

ELENO CASTRO

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Master in Public Administration in International Development

Sep 2020 – May 2022

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios

Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Business

Jan 2012 – Dec 2016

La Libertad, El Salvador

HONORS

Presidential Scholarship, *Harvard University*

2020 – 2022

Magna Cum Laude, *Rank 1 out of 69, Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios*

2016

Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship Award, *Spanish cooperation in El Salvador*

2015

Scholarship for Academic Excellence, *Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios*

2012 – 2015

School Award for Academic Excellence, top 0.1% on national test

2011

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for **Prof. Michela Carlana**, *Harvard Kennedy School*

Aug 2021 – Present

Research Assistant for **Prof. Maria Micaela Sviatschi**, *Princeton University*

Feb 2021 – Present

Summer Research Assistant for **Daniel Li Chen**, *The World Bank*

Jun 2021 – Sep 2021

Summer Research Assistant for **Lelys Dinarte**, *The World Bank*

May 2021 – Sep 2021

WORK EXPERIENCE

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Jul 2017 – Sep 2020

Economic Consultant at the Education Division

San Salvador, El Salvador

- Planned and executed operations of the education sector in El Salvador and other regional projects in Central America, Mexico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic; working with ministries of education, private companies, multilateral organizations like UNICEF and the UN, universities like the University of Chicago and local think tanks.
- Analyzed education statistics, carried out economics literature reviews, identified educational challenges in Latin America to propose public policies.
- Conducted applied research to design early childhood policy interventions in El Salvador.
- Supported the design of an experimental evaluation (RCT) which aims at improving the education of abandoned children in El Salvador.

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) – Fomilenio II

Jun 2016 – Apr 2017

Economic Consultant

La Libertad, El Salvador

- Conducted statistical analyses to evaluate the economic benefits of public and private investments in El Salvador

Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios

Jun 2013 – Feb 2017

Teaching Assistant

La Libertad, El Salvador

- Courses: Mathematics II; Algebra I; Microeconomics I and II; Strategic Planning; Economics and Uncertainty.

COLUMNS AND BLOGS

- Education Caught COVID 19*. Latin American Policy Journal, 2021
- Bonus or demographic bill? The pandemic puts the promise of youth in Mesoamerica at risk*. VOX Lacea, 2020
- Same storm, different ships*. Inter-American Development Bank, 2020
- Will homicides remain low in El Salvador?* EL Faro, 2020
- The challenge for Mesoamerica: education*. Inter-American Development Bank, 2019
- Education is not eaten*. Inter-American Development Bank, 2018

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- **The Monopoly of Peace: Gang Criminality and Political Elections in El Salvador**, co-authored, master's thesis

This paper studies the extent to which gangs affect political elections across El Salvador. Using police data and voting results, we find that homicides in gang-controlled neighborhoods tend to decrease during electoral seasons along with an increase in electoral participation. These effects are especially significant in the neighborhoods where political parties have a strong voting base. Consistent with the interviews we conducted, this suggests that parties negotiate with gangs to foster electoral participation in the areas where they are more likely to receive electoral support and thus increase their chances of winning.

https://www.elenocastro.com/assets/pdf/gangs_and_elections.pdf

- **Gangs at School: Exploring the Socioemotional skills of Students in Central America**, draft

This study describes the existing gaps between students exposed to different degrees of violence and gang presence, highlighting differences in the development of socio-emotional skills and the levels of resilience

https://www.elenocastro.com/assets/pdf/gangs_at_school.pdf

POLICY PAPERS

- **El Salvador: Migration, remittances, and education**, co-authored, International Organization for Migration

This study shows that the migration of a household member has a negative impact on the school attendance of boys and girls in the country of origin. This negative effect does not appear to result from receiving remittances but rather the absence of a family member.

<http://mic.iom.int/descargas/ElSalvadorMigracionRemesasEducacion2022.pdf>

- **The educational costs of the health crisis in Latin America and Caribbean**, co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank Publications

This study argues that the pandemic crisis threatens to reverse the inclusion and educational achievement levels of students in the last decade in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the short term, it is expected that at least 1.2 million young people of school age could drop out of the education system, 38% will come from the poor strata, 44% middle class, and 18% middle class consolidated.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002838>

- **Education Policy Brief Latin America and the Caribbean 3: A lost decade?**, co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank Publications

This study explores educational policy alternatives to mitigate the high costs of the pandemic in education in Latin America.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002839>

- **The role of Central American trade in developing El Salvador's high-value exports**. Repositorio Digital de Ciencia y Cultura de El Salvador, 2020

This study found that El Salvador likely benefits from trade deviations that allow it to export high value-added products to Central America and not to the rest of the world.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10972/4053>

- **What are the main educational challenges in Mesoamerica?** Co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank, 2019

Note describing the main challenges of Mesoamerica, pointing out mainly the low educational quality and school dropout in the region.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001807>

- **Mesoamerica: Are the schools and their context safe?** Co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank, 2019

Note that describes the contexts of schools in Mesoamerica and how neighborhoods with high levels of violence impede the development of social-emotional and learning skills.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001958>

- **El Salvador: Better education to more children is within reach**. Co-authored, Inter-American Development Bank, 2018

This study describes challenges in the education sector in El Salvador, specifically on education financing, teacher quality, national evaluations, and secondary education.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001300>

PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Microeconomic Data Research

Research, Data Analysis

- Developed Python scripts to analyze unstructured real estate, employment, and car sales classified ads to increase the availability of high-frequency data in El Salvador using open-source data analysis tools.
- Created an unique [data-set](#) of covid cases at the municipal level in El Salvador through webscraping and text analysis. Presented information in real time during the pandemic on my [personal blog](#) using interactive graphs with Javascripts, Python, and Jekyll.
- Developed interactive graphs that show the changes in social indicators of the main municipalities in El Salvador through a decade using household surveys.

Mentorship Program

Sep 2019 – Dec 2021

Mentor

San Salvador, El Salvador

- Share my experience and give advice to other young students who want to start their professional career in developing public policy in El Salvador.

Vitae

Sep 2012 – Dec 2016

Co-founder, Operational Principal

San Salvador, El Salvador

- Led environmental projects in student communities; implemented a recycling project in public schools

Fe y Alegría Foundation

Dec 2014 – Jan 2015

Marketing and Project Assistant

Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Assisted with a fundraising campaign for programs to increase environmental protection awareness in underprivileged schools in northern Argentina.

SKILLS

Programming: Python ([example](#)), Stata, ([example](#)), R, Tableau, Power BI, QGIS, Visual Basic, LaTeX

Training: Project Management for Results (PM4R), *Inter-American Development Bank*

Data for the effectiveness of public policies, *Inter-American Development Bank*

Using Python for Research, *HarvardX*

Foundations of Development Policy, *MITx*

Languages: Spanish (native), English (proficient)

Others: 94th percentile in quantitative reasoning on the GRE

REFERENCES

- Prof. Rema Hanna, *Harvard Kennedy School*, rema_hanna@hks.harvard.edu, 617-495-7479
- Prof. Michela Carlana, *Harvard Kennedy School*, michela_carlana@hks.harvard.edu, 617-495-1614
- Prof. Micaela Sviatschi, *Princeton University*, msviatschi@princeton.edu, 917-628-5267
- Pablo Zoido, *Inter-American Development Bank*, pabloz@iadb.org, 202-523-7301