

Andrés E. Fernández-Vergara

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I'm a Ph. D. student and Graduate Student Researcher at the UCLA Department of Education. My current research interest lies in the ways school districts implement effective practices for school support, particularly with a focus on data use, measurements and leveraging AI. I have conducted design, implementation, and impact evaluations with a wide range of methods in Chile and Latin America. I am a lecturer on Causal Inference in Public Policy at Universidad de Chile and I'm a co-founder and director of the Chilean educational research-oriented non-profit "Fundación Co-Creer".

Current positions

Since 09/2022 Graduate Student Researcher
UCLA Department of Education

Since 03/2018 Co-founder, director, and consultant
Fundación Co-Creer

Education

09/2022 – ... Student, PhD in Education, Policy and Program Evaluation Collaborative
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

06/2016 - 12/2017 Master's in Public Policy and Management, with distinction.
Universidad de Chile.

03/2011 - 12/2017 B. Sc. Industrial Engineering.
Universidad de Chile.

Other specialization courses

02/2025 Using Large-Language Models for Social Science Research Seminar Information
Code Horizons

04/2019 Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods
University of Oxford

Research Publications

Journal articles

- Fernández-Vergara, A., (in press) Peer-Tutoring and Students' Academic Self-Efficacy in Rural Schools. *magis, Revista Internacional de Investigación en Educación*, 18, xx-xx.
<https://doi.org/10.11144/Javeriana.m18.tepr> [in Spanish]
- Fuenzalida, J., Gutiérrez, L. L., Fernández-Vergara, A., & González, P. A. (2024). Red Tape and Burnout Risks in the Public Service: Evidence From a Survey Experiment of School Principals. *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, 0734371X241261083.
- Pérez-Ordás, R., Piñeiro-Cossio, J., Bermejo-Martínez, G., & Fernández-Vergara, A. (2023). Transcultural adaptation and psychometric properties of the Spanish version of the Life Skills Scale For Sport: LSSS-S. *Journal of Movement & Health*, 20(2).
- González, P. A. y Fernández-Vergara, A. E. (2020), Technical efficiency analysis on state-funded schools in Chile, considering their financial resources, *Propuesta Educativa*, Año 28, núm. 52, noviembre 2019, pp. 79 a 96. [in Spanish]

Fernández Vergara, A. (2019) Laws, policies, institutions, and mechanisms to support books and reading in Latin America. Analysis of survey data on 10 countries. *Biodiversity: les politiques publiques du livre*, 142-175. <https://www.alliance-editeurs.org/les-politiques-publiques-du-livre,1607?lang=fr> [in Spanish]

Perdomo-Díaz, J. & Fernández, A. (2018) Exploratory study on emotions of daily math classes. *Revista Electrónica de Investigación Educativa*, 20(4), 133-143 <https://doi.org/10.24320/redie.2018.20.4.1748>. [in Spanish]

Books

Fernández-Vergara, A. (2021) *Gaps in the publishing ecosystem: public expenditure and policy in Chile*. Santiago: LOM Ediciones & JCSáez Editor. ISBN 978-956-00-1393-4. [in Spanish]

Book chapters

Fernández-Vergara, A., Fuenzalida, J., & Gonzalez, P. (2024). *Merit-based selection of school principals and school management. Findings from an educational reform in Chile*. In Benavente, J., Larraín, G. & Pardow, D. (2024) “*Thinking Chile, Outside the Box*”. Editorial Universitaria [in Spanish]

Working Papers

González, P., Fernández-Vergara, A., Morales, G., & Villugrón, L. (2023) *The political economy of regulation: Chile’s educational reforms since the return of democracy*. PE12. <https://doi.org/10.35489/BSG-RISE-2023/PE12>

Policy papers and reports

Yang, D., Sabat Bass, N., Fernandez-Vergara, A., Saunders, M., Dong, J., Garcia, L.W., Fensterstock, N., and Durazi, A. (2025). Year 2 Growth and Progress Report. *UCLA Center for Community Schooling*. <https://ucla.app.box.com/s/qdtq3shizsucotfd9renm8ih9xufl7dm>

Santibañez, L., Cazares-Minero, M., Camacho Torres, Y., Fernández-Vergara, A., Darriet, C. (2025). School Instability Among Foster Youth in Los Angeles County: Risk Factors and Perspectives of the County’s Transportation Initiative. *Center for the Transformation of Schools, School of Education & Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles*.

