

GERALDINE FANDIÑO

geraldinefandi@gmail.com +1 (765) 476-3518 (Austin, TX - Bogotá, Colombia)

Research interests: Participatory Action Research (PAR), Gendered Violence, Policing and State Harm, Trans Studies, Domestic and Care Workers, Urban Inequality in the Global South, Decolonial and Feminist Qualitative Methods.

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin – Austin, TX **2023– 2026**

Master of Public Affairs (MPAff). Degree conferred May 2026

- Organized and chaired a [multi-stakeholder policy symposium](#) building coalitions across government, academia, and civil society to discuss Latinx issues: immigration, incarceration, transgender rights, and domestic work.

The University of Texas at Austin – Austin, TX **2023 – 2026**

Master of Arts in Latin American Studies. Degree conferred May 2026

- Co-founded and directed [Cine-Activism](#), a social impact film festival that mobilized 550+ participants to spotlight inequality, migrant labor rights, and social protection challenges faced by Latino immigrants.
- Thesis: *Negotiating Geographies of Work and Transit: Women's Daily Refusals to Classism, Racism, and Anti-Indigeneity in Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá, Colombia*

Universidad de los Andes – Bogotá, Colombia **2015 – 2020**

Bachelor's in Political Science, with Minors in Government, Public Affairs, and Public Administration

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Brookings Institution – Washington, DC **March 2025 – April 2025**

Intern Research Assistant (Graduate), Global Economy and Development

Produced evidence to directly inform education policy and social inclusion agendas across a global portfolio of 6 countries.

- **Policy influence and stakeholder engagement:** Co-authored the policy brief "[Alianza Familia-Escuela](#)," presenting actionable recommendations to Colombia's Ministry of Education and city governments (Bogotá, Medellín). The Mayor's Office of Bogotá adopted selected recommendations. Engaged with over 15 stakeholders from ministries, city governments, and civil society.
- **Global comparative analysis:** Contributed to the center's global policy agenda by conducting evidence reviews and comparative analysis on community engagement models across 6 countries, including India, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Tanzania, Brazil, and the U.S., to identify transferable best practices.

The University of Texas at Austin – Austin, TX

September 2023 – May 2024

Graduate Research Assistant

Conducted mixed-methods research on early childhood development to generate evidence for state-level social protection and education policy.

- **Quantitative and qualitative data analysis:** Analyzed survey data from 1,200+ childcare centers using OLS regression; conducted interviews to evaluate key metrics of access, affordability, and equity in early childhood services.
- **Policy-driven research translation:** Generated evidence for policymakers on inclusion and human capital development, translating complex findings into actionable insights for social protection and education policy discussions for the state of Texas.

University of California, Los Angeles – Los Angeles, CA

October 2022 – December 2022

Research Assistant Luskin School of Public Affairs

Led qualitative data analysis on poverty, inequality, and police violence in Bogotá with Dr. Amy Ritterbusch

- **Conducted qualitative analysis** using NVivo on policing practices, state violence, and gendered vulnerability in Colombia and Uganda.
- **Supported participatory-action-research** projects with street-connected youth and marginalized communities.
- **Co-wrote early manuscript** drafts on abolitionist social welfare approaches in the Global South.

Inkunnas S.A.S – Bogotá, Colombia

September 2021 – July 2022

Policy Research Coordinator

Led a research team to deliver actionable evidence and strengthen the advocacy capacity of local organizations working on human rights, education, and social policy.

- **Team leadership and project management:** Coordinated a team of 6 junior researchers, managing the end-to-end delivery of over 30 policy reports and research projects for a diverse portfolio of clients including universities, NGOs, and private organizations.
- **Analytical product development and resource management:** Produced and edited high-quality analytical studies that served as foundational evidence. Secured and managed over US\$40,000 in research grants to fund research operations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International IDEA – Santiago, Chile

May 2024 – July 2024

Graduate Policy Intern

Advanced the integration of gender, racial, and migrant inclusion principles into active legislative processes in Chile through evidence-based policy analysis.

