

HELENA GARCIA

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EDUCATION

- 2010** **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** Cambridge, MA
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Master in Public Administration in International Development (MPAID)
 - Thesis on “Electricity Provision to Slums in India”. Nominated for Most Outstanding Second Year Policy Analysis (SYPA).
- 2006** **INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO (ITAM)** Mexico City, Mexico
B.S. in Economics
B.S. in Political Science
 - Thesis on fiscal decentralization: “Political Economy of Intergovernmental Transfers: Theory and Evidence”.
 - Highest Honors. Ranked in the top 3.15 percentile of both classes.
- 2005** **INSTITUT D’ÉTUDES POLITIQUES DE PARIS (SCIENCES PO)** Paris, France
Exchange Program

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021-to date** **FEDESARROLLO** Bogota, Colombia
2014-2016 *(Colombia’s leading economic analysis think tank. Consistently ranked top 3 in the LatAm region)*
2011-2013 **Researcher**
 - Responsible for launching an environmental economics and policy area in Fedesarrollo.
 - Director on multidisciplinary research projects to analyze problems and design solutions related to climate change financing and governance, just transitions, renewable energy incentives, energy efficiency, climate change in cities and agriculture, deforestation, biofuel incentives, ecosystem economic valuation, water management, green growth potential in Colombia, and competitiveness for agriculture, transport, and energy sectors.
 - In charge of communicating and presenting results and policy recommendations to high levels of government and international cooperation agencies to push for policy implementation.
- 2021** **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)** Bogota, Colombia
Head of Economic Recovery Program UNDP-USAID
 - Structured and launched a post Covid-19 recovery program in 3 of the main cities in Colombia to create 1,600 green jobs for the most affected populations and help over 4,400 SMEs recover.
 - Established strategic alliances to leverage the USD 10 million program budget, achieving 2x the amount.
 - Led a cross-cutting team within UNDP and managed high-level communications with USAID and the Colombian government.
- 2016 – 2021** **COLOMBIAN PRIVATE COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS** Bogota, Colombia
(Think tank focused on competitiveness issues that works with the public and private sector to improve Colombia’s business environment)
Vicepresident General
 - Research and implementation lead on policies for green growth, productivity, science, technology, innovation, and competitiveness (business environment).
 - Joint policy design with the government for a Green Growth national policy, Net-zero strategy for 2050, technological extension services for SME’s productivity, and government program design for innovation in firms.
 - Responsible for CPC’s Board of Directors, composed by 30 of Colombia’s largest firms.
 - Fundraising and outreach strategy to increase impact. Achieved 3 new member companies to the CPC.
- 2013- 2014** **SERVICIO NACIONAL DE APRENDIZAJE (SENA)** Bogota, Colombia
(Colombia’s National Training Service aimed at developing vocational training programs)
 - Director of Tecnoacademia Program to develop abilities and vocations in STEM for middle-school students.
 - Director of Tecnoparque Program to accelerate innovative technology-based start-ups.

- 2010-2011 NATIONAL ECOLOGY INSTITUTE (INECC)** Mexico City, Mexico
(*Scientific research institute within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources*)
Director for Research and Analysis on Institutions and Public Policy
- Head for evaluations of biodiversity conservation programs and economic instruments (payment for environmental services) in charge of a 5-person team.
 - Coordinator for the design and implementation of a pilot program to transform electricity subsidies for agricultural use and reduce water consumption with 5 other ministries.
- 2006-2008 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY (SEDESOL)** Mexico City, Mexico
Vice Ministry of Planning, Prospective and Evaluation
Chief of Staff to the Vice Minister
- Research on policy measures for poverty alleviation, behavioral impact of conditional transfers, nutrition, education and income, urban poverty, migration, financing of micro investments, social cohesion.
 - Recommendations for a social development strategy for the 2007-2012 presidential term.
 - Analysis of program evaluations to improve their impact and decide budget allocations.
 - Design of a new nutritional program for the poorest communities in the country.

