

MANUEL JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ BOTERO

I'm a Colombian student of economics and government at Harvard, drawn to questions about how institutions, incentives, and ideas shape the long arc of development. My work bridges research, venture, and applied policy across Latin America and the U.S. I aspire to contribute to diplomacy and local government while also building and supporting enterprises that advance human flourishing and durable institutional capacity.

EDUCATION

Harvard University

B.A in Economics and Government

Cambridge, MA

December 2027

- **Activities and Accomplishments:** Bain Freshman Leadership Accelerator (top 16); HUFPI Senior Director; HBS Student Researcher; LATAM VC Analyst; Areté Fellow; Contributor to The Crimson; leadership and teaching roles across research, public service, and the arts, summer internship program in Brazil, HOLA leadership summit in Guatemala, Jewish Heritage trip to Poland and Hungary.

Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola

Colombian Academic Baccalaureate

Medellín, Colombia

2009-2021

- **Activities:** Founder & President, UN Club (50+); President & Crisis Director, CSIMUN; Founder, Lumen Group; Editorial Writer (El Republicano Joven); Student Government Leader; Community Service & Archival Work.
- **Awards:** National Essay Award (Economic Note, 1,000+); Best Speaker (8× Model UN); Finalist, Colombian Physics Olympiad (1st place semifinals); Winner Drawing and Photography Salon (I, II and III editions); Best speaker in the IV Meeting of the 21st Century of Ethics, Philosophy and Education.

Independent Study

Online, hybrid, in-person

- **Institutions, Leadership & Long-Run Development:** Civic leadership, institutional design, and regional development programs; applied team leadership and labor-market seminars.
- **Markets, Data & Capital Allocation:** Financial markets and ESG fundamentals (Bloomberg); data analysis in R, Stata, Python, and Excel.
- **Research, Narrative & Culture:** Research methods and human-subjects ethics (Harvard); storytelling, visual media, and applied entrepreneurship.
- **Languages:** Italian (Intermediate); Portuguese (Advanced).

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- **Interests:** Latin American entrepreneurship, political economy, sociological history, applied AI, regional governance, urban development, writing, Colombian coffee, societal collapse, politics, philosophy.
- **Languages:** Spanish (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (fluent), Italian (conversational).
- **Service:** President, Colombian Students Association; College Mentor, HCSS and HOLA First-Year Public Service Representative, Elm Yard; Photojournalist, The Harvard Crimson; Areté Fellow; Volunteer, House of Hope; Youth Leader, Medellín Vuelve a Brillar

EXPERIENCE

Venture Capital Group

Analyst for Valor Capital (Latin America)

Cambridge, MA

Jan 2025 - Present

- Source and evaluate early-stage fintech and SaaS startups across Latin America
- Conduct weekly founder meetings and present companies to investment committee (100% approval rate)
- Collaborate on sector coverage, market mapping, and investment memos
- Supported investors and founders at the largest collegiate VC conference in the U.S.

Economic and Political History, Stanford University

Research Assistant for Dr. Javier Mejía Cubillos

Cambridge, MA

May 2024 - Present

- Conduct comparative political economy research on rebellion, institutions, and long-run growth
- Analyze constitutional frameworks across six countries and build historical datasets for the Americas
- Contribute to papers on economic stagnation and civilizational decline
- Produce visualizations using macro-historical datasets (300,000+ observations)

Harvard Business School Global Initiative

Student Research at the Latin America Research Center

Cambridge, MA

May 2023 - August 2023

- Conduct comparative political economy research on rebellion, institutions, and long-run growth
- Analyze constitutional frameworks across six countries and build historical datasets for the Americas
- Contribute to papers on economic stagnation and civilizational decline
- Produce visualizations using macro-historical datasets (300,000+ observations)

Harvard University

Math Course Assistant: Integrals, Series, Differential Equations

Cambridge, MA

Aug 2023 - Dec 2023

- Support student learning through the Math Question Center (50+ students weekly)
- Provide individualized feedback on 80+ problem sets per week
- Coordinate with faculty across three weekly course sections

Houghton Library

Student Librarian

Cambridge, MA

Sep 2022 - Present

- Preserved and cataloged rare books and manuscripts (some 500+ years old)
- Processed 2,000+ archival requests using Aeon systems
- Improved researcher access through systematic archival organization

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONS

Harvard Undergraduate Foreign Policy Initiative

Senior Director and Policy Analyst

Cambridge, MA

Aug 2022 - Present

- Led programming for 200+ members staffed across 8 organizations and built mentorship pipelines with professionals from the Economist, Department of Defense, and the White House.
- Co-authored briefings for the U.S. Department of State on China-Latin America relations.
- Produced analysis on OECD global tax reform for American Express.
- Presented findings and strategies in Washington, D.C. to government officials and executives

Lumen Group

Founding Member

Cambridge, MA

Aug 2022 - Present

- Founded a photography and philosophy collective exploring sociological and anthropological themes
- Organized annual exhibitions at public libraries and led Night of the Arts events
- Grounded in human flourishing and Pope John Paul II's theology of beauty

Institute of Politics

Liaison for Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler

Cambridge, MA

Aug 2022 - Present

- Participate in policy forums and speaker series with senior public officials, connecting with like-minded individuals across the political spectrum.
- Engage in discussions on governance, democratic institutions, and public leadership