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## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Public Administration
- Government and Law
- Subnational Politics
- Water Supply and Sanitation
- Elite Interviewing

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## EDUCATION

### University of Oxford

DPhil (PhD) Candidate in Politics (2012-present)  
Thesis title: “[Recentralisation and its causes in Colombia, 1994-2014](#)”  
Supervisors:  
[Professor Christopher Hood](#) (Emeritus Gladstone Professor of Government and Fellow of All Souls College and Visiting Professor, Blavatnik School of Government)  
[Professor Eduardo Posada-Carbó](#) (Professor of the History and Politics in Latin America at the Latin American Centre, St. Antony’s College)

### London School of Economics

MSc Regulation (2011-2012)  
*Merit*  
Dissertation: “Political Institutions and the Role of the Regulator: an Approach in Context, the Case of the Colombian Water and Sanitation Regulatory Commission”  
A paper based on my dissertation was published in the *Journal of Politics in Latin America* of the German Institute of Global and Area Studies -GIGA. [It was the most read paper of this journal in 2013.](#)

### Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)

Master in Economic Law (2005-2007)  
GPA: 4,23  
Dissertation: “El Régimen Tarifario de los Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios y la Cláusula de Progresividad de los DESC en Colombia” (Regulation of Public Utility Rates and the Obligation of Progressive Realisation of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Colombia)  
A paper based on my dissertation was awarded an “[Honourable Mention](#)” (second place) by the Corporación José Ignacio de Márquez, in the *Concurso Nacional José Ignacio de Márquez de Derecho Económico*, a national *Law and Economics* paper contest.

### Universidad Javeriana

LL.B. (with honours) (2000-2004)  
Third highest score in the country (3rd/8577 students) in the State undergraduate test of knowledge of Law (ECAES – Pruebas Saber Pro).  
GPA: 4,27  
Dissertation: “Transformación de la Política Social Colombiana: Análisis Normativo y Jurisprudencial de la Reforma Laboral y Pensional 2002-2005” (Transformation of Social Policy in Colombia: A Legal Analysis of the Labour and Pension Reforms 2002-2005)  
“Honourable Mention” to recognize the outstanding level of my dissertation.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- La Garantía de los Derechos Sociales (The Guarantee of Social Rights) (ISBN 978-958-716-310-0), Universidad Javeriana and Grupo Editorial Ibáñez, 2009 (With J. Vengoechea, A. Bateman, and J. López). [More info](#)

### Journal articles

- **Regulatory Agencies and Courts in the South: the Overlaps in Colombian Water Regulation**, *Journal of Politics in Latin America* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 1868-4890), 5 (2) 2013, pp. 105-132. [More info](#)
- **Political Institutions and Judicial Role: an Approach in Context, the Case of the Colombian Constitutional Court**, *Vniversitas* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 0041-9060), No.119.2009, pp. 55-92 (with [D. Landau](#)). [More info](#)
- La Protección de la Propiedad de la Tierra en la Jurisprudencia de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos y su Aplicación al Caso de las Comunidades Campesinas en Colombia (The Protection of Land in the Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and its Application to Colombian Rural Communities), *International Law. Revista Colombiana de Derecho Internacional* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 1692-8156), No.14.2009, pp.71-105 (with G. Maldonado). [More info](#)
- El Régimen Tarifario de los Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios y la Cláusula de Progresividad de los DESC en Colombia (Regulation of Public Utility Rates and the Obligation of Progressive Realisation of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Colombia), *Revista de la Maestría en Derecho Económico* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 1692-3103), No.5. 2009, pp. 201-240. [More info](#)
- “Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios”: una Reinterpretación desde el Bloque de Constitucionalidad (Household Public Utilities: a Reinterpretation from the Perspective of the Constitutional Block), *Vniversitas* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 0041-9060), No.117.2008, pp.171-196 (with J. Schonberger). [More info](#)
- La Obligación de Progresividad de los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales: el Caso de los Servicios Públicos en Colombia (The Obligation of Progressive Realisation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: the Case of the Colombian Public Utilities), *International Law. Revista Colombiana de Derecho Internacional* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 1692-8156), No.12.2008, pp.217-252 (with L. García). [More info](#)
- La Problemática Actual de los Paraísos Fiscales (Current Problems Around Tax Havens), *International Law. Revista Colombiana de Derecho Internacional* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 1692-8156), No.10.2007, pp.311-338 (with J. Schonberger). [More info](#)
- Asistencia Estatal a los Desplazados y Reparaciones en el Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (Public Assistance and Reparations to Forcefully Displaced Persons in the Inter-American Human Rights System), *International Law. Revista Colombiana de Derecho Internacional* (peer-reviewed journal – ISSN 1692-8156), No.8.2006, pp. 161-194 (with [J. Acosta](#)). [More info](#)

