

# 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

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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

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### **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

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### **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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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- 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

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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

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UK Evaluation Society · Social Research Association