

ROCÍO (RO) MÉNDEZ PINEDA

Applying advanced quantitative methods to evaluate social policies and improve outcomes for children and young people

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Final-year PhD candidate at UCL's Social Research Institute with 4+ years' experience evaluating social policies using advanced quantitative methods, administrative data, and mixed methods approaches. Published researcher with a track record of translating complex statistical analyses into policy-relevant outputs, including evidence contributing to current UK parliamentary legislation. Expert in causal inference, quasi-experimental design, and secure data management across ONS and UCL platforms. Passionate about applying rigorous research methods to tackle inequalities and improve outcomes for children and young people.

EDUCATION

PhD Quantitative Social Science

University College London, Social Research Institute

2021 – Present (*Expected: early 2026*)

- Thesis: "An Evaluation of Multi-Agency Front Door Services in England"
- Using ECHILD linked administrative child data (National Pupil Database, Hospital Episode Statistics) with local authority level data (2008–2022)
- Designed and deployed nationwide survey via REDCap achieving 73% response rate (111/152 LAs)
- Web scraped and text mined 7,000+ Ofsted reports using R and NVivo

MSc Social Research Methods – *Distinction*

University College London

2019 – 2021

MSc Public Policy – *Distinction*

Universidad de Chile, Chile

2014 – 2016

BSc Economics

Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios (ESEN), El Salvador

2008 – 2012

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow

UCL Division of Psychiatry and Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Social Research Institute

November 2025 – Present

- ECHILD website data management using RStudio and GitHub

Research Assistant

UCL Division of Psychiatry and Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Social Research Institute

October 2025 – Present

- Prepared statistical analysis plan to evaluate educational policy on LGBTQ+ young people's mental health outcomes
- Applying quasi-experimental methods for causal inference (Difference-in-Differences, Interrupted Time Series, Two-Way Fixed Effects)
- Contributing to creation of the PPIE plan

Research Lead

Thomas Coram Research Unit, UCL

February 2024 – September 2025

- Led qualitative implementation and process evaluation of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) across England
- Produced evidence supporting the Children's School and Wellbeing Bill in Parliament and Working Together 2025
- Co-authored major policy report (Foundations, 2025), influencing national safeguarding policy framework
- Collaborated with Cross-government MASH Evaluation Steering Group and Department for Education

Research Assistant

ICH Population, Policy & Practice, UCL

August 2022 – February 2023

- Led rapid systematic review of child development assessment tools
- Co-authored Department of Health and Social Care-commissioned report, published in BMJ Open (2024)
- Managed sensitive data in UCL's Data Safe Haven

Research Assistant

International Inequalities Institute, London School of Economics

September 2019 – September 2021

- Conducted quantitative analysis on well-being and job quality using longitudinal surveys from 9+ countries
- Co-authored three peer-reviewed publications (Regional Studies, Social Indicators Research, World Development)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Lysons JL, **Méndez Pineda R**, et al. (2024). What do parents, professionals and policy colleagues want from a universal assessment of child development? *BMJ Open*, 14(12):e091080.

Woodman J, Holmes L, Hood R, Scourfield J, Soraghan J, Park J, McGrath-Lone L, **Méndez Pineda R**. (2025, In press). Just because we can, doesn't mean we should: responsible uses of administrative data in children's social care evaluation. *British Journal of Social Work*.

Apablaza M, Sehnbruch K, González P, & **Méndez Pineda R**. (2022). Regional inequality in multidimensional quality of employment: insights from Chile, 1996–2017. *Regional Studies*, 57(3), 416–433.

González P, Sehnbruch K, Apablaza M, **Méndez Pineda R**, Arriagada V. (2021). A Multidimensional Approach to Measuring Quality of Employment (QoE) Deprivation in Six Central American Countries. *Social Indicators Research*, 158, 107–141.

Sehnbruch K, González P, Apablaza M, **Méndez R**, Arriagada V. (2020). The Quality of Employment in nine Latin American countries. *World Development*, 127, 104738.

Pre-Prints

Méndez Pineda R, Grant C, Blythe F, Harron K & Woodman J (2025). Multi-agency front door services within children's social care in England: A scoping review and national survey. OSF Preprints.

Policy Reports

Méndez Pineda R, Woodman J, et al. (2025). Evaluation of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs. London: Foundations. [Contributing evidence to Children's School and Wellbeing Bill]

Lysons J, **Méndez Pineda R**, Woodman J, et al. (2023). Measuring child development at the 2-2½ year health and development review. NIHR Policy Research Unit & UCL. [Commissioned by Department of Health and Social Care]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Seminar Leader

UCL Social Research Institute

2022 – Present

- Advanced Quantitative Methods (MSc): Teaching multilevel modelling using STATA and R
- Introduction to Regression Analysis/Foundations of Data Science (MSc): Linear, logistic, and multinomial regression
- R Coding Therapy Sessions (BSc): Weekly problem-solving sessions supporting 30+ dissertation students (2023)
- Consistently highly rated in student evaluations for clarity and practical application

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Software

Advanced: STATA (10+ years, teaching level), R/RStudio (5+ years, teaching level)

Intermediate: NVivo, QGIS/ArcGIS **Basic:** SQL, Python

Systematic Reviews: Rayyan, EPPI Reviewer

Quantitative Methods

Causal inference (RCTs, quasi-experimental design, propensity score matching, instrumental variables); Two-Way Fixed Effects (TWFE); Multilevel modelling; Panel data analysis; Difference-in-differences; Synthetic controls; Regression discontinuity

Data Platforms & Qualitative Methods

UCL Data Safe Haven, ONS Secure Research Service, REDCap; Semi-structured interviews, focus group facilitation, thematic analysis, framework analysis, PPIE

POLICY ENGAGEMENT & PRESENTATIONS

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub NHS Community of Practice (April 2025)
- National Police Chiefs' Council (June 2025)
- Department for Education Workshops (March–April 2025)
- Cross-Government Steering Committee (July 2024, October 2024, May 2025)

SELECTED TRAINING

Cambridge Econometrics Summer School (2025): TWFE, DiD, ML for Causal Inference · Introduction to Machine Learning and Data Science – SENSS DTP (2025) · UCL Clinical Data Scientific Platform – Primary Care Databases (2025) · CEMMAP Policy Evaluation Methods (2023) · Scottish Longitudinal Study Survival Analysis Workshop (2023)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

UK Evaluation Society · Social Research Association