### Book chapters

- El Bloque de Constitucionalidad en su Dimensión Correcta: Obligatoriedad de las Interpretaciones Autorizadas (The Constitutional Block in its Correct Dimension: Binding Character of the Authorised Interpretations) in “Realidades y Tendencias del Derecho en el Siglo XXI – Filosofía e Historia del Derecho” (ISBN: 978-958-35-0805-9), Universidad Javeriana and Editorial Temis, 2010, p. 233 – 254. [More info](#)

## PRESENTATIONS IN CONFERENCES

- The Causes of Recentralisation in Colombia, 2007-2011, **111th American Political Science Association –APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (USA)**, 3-6 September 2015.
- The New Colombian System of Royalties: Decentralisation or Recentralisation?, **XXXIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association -LASA, San Juan (Puerto Rico)**, 27-30 May 2015.
- ¿Por qué no pasar de la “Agencia Reguladora Independiente” a la “Empresa Regulatoria”? (Why not Move from "Independent Regulatory Agency" to "Regulatory Enterprise"?), VIII Jornadas de derecho económico: “20 años de las leyes 142 y 143: éxitos y retos”, Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá (Colombia), 14 August 2014.
- Regulatory Agencies and Courts in the Global South, **Latin American Constitutionalism: between Law and Politics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow (UK)**, 2 July 2014.
- The Emergence of Recentralization in Colombia, **XXXII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association -LASA, Chicago, IL (USA)**, 21-24 May 2014.
- Subnational Autonomy and Political Participation in the Current Colombian Peace Talks, **The Colombian Peace Talks: A Challenge for Security and Democracy?, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford, Oxford (UK)**, 20 November 2013.
- El Bloque de Constitucionalidad en su Dimensión Correcta: Obligatoriedad de las Interpretaciones Autorizadas de los Tratados Internacionales de Derechos Humanos (The Constitutional Block in its Correct Dimension: Binding Character of the Authorised Interpretations of the International Human Rights Treaties), **VII Seminario Permanente de Derechos Humanos Xabier Gorostiaga, S.J., Universidad del Zulia et al., Maracaibo (Venezuela)**, 31 May and 1-3 June 2011.
- Elementos para una Garantía Sostenible del Derecho al Agua (Elements to a Sustainable Guarantee of the Right to Water), Cátedra Europa, Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla (Colombia), 28 March to 1 April 2011.
- Propiedad Privada en el Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (Private Property in the Inter-American System of Human Rights), **Curso Internacional de Jurisprudencia de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM, Mexico City (Mexico)**, 26-27 February 2009.
- La Obligación de Progresividad de los DESC Como Fórmula Contra el Populismo (The Obligation of Progressive Realisation of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights as a Measure Against Populism), II. Congreso Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, Inter-American Court of Human Rights et al., Bogotá (Colombia), 6-7 November 2008.
- La Armonización del Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos con la Regulación Económica (The Harmonisation of International Human Rights Law and Domestic Economic Regulation), Congreso sobre Derecho Internacional Francisco Suarez S.J., Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá (Colombia), 29 October 2008.
- El Régimen Tarifario de los Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios y la Cláusula de Progresividad de los DESC en Colombia (Regulation of Public Utility Rates and the Obligation of Progressive Realisation of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Colombia), Congreso sobre Derecho Internacional Francisco Suarez S.J., Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá (Colombia), 29 October 2007.

## AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- ‘Writing Up’ Grant (2015-16), Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, 2015.
- Norman Chester Fund travel grant, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, 2015.
- Travel grant, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, 2015.
- Colciencias Scholarship, 2014.
- **Enrique Low Murtra Scholarship, Banco de la República (Colombia), 2011.**
- Honourable Mention, *Concurso Nacional José Ignacio de Márquez de Derecho Económico* (a national Law and Economics paper contest), 2010.
- Colfuturo Scholarship, 2011 (declined).
- Academic Council’s Scholarship, Javeriana Law School, 2005-2007.
- Honourable Mention awarded by Javeriana Law School, to recognize the outstanding level of my dissertation (LL.B.), 2005.
- Honourable Mention awarded by Javeriana Law School, to recognize that I obtained the highest score in the school (1st/147 students) in the State undergraduate test of knowledge of Law in 2004, 2005.
- **Third highest score in the country (3<sup>rd</sup>/8577 students) in the State undergraduate test of knowledge of Law (ECAES – Pruebas Saber Pro), 2004.**

