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Diego González González

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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Economics Dec 2025 – Present
Universidad Loyola Andalucía

Master in Economic Development and Growth (MEDEG) Sep 2022 – Jun 2024
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Lund University

Main courses: Development Economics, Microeconometrics, Time Series Econometrics, Advanced Public Economics

Average Grade: 9.33 (UC3M); A (Lund University)
1st of my promotion out of 22 scholars

Bachelor of Business Administration, BBA U.S./Europe Double degree Sep 2018 – May 2021
Loyola University Chicago

Main courses: Business Analytics, Corporate Finance, Macroeconomics, Information Systems
GPA: 3.93/4.0 *Summa Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Business Administration Sep 2017 – May 2021
Universidad Loyola Andalucía

Main courses: Microeconomics, Econometrics, Mathematics, Finance
Average Grade: 9.32

Bachelor of International Relations Sep 2017 – Jul 2024
Universidad Loyola Andalucía

Main courses: Economic Growth and Development, Analysis of Contemporary World Affairs, Game Theory, International Markets
Average Grade: 9.08

Difference-in-Differences with Panel Data Aug 2025 – Aug 2025
CEMFI

Summer school course taught by Jeffrey Wooldridge

WORK EXPERIENCE

Consultant (part-time) – Supporting Food Systems Policy Workstreams: Analytical, Digital and Capacity Development Jun 2026 – Present
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD) *Madrid, Spain*

- Conduct analytical work on evaluation practices for food loss and waste policies, including RAG-based meta-evaluation of evaluated interventions and evidence on policy effectiveness.
- Develop an online resource for the OECD Toolkit for Equal Opportunities in Food Systems, including interactive policy tools, self-assessment features, and a specialized RAG chatbot.
- Teach a training session on the practical use of generative AI tools for policy analysis to the OECD Food Systems Team.

Junior Analyst Oct 2025 – Present
Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF)
Public Spending Evaluation Division *Madrid, Spain*

- Support on policy analysis by helping design evaluation methods, programming, data analysis, and policy insights to inform decision-making at both the national and regional levels.
- Diff-in-Diff estimation of the effect of the 2021 Spanish labor reform on the temporary disability of affected workers for "Spending Review 2025".
- Production of descriptive interactive graphs on the durations of temporary disability and their explanatory factors for "Spending Review 2025".
- Built unemployment benefits data pipeline and interactive dashboard with detailed benefit, eligibility-cause, demographic, and territorial breakdowns.
- Evaluation of Spain's 2024 unemployment subsidy reform, using RDD and difference-in-discontinuities designs to assess effects on income protection, unemployment duration, and re-employment quality.
- Built an ML pipeline to align web-scraped Canary Islands job postings with Spanish university degree programs using text embeddings vectorization and semantic similarity scoring.
- Causal and descriptive quantitative analysis using Stata, Python and R.

Data Replicator

Journal of Political Economy (JPE)

Jul 2025 – Present

Madrid, Spain

- Reproducibility checks of papers under evaluation for top Economics journal (JPE ranked 3rd by Google Scholar).
- Replication of papers using Stata, Matlab, R, Python, and Julia.
- Code error corrections and suggestions to authors.

Applied Economist (AI research project)

Pareto.AI

Project Dravite (for Anthropic)

Apr 2026 – Jun 2026

Madrid, Spain

- Select suitable causal papers with functioning replication package.
- Run and validate the reproduction code.
- Design structured LLM prompts providing the research question, data, and context.
- Develop evaluation rubrics to assess methodological accuracy and identify non-trivial errors across the empirical workflow.

Consultant (part-time) - Demand side policies for sustainable food choices

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD)

Apr 2025 – Apr 2026

Madrid, Spain

- Elaboration of a comprehensive review of demand-side policies for sustainable food choices, utilizing methodologies from a 2018 study.
- Evaluation of the environmental impacts of food products and consumer behavior regarding sustainable food choices.
- Development of case studies highlighting various policy approaches, from educational initiatives to taxation of unsustainable products.
- Development of a RAG tool in Python using locally run LLM and embedding models that produces a policy database with relevant information and several semantic-cosine-similarity-based policy alignment indices used for further data analysis.
- Preliminary estimation of the effects of the Danish livestock emissions tax announcement on beef CPI (employing Diff-in-Diff, Synthetic Control, and Synthetic Diff-in-Diff methodologies).

Research Assistant

Bank of Spain

Division of Public Sector Analysis and Economic Policy

Sep 2024 – Sep 2025

Madrid, Spain

- Long term impact evaluation of the "Finanzas para Todos" program (RCT implemented during 2014). We test the causal effect of the program on financial abilities, financial inclusion, patience and time preferences, human capital investments, and rationality in expectations with respect to educational choices 6 years after the program was implemented using regression analysis, RDD and causal forest estimation. Co-author with Laura Hospido, Margarita Machelett and Ernesto Villanueva.

