

Iván HIGUERA-MENDIETA

PERSONAL DATA

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EDUCATION

MARCH 2015 **B.A Economics, Universidad de los Andes**
Thesis: "Armed control and electoral behavior: a Quasi-experiment in El Caguán"
Advisor: Prof. Ana María IBÁÑEZ
Best undergraduate thesis of 2014, winner of the *Ulpiano Ayala Prize*.

B.A. Political Science, **Universidad de los Andes**
Thesis: "There are no alternatives: civil support to armed actors in Colombia"
Advisor: Prof. Miguel GARCÍA SÁNCHEZ

minor Philosophy, Universidad de los Andes
Concentration: Contemporary Political Theory

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

FEB 2018 - PRESENT **Center for Data Science and Public Policy (University of Chicago - Computer Science)**
Data Science fellow

- Develop and maintain data frameworks for predictive Early Intervention Systems using machine learning.
- Write and visualize data insights for different projects related with healthcare and criminal justice.
- Organize weekly reading group meetings to keep up with the latest tools and research on fairness in machine learning and causal inference.

NOV 2015- NOV 2017 **Banco de la República (Central Bank of Colombia)**
Research analyst

- Preprocess and extract features from satellite imagery for different research projects related to development economics and resource economics. This projects used open-source data from NASA, NOAA and USGS.
- Arrange multiple databases in a common key, run econometric modeling, and create interactive visualizations using open-source tools.
- Teach semestral workshops on the use of open-source programming languages like R and Python, with an special focus on GIS data..

JUL - DEC 2014 **Universidad de los Andes (Political Science Department)**
Research assistant: Prof. Laura Wills-Otero
Sub-national Politics Project of Universidad de los Andes and Registraduría Nacional del Estado Civil (Electoral authority of Colombia)

- Create a classifier to identify political power concentration in Colombian municipalities from 1988 to 2014.
- Generate visualizations and organize databases to explore local elections in Colombia.

2010 - 2014 **Universidad de los Andes (Political Science Department)**

Research assistant: Prof. Miguel García-Sánchez

Comprehensive database on political violence in Colombia (1970 - 2014)

- Systematize newspaper and local reports about political violence in Colombia at the municipality level to create a comprehensive political violence database.
- Create a framework for efficient data input, and supervise other research assistants.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AND NOVA UNIVERSITY (PORTUGAL) Data Science for Social Good Summer Fellowship (Summer 2017)

UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES (ECONOMICS FACULTY) *Ulpiano Ayala Prize* for the best undergraduate thesis of 2014

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT Introduction to Political Science (2011)
Methodology principles (2013)
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT Owning and power (2014)

WORKING PAPERS

Bonilla, L., & Higuera, I. (2016). [Protected Areas Under Weak Institutions: Evidence from Colombia](#). *Documentos de Trabajo sobre Economía Regional*, 248.
[In Spanish]

Bonilla, L., & Higuera, I. (2017). [Political alignment in the time of weak parties: Electoral advantages and Subnational transfers in Colombia](#). *Documentos de Trabajo sobre Economía Regional*, 260.

Higuera, I. (2016). [Historical persistences and spatial discontinuities: Collective lands in the Colombian pacific lowlands](#). *Documentos de Trabajo sobre Economía Regional*, 239.
[In Spanish]

LANGUAGES

SPANISH Native
ENGLISH Advanced C1 (IELTS: 7,5)

SOFTWARE AND CODING SKILLS

Basic knowledge: CSS, HTML and JAVASCRIPT
Intermediate knowledge: UNIX, POSTGRESQL, and L^AT_EX
Advance knowledge: R, PYTHON, and GIT
DevOps tools: AWS, DOCKER, TERRAFORM

REFERENCES

Prof. Ana María Ibáñez-Londoño
Professor
Economics Faculty
Universidad de los Andes
aibanez@uniandes.edu.co

Prof. Miguel García-Sánchez
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Universidad de los Andes
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Rayid Ghani
Research Associate Professor
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