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

- **DPhil (PhD) Research (2012 - present)**
  - Explaining why and how after a comprehensive set of decentralising processes (political, fiscal, and administrative), Colombia experienced significant recentralising reforms (1994-2014), particularly regarding water supply and sanitation.
  - Advanced training in qualitative research methods (particularly focused on process tracing).
  - Fieldwork experience in 2014 and 2015 in Colombia (including about 90 elite interviews and visits to municipalities in the departments of *Bolívar* and *Casanare*).
  - Collaborative research with members of other research centres (e.g. I am helping to create a network of scholars working on post-decentralisation issues in Latin America).
  - Ability to communicate effectively to external audiences through academic blogs and radio interviews.
  - Short courses:
    - Fieldwork skills (2014)
    - NVivo 10 (2014)
    - EndNote (Mac) (2014)
    - Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford (2014)

**Centro de Estudios de Derecho Internacional y Derecho Global Francisco Suárez S.J., Universidad Javeriana** (Center for Studies in International and Global Law Francisco Suárez, S.J.) **(2008-2013)**

- **Group Leader (2008-2011)**

- Research group registered before Colciencias (Colombia's agency of science and technology). More info: [GrupLAC](#) (Spanish).
- I combined institutional advancement with a strong academic career in the study of social rights (mainly water and adequate housing).
- Achievements during my time as Group Leader included the A category before Colciencias for the group (2010), the A2 category before Colciencias as well as the *José Ignacio de Márquez* Law and Economics Award for the international law review supported by the group (2008), and the recognition of the Organisation of American States (OAS) for the importance of the moot court competition on human rights organised by the group in the promotion of human rights in the region (2009).
- Founding Member of the Colombian Society of International Law.
- I initiated and developed links with internal contacts such as academics in the Department of Economics (e.g. Professor César Ferrari) and external contacts at other educational institutions (e.g. the University of Notre Dame was the [official sponsor of the international human rights moot court competition in 2010](#)).
- I attended and participated in faculty meetings to set the research agenda of the Javeriana School of Law.
- Supervising undergraduate students

- **Principal Investigator (2008-2013)**

**Research project:** La Economía en los Derechos Humanos (The Economics of Human Rights)

More info: [CvLAC](#) (Spanish).

- This research project dealt with the interaction between human rights and economics and particularly addressed a wider literature on social rights guarantees.
- Collaborative research with other disciplines (mainly Economics).
- We developed a body of excellent quality publications in nationally well-recognised peer reviewed outlets (A and B category before Colciencias).
- I presented my research papers at national and international conferences (e.g. UNAM in Mexico in 2009).

**Publications:**

- 1 book
- 4 academic papers

**Research impact:**

According to Professor Rodrigo Uprimny, member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the book derived from this project contributed to the advance of the study of socioeconomic rights issues in Colombia (see video [Uprimny 2010](#)).

Moreover, the publications stemming from this research project have been cited by important Colombian authorities such as the Constitutional Court (T-495/10 and T-379/14), Defensoría del Pueblo (Ombudsman), Contraloría General de la República (National Fiscal Control Office) and Superintendencia de Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios (Domestic Utility Services Superintendency).

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE****The Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London -CTLS, Georgetown University et al. (Aug-Dec 2014)**

- [Transnational Environmental Law](#) (undergraduate level)

This course analysed some of the central themes impacting on transnational environmental regulation. The first part was an introductory section that examined the theories of regulation, regulatory strategies (e.g. emission trading), regulation and development, and multi-level regulation. The second part examined the global and international regulation, the main challenges of the international environmental negotiations (particularly regarding climate change), the role of both science and ethics in environmental regulation, and environmental justice.

- My obligations also included:
  - Attending scheduled faculty meetings.
  - Holding regularly scheduled office hours.
  - Supporting students with academic or personal difficulties, and reporting any serious concerns about struggling students to one of the directors.
  - Attending the weekly colloquium and the Lectures in Transnational Justice.

**Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia (Oct 2010 - May 2011)**

- Legislation and Public Policy (undergraduate level)

**Universidad del Cauca, Colombia (Sep 2010 - Aug 2011)**

- Economic Law (graduate level)
- Globalisation and Law (graduate level)

**Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador (Nov 2009 - Mar 2011)**

- Utilities Regulation in Developing Countries (graduate level)
- Legal Research (graduate level)

**Universidad Javeriana, Colombia** (Feb 2006 - May 2011)

- Human Rights and Development (undergraduate level)
- Utilities Regulation (graduate level)
- Constitutional Law (undergraduate level)
- Sources of Law (undergraduate level)
- Legal Research (undergraduate level)

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**External Advisor**, [\*Superintendencia de Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios\*](#) (national agency responsible for the monitoring and surveillance of public utilities), Colombian Government (2007-2010)

- I worked for this agency for nine to ten months per year, in addition to serving as Assistant Professor of Law at Javeriana University.
- My obligations included:
  - Evaluating drafts of laws, decrees and regulations, specially, on competition issues, consumer protection, infrastructure access and pricing regulation.
  - Presenting these evaluations before members of the Colombian Congress and the National Planning Department.

**Associate**, [\*Estudios Palacios Lleras\*](#) (leading law firm regarding public utilities regulation) 2005-2007

- Member of the firm's team which represented and advised Governmental entities as well as private concessionaires on arbitration controversies arising from some of the largest infrastructure projects in Colombia.

**Research assistant** (work while studying), Estudios Palacios Lleras (2003-2005)

- Several studies on the interpretation of Laws 142 (Public Utilities Statute) and 143 (Electricity Statute) under the supervision of Hugo Palacios Mejía (external advisor to the national government who prepared the Public Utilities Statute's draft and managing partner of the firm).

## **REFEREING**

- Economía Institucional (ISSN 0124-5996)
- Cuadernos de Administración (ISSN 0120-4645)
- Estudios Socio-Jurídicos (ISSN 0124-0579)
- Opinión Jurídica (ISSN1692-2530)
- Vniversitas (ISSN 0041-9060)
- Anuario Colombiano de Derecho Internacional (ISSN: 2027-1131)
- International Law. Revista Colombiana de Derecho Internacional (ISSN 1692-8156)
- Civilizar (ISSN 1657-8953)

## MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- The American Political Science Association (APSA)
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
- [Oxford Water Network](#)
- *Academia Colombiana de Derecho Internacional* (Colombian Society of International Law)
- *Centro de Estudios de Derecho y Economía* (Centre of Law and Economics), Universidad Javeriana
- *Centro de Estudios de Financiamiento y Desarrollo Regional* (Centre for Studies in Regional Finances and Development), Universidad Javeriana
- *Centro de Estudios de Servicios Públicos, Infraestructura y Telecomunicaciones* (Centre for Studies in Public Utilities, Infrastructure and Telecommunications), Universidad Javeriana.

## ACADEMIC BLOGGING

- **Regulatory Agencies and Courts in the Global South**, Panoramas, University of Pittsburgh, 5 May 2015 [Full text](#)
- **Water Supply and Sanitation in Colombia: From Decentralisation to Recentralisation**, Global Water Forum, UNESCO – Australian National University, 16 March 2015. [Full text](#)
- Reforma a las transferencias: un dilema preocupante, Razón Pública, 24 November 2014. [Full text](#)
- ¿Cómo entender el problema de agua en Yopal?, Razón Pública, 28 July 2014. [Full text](#)
- Cuatro formas de ver los problemas de la Justicia, Semana Sostenible. 5 June 2014. [Full text](#)
- **Book review: Policy Alienation and the Power of Professionals: Confronting New Policies**, *LSE Review of Books*, 8 April 2014. [Full text](#)
- La empresa regulatoria, Semana Sostenible. 25 March 2014. [Full text](#)
- **Book review: Political Struggles and the Forging of Autonomous Government Agencies**, *LSE Review of Books*, 1 September 2013. [Full text](#)

## LANGUAGES

- Spanish (native) and English (fluent).

## OTHER INTERESTS

- *Oxford University Colombian Society*: Founder member and inaugural President (2012-2013, 2013-2014).
  - Convenor of the conference “[Colombia at Oxford. Innovation in Science, Public Policy and Culture](#)” (three panels, fourteen speakers from British and Colombian institutions, and a closing concert). [Videos](#)
- *Oxford University Fencing Club*: Former member (2012-2013, 2014-2015).