- Assistant to the paper "Classical Right, New Right, and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Quasi-Natural Experiment" with Jesús Fernández-Villaverde and Carlos Sanz Alonso.
- Assistant to the paper "Quality of institutions, per capita income and economic growth: another approach" with Carlos Sanz Alonso and Juan Francisco Jimeno Serrano (principal component analysis and production of descriptive statistics).
- Planner of the impact evaluation of cash provision programs in rural areas with Banco Santander and CaixaBank (selection of control and treatment groups, analysis of minimum detectable effects, and analysis of preliminary results).

Intern - Policy Analysis and Advice

Apr 2024 – Aug 2024

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD)

Paris, France

- Research on the potential effects on food security, the environment, and agricultural livelihoods; as well as the economic feasibility of reducing food loss and waste (FLW) using the Aglink-Cosimo model with a special focus on the costs associated to FLW-reducing policies and the political economics of FLW.
- Research on EPIC Food Systems Report: Consumer behavior empirical analysis across several countries regarding preferences for different protein sources.
- Research on consumer behavior empirical analysis regarding attitudes towards different food label schemes.
- Support in the Agriculture Policy and Monitoring workshop.
- Support in Food Chain Analysis Network workshops.

Data Replicator

Sep 2023 – Jul 2025

The Economic Journal & The Econometrics Journal

Madrid, Spain

- Reproducibility checks of papers under evaluation for two of the most influential Economics journals (The Economic Journal ranked 12th by Google Scholar).
- Replication of papers using Stata, Matlab, R, Python, and Mathematica.
- Code error corrections and suggestions to authors.

Research Assistant

Jan 2021 – Jul 2023

Fundación ETEA (Development Institute at Universidad Loyola and Loyola BehLab)

Córdoba, Spain

- Socioeconomic impact assessment of the "Innovative climate finance in the Mediterranean (PLIFF)", an initiative aimed at financing investments with high climate and social impact in the sub-national entities of the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean.
- Organization of the Conference on Human Capital Investments "Learning from the field: What works and what does not in development interventions", with Francisco H. G. Ferreira (LSE), Juan Camilo Cárdenas (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Susan W. Parker (University of Maryland), Folake O. Olatunji-David (Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria), and Victor Orozco (World Bank).
- Support in the organization of the seminar "Determinants of Central America's development within the framework of the regional integration process and the Association Agreement with the EU".
- Support in technical assistance for the Eurosocial+ program, a cooperation program between the European Union and Latin America.
- Support in the Program for the Reduction of Poverty and Economic and Social Exclusion (PRPESE) of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.
- Enumerator in the field for the impact evaluation of the "Programa Incorpora Jóvenes" from the Obra Social la Caixa.

Intern

May 2017 – Jun 2017

Central American Integration System (SICA)

San Salvador, El Salvador

Centro para la Promoción de la Micro y Pequeña Empresa en Centroamérica

- Update of the institutional directory and programming of a search engine for the directory and library using Microsoft Visual Basic.
- Research on institutional networks and elaboration of comparative table.

PUBLICATIONS

Five-Year Impacts of High School Financial Education on Knowledge, Preferences and Schooling Decisions

with Margarita Machelett and Ernesto Villanueva (BdE)

May 2026

Working paper

- We evaluate the five-year impacts of a randomized high-school financial education program in Spain on financial literacy, time preferences, and schooling decisions.
- We build long-run outcome measures using follow-up survey data from 1,253 students, including financial knowledge, patience, educational choices, and expected returns to schooling.
- The empirical strategy implements OLS, bounding strategies, RDD-based age adjustments, and causal-forest heterogeneity analysis to separate program effects from cohort differences.
- No lasting effects on standard financial literacy scores are found, but there is tentative evidence of increased patience and improved consistency in education choices.

The impact of obesity on human capital accumulation: Exploring the driving factors with Raquel Carrasco (UCM)

Sep 2025

Published paper (available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X2500053X>)

Economics & Human Biology

- We investigate the impact of childhood obesity on the academic performance of high school students.
- Obesity negatively affects academic performance and cognitive skills, especially for girls.
- Mental health, time preferences, and expectations about labor market discrimination are important mechanisms.

The potential effects of reducing food loss and waste: Impacts on the triple challenge and cost-benefits analysis

with Claude Nenert, Céline Giner, Stephan Hubertus Gay and Armelle Elasri

May 2025

OECD working paper

(available at

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-potential-effects-of-reducing-food-loss-and-waste_bd2aedc6-en.html)

- We study the potential effects of reducing FLW by introducing precise cost estimates and performing scenario analyses using the partial equilibrium Aglink-Cosimo model.
- Achieving FLW-reducing targets could imply trade-offs in terms of agricultural income, as well as positive spillovers in terms of emission reductions and food security (50% reduction would raise 135 million people out of hunger).
- An analysis of the political economics of FLW reduction yields a range of policy effective targets going from 26% to 47% reductions globally, where economic and/or political incentives are ensured.