PUBLICATIONS

- CPC, Swisscontact & Colombia+Competitiva. (2020). *Analysis of Obstacles to Innovation in Firms in Colombia and Proposal for User-Center Design of Innovation Policy Instruments* (García-Romero, H. Ed.). CPC: Bogotá.
- García-Romero, H. (2017-2020). "Green Growth" In *Informe Nacional de Competitividad*. Bogotá: CPC.
- García-Romero, H. (2017-2020). "Science, Technology and Innovation" In *Informe Nacional de Competitividad*. Bogotá: CPC.
- García-Romero, H. (2016-2020). "Financing for Firms" In *Informe Nacional de Competitividad*. Bogotá: CPC.
- CPC (2017). *Informality. A New Vision for Colombia* (García-Romero, H. Ed.). Bogotá: CPC.
- CPC & Uniandes (2017). *Productivity. Key for Colombia's Economic Growth*. (García-Romero, H. Ed.). Bogotá: CPC.
- Fedesarrollo; García, H.; Martínez, N.; Farfán, J.C.; Calderón, S.L.; Sánchez, M.A.; Sandoval, J.; Parra, M. (2017). *Colombia's Green Growth Potential Assessment*. DNP.
- García-Romero, H. (2016). "Innovación y emprendimiento en América Latina: desafíos y oportunidades de la región para sumarse a la sociedad del conocimiento. El caso colombiano". *La Fuerza de la Innovación y el Emprendimiento ¿Es probable que Latinoamérica se suba al carro de las sociedades del conocimiento?* SOPLA. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.
- García-Romero, H. y A. Molina (2015). "Agriculture and Adaptation to Climate Change. The Role of Insurance in Risk Management: The Case of Colombia", IDB Technical Note, No. IDB-TN-731. IDB.
- García-Romero, H. et al. (2014). *Cities and Climate Change in Colombia*. Agencia Francesa de Desarrollo.
- García-Romero, H. (2014) "Deforestation in Colombia. Perspectives and Challenges". *El desafío del desarrollo sustentable en América Latina*. SOPLA. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.
- García-Romero, H. and L. Calderon Etter (2013), "The Political Economy of Fuel Subsidies in Colombia", *OECD Environment Working Papers*, No. 61, OECD Publishing.
- García-Romero, H.; Hernández, A. (2012). *Elaboración de una evaluación integral de sostenibilidad (EIS) para Colombia*. Cuadernos Fedesarrollo 40, Junio.
- García-Romero, H. (2012) "Payments for Environmental Services: Can They Work?". FACTS Reports, Field Actions Science Reports, Special Issue 6. Institut Veolia Environnement.
- Muñoz-Piña, Carlos; Cisneros, Alfredo y García-Romero H. (2011). "Targeting Challenges in Mexico's Payment for Environmental Services Program". *Revista Española de Estudios Agrosociales y Pesqueros*. Number 228, vol. 1.
- Rivero Cob, E. y García-Romero H. (2011) "Economic and Policy Instruments for Groundwater Allocation in Mexico". Primer Semestre 2011 Vol. XXVIII Num.76. *Revista de Economía de la UADY*. P.41-80
- García-Romero, H., & Cisneros, A. (2010) "Evaluation of Targeting Mechanisms of the Payment for Hydrological Services Program in Mexico 2003-2010". INE. Working paper.
- Vélez Fernández-Varela F., García-Romero H. & Meléndez Martínez A. (2007) "Algunas consideraciones de Política Agropecuaria: el caso de México". *Políticas públicas para un crecimiento incluyente* (Pablo Cotler, Ed.). Mexico: Universidad Iberoamericana.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Visiting lecturer
Summer 2022 Harvard Kennedy School. Quantitative Methods
- Adjunct professor
Fall/Spring 2016 CESA. Introduction to Economics
Fall 2010 ITAM. Introduction to Microeconomics
- Teaching assistant
Spring 2011 ITAM. Environmental and Natural Resources Economics (Professor Carlos Muñoz-Piña)
Fall 2009 Harvard Kennedy School. Statistical Methods (Professor Deborah Hughes-Hallett)
Fall 2007 ITAM. Agricultural Economics (Professor Félix Vélez)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2019 to date	Member of the Board of Directors for Transforma Global (environmental advocacy NGO) Member of the Advisory Board for Audubon International
2020-2022	Member of the Board of Directors for Fondo Acción (US-Colombia environmental fund)
2020-2021	President of the MIT Harvard Alumni Club of Colombia
2017-2020	Member of the Board of Directors of the MIT Harvard Alumni Club of Colombia
2014	Editor for the Journal: Coyuntura Económica – Fedesarrollo
2013-2014	Secretary for the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)
2009-2010	Treasurer for the Harvard University Mexican Association of Students - HUMAS

LANGUAGES

- **Spanish** (native)
- **English** (proficient)
- **French** (proficient)