

Tel: +1 (310) 425-2663  
Email: [mpfernandez@g.ucla.edu](mailto:mpfernandez@g.ucla.edu)

## MARIA-PAZ FERNANDEZ

### EDUCATION

- 2024            **PhD in Education, Social Research Methodology.**  
University of California, Los Angeles.  
    Doctoral dissertation: *Conceptual and Methodological Considerations Around the Measurement of Implementation in Quantitative Educational Research.*  
    Advisors: José Felipe Martínez, PhD and Christina Christie, PhD.
- 2014            **Master of Public Policy (MPP).**  
University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2012            **M. A. in Political Science with Major in Public Policy.**  
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.
- 2008            **B.A. in History.**  
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### University of California, Los Angeles

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##### Postdoctoral Scholar

February 2025 –

Responsible for developing and validating measurement instruments to assess the implementation and effectiveness of a statewide coaching program for school leaders, led by UC Berkeley and UCLA. Project: 21<sup>st</sup> Century California School Leadership Academy (21 CSLA).

#### University of California, Los Angeles

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##### Graduate Student Researcher

September 2018 – August 2024

Developed and validated a classroom observation rubric to assess teachers' use of Computational Thinking. Project: UCLA STEM+C3: Preparing and Sustaining the Next Generation of Effective STEM Educators for Urban Schools; US Department of Education Research Grant (2019-2023).

Adapted a teacher portfolio app and developed surveys to measure teaching practice. Project: Teacher Cognition and Learning about Incorporating Science Representations in Elementary Classrooms; McDonnell Foundation Grant (2017-2021).

#### RAND Corporation

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##### Adjunct Researcher Summer Associate

September – December 2021  
June – August 2021

Researcher for the Learning Together Surveys and American Instructional Research Surveys. Lead author and co-author in two published data notes.

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**Research Center, Ministry of Education, Chile.**

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**Senior Researcher**

July 2015 – September 2018

Designed and implemented evaluations of national education programs, large-scale data collections, and large-scale RCTs.

Country Manager for the OECD Reviews of National Policies for Education: Education in Chile (2017) and Chile's section of the Education Policy Outlook (EPO) report.

Coordinated the Ministry of Education's participation in the National Program Evaluation System, which is led by the Budgeting Department (DIPRES) of the Ministry of Finance.

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**Comunidad Mujer (NGO), Chile.**

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**Researcher**

September 2014 – June 2015

Researched for the national report on Gender, Education, and Labor, which analyzed gender gaps in education and the labor market using various quantitative data sources.

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**Organization of American States, Washington, DC.**

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**Policy Analyst Intern – Inter-American Commission of Women**

June 2013 – September 2013

Worked on a project evaluating compliance with international treaties on women's rights (CEDAW and Belém do Pará) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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**Ministry of Communications, Chile.**

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**National Coordinator of Grant for Civil Society Organizations**

July 2011 – September 2012

Coordinated all aspects of a national grant (design of request for application, evaluation of applications, and oversight).

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**World-Check Global, Chile.**

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**Research Analyst**

October 2008 – March 2010

Researched for the Organized Crime, and Terrorism and Insurgency Units in Latin America.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Fernandez, M.P. (in preparation). *Analyzing the Conceptual and Methodological Tensions of Measuring Implementation in Quantitative Educational Research*.
- Fernandez, M.P., & Martinez, J.F. (2025). Avaliação do Desempenho do Professor e da Eficácia do Ensino: Considerações Conceituais e Metodológicas. In Manzi, J., Sun, Y., & García, M. R. (Eds.). *Avaliação Docente ao Redor do Mundo: Experiências, Dilemas e Desafios Futuros*. Springer.
- Fernandez, M.P., & Martinez, J.F. (2024). Evaluación del Desempeño y la Eficacia Docentes: Consideraciones Conceptuales y Metodológicas. In Manzi, J., Sun, Y., & García, M. R. (Eds.). *Evaluación Docente en el Mundo: Experiencias, Dilemas y Desafios Futuros*. Ediciones UC.
- Fernandez, M.P., & Martinez, J.F. (2022). Evaluating Teacher Performance and Teaching Effectiveness: Conceptual and Methodological Considerations. In Manzi, J., Sun, Y., & García, M. R. (Eds.). *Teacher Evaluation Around the World: Experiences, Dilemmas and Future Challenges*. Springer.