Beyond Food Loss and Waste Reduction Targets: Translating Reduction Ambitions Into Policy Outcomes

with Céline Giner, Morvarid Bagherzadeh, Armelle Elasri, Kotone Yamamoto and Cecil Haverkamp

Jan 2025

OECD policy paper

(available at https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/beyond-food-loss-and-waste-reduction-targets_59cf6c95-en.html)

- Comprehensive review of the FLW policy environment.
- Data was collected by the OECD from representatives of 42 national ministries and from the European Commission.
- OECD supports cross-country dialogue and accelerate the implementation of more effective evidence-based and context-specific FLW policies.

Bad Apples, Social Capital and Human Capital in El Salvador: Evidence from Salvadoran High School Students

May 2024

Master thesis and working paper

(available at <https://lup.lub.lu.se/luur/download?func=downloadFile&recordId=9170087&fileId=9170088>)

- The study explores the effects of classroom conflict and social capital on middle and high school students' human capital in El Salvador, noting gender-specific impacts.
- Classroom conflict affects boys' and girls' university enrollment and expected schooling years differently.
- Poor social capital is linked to better cognitive performance and persistence for girls but lowers schooling expectations for some students, with gang activity and bullying worsening these effects.

Economic growth and public policy in Central America: deep integration and social protection in the case of Guatemala

Aug 2023

Undergraduate International Relations thesis

- Using the synthetic control methodology, this paper challenges Central America's economic stagnation narrative by evaluating Guatemala's post-2017 economic performance due to a customs union with Honduras and COVID-19 social protection programs.
- The customs union positively affected Guatemala's GDP per capita, with caution regarding confounding factors.
- The Bono Familia program significantly improved economic growth, yielding a >5% increase in income per capita, showcasing the potential for effective growth-oriented policies in Central America.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Special Prize for the student with the highest grades in MEDEG

Nov 2023

Madrid, Spain

A total of 2 honors at UC3M

2022 – 2023

Madrid, Spain

Academic Excellence Award for the 2020-2021 academic year at Universidad Loyola

Aug 2020

for obtaining an average grade of 10/10 during the 2019-2020 academic year

Córdoba, Spain

Member of the Honor Society Alpha Sigma Nu

Aug 2019

Córdoba, Spain

Dean's List Quinlan School of Business

2018 – 2020

Chicago, USA

A total of 12 honors at Universidad Loyola

Aug 2017 – Present

Córdoba, Spain

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

International Association for Applied Econometrics Annual Conference

Jun 2026

Lisbon, Portugal

Participant and presenter at the "50th Simposio de la Asociación Española de Economía" (SAEe)

Dec 2025

Barcelona, Spain

Participant at the workshop "Households in the 21st Century: Marriage, Fertility, and Challenges for Public Policy" at CEMFI

Mar 2025

Madrid, Spain

Referee at *Revista de Fomento Social*

Mar 2025

Córdoba, Spain

Participant and presenter at the "49th Simposio de la Asociación Española de Economía" (SAEe)

Dec 2024

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Affiliated researcher at Loyola Behavioral Lab	Dec 2023 - Present <i>Córdoba, Spain</i>
Participant of the "International workshop on best practices for the design of social inclusion policies" (OECD and European Commission)	Oct 2022 <i>Madrid, Spain</i>
Participant and organizer of the Conference on Human Capital Investments "Learning from the field: What works and what does not in development interventions"	Jul 2022 <i>Córdoba, Spain</i>
Vice-president of the Honor Society Alpha Sigma Nu	Sep 2020 – 2021 <i>Córdoba, Spain</i>
President and Member of the Loyola Club of Spain <i>Winner of the Best Cultural/Ethnic Club Award by Loyola University Chicago</i>	Sep 2019 – 2021 <i>Chicago, USA</i>
Participant in the US/EU Inside Experience	Mar 2019 <i>Brussels, Belgium</i>
Representative of El Salvador in the Global Young Leadership Conference (GYLC)	Jun 2014 <i>Washington DC & New York City, USA</i>

SKILLS

Programming	Stata, Python, R, L ^A T _E X, Git, Eviews, Matlab, GAMS, Mathematica, Gretl, VBA
AI/ML	Codex, Claude Code, OpenCode, Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG), Random and Causal Forest, Semantic Analysis
Languages	Spanish (native), English (Cambridge C2), French (DALF C1)
Other	Global Human Social & Political Awareness, Multicultural Communications, Analytical thinker, Microsoft Excel, Modelling