Fernandez-Vergara, A. (2025). Advancing Equity Through Grantmaking. California Community Schools in Action: A blog Series. *UCLA Center for Community Schooling*. (<https://communityschooling.gseis.ucla.edu/advancing-equity-through-grantmaking/>)

Fernández Vergara, A., Fuenzalida, J. & Castro, C. (2021). Impact evaluation of Law 20,955 in quantity and quality of applicants to the Senior Executive System in Chile. *Serie de Sistemas Públicos N° 18*. Santiago: Centro de Sistemas Públicos. [in Spanish] <http://www.sistemaspublicos.cl/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/serie-de-sistemas-publicos-n18-2.pdf>

Fernández Vergara, A., Fuenzalida, J. & Castro, C. (2019). Impacto f merit-based selection systems, the case of Chile post-reform (ATN O/C 16465-RG). Santiago: *Latin American Laboratory of Probit and Transparency Policies, Inter-American Development Bank*. [in Spanish] <http://www.sistemaspublicos.cl/.../impacto-de-sistemas-de-seleccin-por-mrito-el-caso-de-chile-post-reforma-csp.pdf>

González, P., Leyton, C. & Fernández, A. (2019) Educational policies for universal access technologies in the Chilean school system: evaluation and recommendations. *Serie de Sistemas Públicos N° 16*. Santiago: Centro de Sistemas Públicos. [in Spanish] http://www.sistemaspublicos.cl/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/serie_17.pdf

Conferences

- 10/2025 Building Capacity in Practice: Using AI to Study the Implementation of California's Community Schools Strategies
2025 Society for Educational Effectiveness Research Conference
- 03/2025 Validity and reliability of Socioeconomic Status measurement in a regional ILSA using a causal-formative model.
2025 Comparative International Education Society Conference
- 10/2024 Migration and educational inequality in Chile: a new landscape for social justice.
2024 Interdisciplinary Research in Education Conference - Chile
- 03/2024 Policy Configuration and Cultural Capital: examining the number of books at home Latin America and the Caribbean's international large-scale assessment
2024 Comparative International Education Society Conference
- 11/2019 What drives performance information used by managers? A survey experiment on school principal's attitudes
XXIV Congreso Internacional del CLAD

Teaching

- Since 05/2022 Instructor: Causal Inference in Public Policies.
Masters in Management and Public Policy, Universidad de Chile
- 07/2019 – 06/2021 Instructor: Causal Inference and Data Analysis | Applied Statistics for Economics.
Industrial Engineering, Universidad de Chile

Project participation

Research

- 10/2025 – 07/2026 Researcher – Designing a technical model to estimate public school personnel for the New Public Education - Chile
Center for Public Systems, Universidad de Chile
- 03/2021 – 09/2023 Research group leader – IDRC main regional project: “Peer Tutoring in Latin America, rural innovation for Honduras and Nicaragua”
Fundación Co-Crecer
- 07/2021 – 12/2021 Research Assistant – Impact evaluation of the Civil Service reform on the quantity and quality of applicants to Senior Executive Services.
University of Oxford: Blavatnik School of Government's People in Government Lab
- 11/2020 – 05/2021 Researcher – RISE Program PET-A: Political Economy of Learning in Chile
CONICYT PIA CIE160009: Center for Research in Inclusive Education
- 03/2018 – 02/2020 Research Professional – Research Line 9: Public Value in Education
CONICYT PIA CIE160009: Center for Research in Inclusive Education
- 03/2018 - 01/2019 Principal Investigator – Evaluation of public expenditure in book and reading promotion, according to National Book and Reading Policy 2015-2020
National Council for the Arts and Culture

Evaluations

- 12/2024 - 06/2025 Evaluator – Government Program Evaluation of BiblioMás, BiblioRedes, and Biblioteca Pública Digital, for the Budget Directorate of the Republic of Chile
Independent evaluator
- 02/2022 – 12/2022 Project leader – Impact evaluation, using quasi-experimental matching, of reading program “Viaje por las Letras” from Fundación Crecer con Todos
Fundación Co-Crecer
- 10/2021- 03/2022 Researcher – Participatory design of the National Policy for Books and Reading 2022-2026.
Center for Public Systems, Universidad de Chile
- 10/2020- 03/2021 Researcher – Evaluation of the National Policy for Books and Reading 2015-2020.
Center for Public Systems, Universidad de Chile
- 02/2021- 05/2022 Researcher – Impact evaluation of serious and fatal workplace injuries prevention model for Mutual de Seguridad
Center for Public Systems, Universidad de Chile

Awards

- 2023 Course "Data Analysis and Causal Inference" (shared with D. Schwartz)
Global MOOC and Online Education Alliance Award
- 2022 - 2026 International Doctorate Scholarship 2022.
National Research and Development Agency ANID, Chile
- 2016 - 2017 National Masters Scholarship 2016.
National Science and Technology Commission CONICYT, Chile
- 2015 Best Assistant Teacher: Applied Statistics for Economics.
Industrial Engineering, Universidad de Chile