- Academic Excellence Scholarship, Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (2015-2017).
- Third Prize VI International Congress of Economics: Contest of Academic Articles, Ecuador (2018).
- Sports Merit Scholarship, Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (2014-2018).