

JUAN FRANCISCO MARGITIC

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Relevant Experience

World Bank

Data Scientist

Washington, DC

February 2025 - Current

- Collaborate across World Bank Group units to modernize data architecture for outcome measurement and target estimation, integrating machine learning and advanced analytics to enhance data mining, system interoperability, and institutional insights.
- Design and implement machine learning-driven approaches to strengthen outcome measurement, automating issue detection from operational reports, evaluations, and project documentation to improve target setting and lesson learning.

Economist

November 2024 - February 2025

- Leveraged microsimulation techniques in Stata and R to estimate the impact of macroeconomic factors, such as inflation, on poverty, combining administrative and survey data to deliver actionable insights for senior decision-makers.

Inter-American Development Bank

Economist

Washington, DC

June 2021 - May 2024

- Led advanced statistical analyses and econometric modeling with R and Python across 10+ countries, informing regional education strategies and yielding flagship publications, and peer-reviewed articles with actionable insights.
- Specialized in advanced causal inference techniques (e.g., A/B testing, Regression Discontinuity design), providing expert technical advice that strengthened project design, implementation, and evaluation, leading to impactful policy solutions.
- Optimized data visualization using Python and R, enhancing advocacy and policy programming used to support effective data-driven decision-making for senior management, government officials, and key stakeholders.
- Led a Randomized Controlled Trial in Recife, Brazil, providing key insights for designing centralized assignment systems.
- Supervised the development of database systems for measuring and monitoring educational indicators at [CIMA - IADB](#).
- Managed multidisciplinary teams and budgets, leading projects to ensure timely delivery through strategic leadership.
- Coordinated collaborations with international organizations (UNESCO IIEP, World Bank) and senior government officials, providing data-driven insights to optimize educational expenditures and policies in Brazil, Costa Rica, Haiti, and Guyana.

Georgetown University

Economics Ph.D. Researcher

Washington, DC

Aug. 2015 - May 2021

- Conducted causal inference analysis using advanced econometric techniques, generating insights for economic research.
- Executed geospatial analysis with PostGIS and QGIS on over 15 million voters in Georgia and Pennsylvania, recovering the causal impact of distance on turnout and using structural models to optimize polling place allocations.
- Led data mining and processing projects using Python and SQL, including scraping the complete universe of cost estimates for all bills introduced in Congress from 1997 to 2014, ensuring high data quality for advanced econometric modeling.
- Developed a web scraper in Python and R to create a novel dataset of candidate visits and rallies from 2008 to 2016, enabling detailed analysis of electoral dynamics and campaign strategies.
- Streamlined workflows for managing and analyzing large datasets in SQL, improving scalability for advanced analytics.

Instructor / Teaching Assistant

Aug. 2016 - May 2020

- Designed and taught graduate and undergraduate courses in data analysis, statistics, and microeconomics to classes of 30 to 150 students, deepening understanding of complex economic systems and applying in-class lessons to real-world scenarios.

Education

Georgetown University

Ph.D. in Economics,

Master of Arts (MA) in Economics

Washington, DC

Aug. 2015 - May 2021

Aug. 2015 - May 2017

Loyola Marymount University

Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Economics, Minor in Pure Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude

Los Angeles, CA

Aug. 2011 - Dec. 2014

Skills

Technical: R, Python, Stata, SQL, GIS (ArcGIS/QGIS), Git, L^AT_EX, Data Visualization (ggplot2, Matplotlib, Tableau)

Languages: English (Fluent), Spanish (Native), Italian and Portuguese (Elementary)

Machine Learning Specialization by Stanford University/DeepLearning.AI

Selected Publications & Working Papers

“Polling Place Location and the Costs of Voting”, with Gaurav Bagwe and Allison Stashko. (R&R *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*)

“Food Stamps and America’s Poorest”, with Dean Jolliffe, Martin Ravallion, and Laura Tiehen. (*American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 1–30) - **2024 AAEA’s Quality of Research Discovery Award**
Featured in: *Vox*, *VoxEU*, *WJS Blog*: Real Time Economics, *Quartz*, *World Economic Forum*

“Lifting the Floor? Economic Development, Social Protection and the Developing World’s Poorest”, with Martin Ravallion. (*Journal of Development Economics* 139 (2019): 97–108)