

Dankat Sofía Granados Sotelo

Political Science Ph.D Student - UCLA

dsofiagranados@ucla.edu

Political Science Ph.D. student with a Bachelor of Economics and Political Science and a minor in Development Studies at Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia. Interested in Peace Studies, Armed Conflict, and Methods. I have experience in designing and implementing quantitative and qualitative field data collection and research in projects related to political violence and mental health, migration, education, monitoring and evaluation of social programs, state capacity, land restitution process in Colombia, and inequality of rural women. Knowledge of statistical and computational tools for data analysis (Stata, R, ArcGIS, and basic Python), and data collection (Survey CTO, Twilio for WhatsApp surveys, Machine Learning, and data mining methods).

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of California - Los Angeles (2024 -)

Relevant coursework: Causal Inference, Regression Analysis, Probability and Inference.

B.A., Economics, Universidad de Los Andes (April, 2020)

Relevant coursework: Machine Learning and Econometrics, Advanced Econometrics, Advanced Macroeconomics, Probability sequence (III).

B.A., Political Science, Universidad de Los Andes (October, 2021)

Relevant coursework: Political parties and Elections, Methodological foundations (Mixed Methods), Peace-building, Business, and Politics.

Minor in Development Studies, Universidad de Los Andes (October, 2021)

Minor in German Language and Culture, Universidad de Los Andes (October, 2021)

Industry Experience

Innovations for Poverty Action

Research Associate

January 2023 - February 2023

Research Analyst

June 2021 - January 2023

Research Intern

January 2021 - June 2021

Field tasks: Planned, trained, supervised, and coordinated data collections for both in-person and phone surveys; designed and tested questionnaires for migrant and internally displaced populations (for adults and children); designed and implemented contact strategies for hard-to-reach populations; co-led in-depth interviews and supported the design and implementation of workshops and focus groups with migrant organizations.

Technical Tasks: Programmed web, phone, and in-person surveys through Survey CTO; designed, programmed, implemented, and monitored WhatsApp surveys; designed, programmed, and implemented data flow, quality checks, and monitoring systems for data collections and interventions; cleaned and analyzed survey data to generate strategic information for decision-making during data collection and intervention implementation.

Project Management tasks: Designed and met timelines based on budget and time constraints; translated the needs of principal investigators and partners into clear objectives and activities and coordinated them to complete the work plan; designed and implemented systems to track the progress of activities and used them to foresee and mitigate risks.

Projects: [“The Impact of Temporary Working and Residence Permits for Migrants in Colombia”](#)
[“Evaluation of a Sesame Mass Media Play to Learn Program in Colombia”](#)
[“Youth Music and Entrepreneurship Training to Stimulate Career Development in Colombia”](#)
[“ConsultIPA”](#), a pro-bono Monitoring and Evaluation consultancy initiative.

Research Experience

Project Topics: Political Violence, Ethical Research, Mental Health

Research Manager and Co-author for Asking About Violence project

February 2023 - Present

Graeme Blair - Associate Professor of Political Science

University of California, Los Angeles

Lauren E. Young - Associate Professor of Political Science

University of California, Davis

Rebecca Littman - Assistant Professor of Psychology

University of Illinois, Chicago

Research tasks: Played a significant role in shaping research methodologies, contributing to the design and execution of sampling protocols, theoretical frameworks, and study designs as a local expert. Additionally, the development and implementation of robust harm mitigation strategies for participant and staff safety, including risk management protocols. Furthermore, leading the design and programming of contact protocols for a large-scale survey involving 3000+ participants using SurveyCTO. Contributed to survey instrument design and programming, designing and implementing monitoring protocols, participating in IRB management, and conducting Cognitive Probing tests to refine translated questionnaires for Colombia and Mexico.

Project Management tasks: Led negotiations with data collection firms as part of partner management. Oversaw internal and external communications for the team, handling weekly updates and debriefs. Translated internal and external goals into timelines and specific activities for a team comprising 6+ investigators. Played a role in overseeing budget, grants, and contracting processes.

Field Management tasks: Managed data collection in urban and rural areas for a ~ 3,200 people in-person survey experiment of sensitive topics. Designed and led field team training. Designed and implemented data quality monitoring.

Project Topics: Political Economy, Internal Conflict, Social Networks

Research Assistant for Prof. James A. Robinson Ph.D.,

August 2020 - July 2021

Maria Angélica Bautista Ph.D. and Juan Sebastián Galán Ph.D.,

University of Chicago and Universidad de los Andes

Main Tasks: Cleaned and structured data for network analysis; constructed database from *Fiscalia* and *Justicia y Paz* documents; prepared briefing presentations and statistical analysis.

Research project: “Fears and Dreams: Understanding the Non-Institutional Sources of State Strategy.”

Project Topics: Political Economy, Land Restitution, Gender

Research Assistant for Ana María Montoya Ph.D.,

May 2018 - January 2021

Duke University

Main Tasks: Methodological assistance and statistical analysis in various Working Papers; cleaned, managed and structured data from administrative and survey data; supported logistical arrangement of interviews, focus groups and surveys for field work; constructed databases through data extraction tools (Text mining and Text analysis); and prepared research proposals for several funding calls.

Achievements: I framed the gender perspective and structured the winning research proposal of the 2018 Call for Proposals for PhD Projects of the *Fundación WWB Colombia Research Fund*

Project Topics: Violence, Political Economy

Research Assistant for Prof. Angelika Rettberg Ph.D.,
Universidad de Los Andes

March - April 2020

Main Tasks: Literature review, data collection and visualization, and article writing and editing.

Research project: [“Violence in Latin America Today: Varieties and Impacts”](#)

Project Topics: Political Institutions, Comparative Politics

Research Assistant for Prof. Jason D. Todd Ph.D.,
Duke University

February - June 2018

Main Tasks: Constructed data base from U.S Supreme Court rulings; and cleaned, managed and structured data.

Project Topics: Political Economy, Rural Reform

Research Assistant for Prof. Juan Sebastián Galán Ph.D.,
Universidad de Los Andes

December 2017 - February 2018

Main Tasks: Constructed data base from INCORA (National Institute for the Colombian Agrarian Reform) documents; cleaned, managed and structured data; and did statistical and data analysis.

Research Project: [“Tied to the Land? Intergenerational Mobility and Agrarian Reform in Colombia”](#)

Research Projects

Gender and Land Restitution in Colombia, 2022 (Working paper)
 with Montoya, A.

Political Violence and the Dispute of Desirable Territories, 2020 (Research Proposal)

Political Concentration and its Effect on Land Outcomes for Rural Women in Colombia, 2019 (Research Proposal)

Other Publications

[“WhatsApp Surveys: An Innovative and Low-Cost Solution for Remote Data Collection”](#), with Alejandra Rivera and Laura Vargas

[“ConsultIPA: IPA Colombia’s Pro-Bono Initiative To Help Small Organizations Implement A Monitoring And Evaluation \(M&E\) Plan”](#), with Catalina Reyes and Ana Tamayo

Awards and Fellowships

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program, University of California - Los Angeles, 2025

Division of Graduate Education Award (University-wide), University of California - Los Angeles, 2024

Skills

Programming: R, Stata, ArcGIS, $\text{\LaTeX}$, Survey CTO, Qualtrics, Twilio - for WhatsApp Surveys, Python.

Languages: Spanish [Native], English [Advanced], and German [Intermediate]