- **Evidence-based policy drafting:** Drafted policy briefs on gender equality, racial inclusion, and migrant voting rights, synthesizing comparative evidence to directly inform and shape ongoing legislative debates.
- **Legislative technical assistance:** Developed analyses of draft bills and facilitated stakeholder consultations with parliamentarians and civil society, providing technical input to integrate equity.

Red PaPaz (NGO) – Bogotá, Colombia

March 2021 – May 2021

Specialist in Political Advocacy and Protection of Human Rights

Contributed within the national coalition to advocacy efforts leading to the passage of Colombia's landmark "Junk Food Law," affecting approximately 13 million school-age children.

- **Legislative advocacy and passage:** Contributed within the national coalition that secured the passage of Colombia's landmark "Junk Food Law" (Law 2120 of 2021), by negotiating two critical amendments and building consensus within the Seventh Commission of Congress. The law affects approximately 13 million school-age children.
- **Program evaluation and strategy:** Conducted a national evaluation of child protection initiatives using mixed-methods research, providing critical evidence to assess program effectiveness.

PUBLICATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Policy Publications

- Policy Memo: [Alianza Familia-Escuela — The Brookings Institution](#) (2025). Co-author. Adopted in part by the Mayor's Office of Bogotá as policy guidance.

Working Papers

- Gender and STEM Education in Latin America — Working paper (co-author).
- Negotiating Geographies of Work and Transit: Women's Daily Refusals to Classism, Racism, and Anti-Indigeneity in Ciudad Bolívar — Master's thesis, UT Austin (sole author).

Conference Presentations

- ISA Forum of Sociology — Rabat, Morocco (2025). First author presentation.
- Universidad Iberoamericana — Montevideo, Uruguay (2025). First author presentation.

Professional and Academic Affiliations

- UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs — Research Assistant to Dr. Amy Ritterbusch (2022).
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA) — Member.
- International Sociological Association (ISA) — Presenter.
- LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies Collection (UT Austin) — Graduate Affiliate.
- LBJ School of Public Affairs (UT Austin) — Graduate Student
- Universidad de los Andes Alumni Network — Member.

AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS, AND GRANTS

2015

- Undergraduate Full Scholarship – Universidad de los Andes (USD \$112K)

Awarded to the top 1% of Colombian high-school students; fully funded bachelor's degree in Political Science.

2023

- Graduate Dean's Fellowship – UT Austin LBJ School (USD \$27K) Merit-based fellowship awarded for the Master of Public Affairs.

- LBJ School Fellowship – UT Austin (USD \$21K). Competitive merit fellowship for graduate study in Public Affairs.
- COLFUTURO Graduate Scholarship-Loan (Beca de Colombia) (USD \$50K. Highly competitive national award to support graduate studies abroad.
- University of Southern California (USC) Master's Fellowship (USD \$37K, declined)
- Indiana University Bloomington Master's Fellowship (USD \$35K, declined)

2024

- LLILAS Master's Fellowship – UT Austin (USD \$92K. Full tuition and stipend award for the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies.
- Community Engagement Award – UT Austin / LLILAS (USD \$4K). Awarded for outstanding social impact initiatives and community-engaged work.

2024–2025

- Project Grants for Research & Community Initiatives (USD \$25K). Funding secured to support two large-scale community-focused academic events and participatory, justice-oriented research.

2025

- Master's Research Grant – UT Austin (USD \$11K). Funding to support thesis fieldwork and qualitative research in Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED FIELDWORK & SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK

- **Domestic workers:** Volunteer work with the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) in the Austin, TX and Washington, D.C. chapters (2021–2025), supporting organizing efforts, rights education, and community-based policy advocacy.
- **Transgender communities:** Community-based research and accompaniment with transgender women and street-connected LGBTQ+ communities in Bogotá, Colombia (2017–2023), focused on harm reduction, rights workshops, and participatory documentation of state violence.
- **Undocumented migrants:** Volunteer work with organizations supporting undocumented migrants' rights in Washington, D.C. (2024–2025), including accompaniment, resource navigation, and community protection initiatives.
- **Latinx migrant communities:** Co-founder and co-director of two major community events dedicated to Latinx migrant justice in the U.S., featuring programming on incarceration and abolition in Brazil and the rights of transgender sex workers in Bogotá.