- Fernandez, M.P., Doan, S., & Steiner, E.D. (2021). *Use, Capture, and Value of Student Voice in Schools. Findings from the 2021 Learn Together Surveys*. RAND Corporation. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7249/RRA827-4>
- Kaufman, J.H., Doan, S., & Fernandez, M.P. (2021). *The Rise of Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for U.S. K–12 Mathematics and English Language Arts Instruction. Findings from the 2021 American Instructional Resources Survey*. RAND Corporation. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7249/RRA134-11>
- Doan, S., Fernandez, M.P, Grant, D., Kaufman, J.H., Setodji, C.M, Snoke, J., Strawn, M., & Young, C.J. (2021). *American Instructional Resources Surveys: 2021 Technical Documentation and Survey Results*. RAND Corporation. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7249/RRA134-10>
- Young, C.J., Doan, S., Grant, D., Greer, L., Fernandez, M.P., Steiner, E.D., & Strawn, M. (2021). *Learn Together Surveys: 2021 Technical Documentation and Survey Results*. RAND Corporation. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7249/RRA827-2>
- Martinez, J.F., & Fernandez, M.P (2021). Teacher Evaluation with Multiple Indicators: Conceptual and Methodological Considerations Regarding Validity. In Manzi, J., García, M. R., & Taut, S. (Eds.) *Validity of Educational Assessments in Chile and Latin America*. Springer and Ediciones UC.
- Martinez, J.F., & Fernandez, M.P. (2019). Evaluación Docente con Indicadores Múltiples: Consideraciones Conceptuales y Metodológicas en Torno a la Validez. In Manzi, J., García, M. R., & Taut, S. (Eds.) *Validez de Evaluaciones Educativas en Chile y Latinoamérica*. Ediciones UC.
- Fernandez, M.P. (2018). Mapa del estudiantado extranjero en el sistema escolar chileno, 2015-2017. *Documento de Trabajo 12*. <https://centroestudios.mineduc.cl/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2018/04/Documento-de-trabajo12.pdf>
- Fernandez, M.P. (2017). ¿Hacia Dónde Avanza el Sistema Educativo en Chile? Análisis de las Recomendaciones OCDE Contenidas en *Evaluaciones de Políticas Nacionales de Educación: Educación en Chile* en el Contexto de la Reforma en Marcha. *Serie Evidencias 37*. <https://centroestudios.mineduc.cl/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2017/06/EVIDENCIAS-37-System-Review.pdf>
- Fernandez, M.P. (Ed.) (2017). *Reporte Nacional de Chile: Revisión de las Políticas Educativas en Chile desde el 2004 al 2016*. Ministry of Education, Chile. [https://centroestudios.mineduc.cl/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2017/06/CBR\\_Mineduc-WEB.pdf](https://centroestudios.mineduc.cl/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2017/06/CBR_Mineduc-WEB.pdf)
- Fernández Smits, M.P. (2011). *“Amor a Palos”: La Violencia en la Pareja en Santiago (1900-1920)*. LOM Ediciones.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Fernández, M.P. (2025, October). *Analyzing the Conceptual and Methodological Tensions of Measuring Implementation in Quantitative Educational Research*. Paper accepted for presentation at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Conference.
- Fernandez, M.P. (2025, April). *Formative Uses of a Rubric to Assess Computational Thinking*. Poster presented as part of Structured Symposium at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting.

- Fernandez, M.P., Nava, I., Martinez, J.F., La Torre, D., Perez, L., & Betzelberger, J. (2024, April). *Measuring Computational Thinking Instruction: Reliability of a new Classroom Observation Instrument*. Paper presented at the National Council of Measurement in Education (NCME) Annual Meeting.
- Fernandez, M.P. & Luo, J. (2022, September). *The Effect of School Switch in Chile: A Cross-Classified Modeling Approach*. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Conference.
- Fernandez, M.P. (2022, April). *Is the Mean Enough?: Learning More About Teacher and Student Interactions in Math From Consensus in Students' Reports of Teaching Practice*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting.

### **UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

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**Teaching Assistant**

September 2020 – March 2024

*Introduction to Research Design and Statistics and Linear Statistical Models in Social Science Research: Multiple Regression Analysis*. Department of Education, PhD, and Master's programs.

*Introduction to Survey Research Methods*. Department of Education, Educational Leadership Program (EdD).

#### **Mayor University, Chile**

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**Instructor**

July – December 2015

*Policy Analysis*. Department of Sociology.

#### **University of Santiago, Chile.**

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**Instructor**

March – July 2015

*Policy Analysis*. Department of Public Administration.

### **AWARDS**

- Dean Fellowship. UCLA School of Education & Information Studies, 2018-2020.
- Becas Chile Scholarship for graduate studies, 2012-2014 (Masters) and 2018-2022 (PhD). Awarded by the National Agency for Research and Development (ANID), Chile.

## **SKILLS AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Languages: Spanish and English
- Program evaluation practice and theory.
- Development, validation, and analysis of surveys and measurement instruments for classroom assessment.
- Educational and Psychological measurement theory.
- Statistical and psychometric methods for educational measurement: Factor Analysis, Item Response Theory (IRT), Generalizability Theory (G-Theory), Classical Test Theory (CTT).
- Statistical methods for data analysis: Multiple Regression, Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM), Cross Classified Multilevel Modeling and Latent Variable Modeling (Structural Equation Modeling).
- Spatial analysis: Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Causal inference.
- Policy analysis: topics in education and social welfare.
- Economics for policy analysis and international development.

## **SOFTWARE**

- Statistical software: R, Stata, Mplus and FlexMIRT.
- Data visualization: Tableau.
- Spatial analysis: ArcGIS.
- Survey development: Qualtrics.