

MAR CAÑIZARES ESPADAFOR

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Directorate for Public Policy,
Presidency of the Government of Spain, Madrid**
Deputy Director
Senior Policy Analyst

*January 2026 - Present
August-December 2025*

**National Office of Foresight & Strategy,
Presidency of the Government of Spain, Madrid**
Senior Policy Analyst

February 2024 - August 2025

UNED, Madrid
Postdoctoral Researcher
Horizon Europe - MapIneq Project

January 2023 - February 2024

INVEST - University of Turku, Turku
Research Fellow

September - December 2022

SPS Department - European University Institute, Florence
PhD Researcher

September 2018 - August 2022

EDUCATION

European University Institute, Florence
Ph.D. in Political and Social Sciences
Supervisor: Fabrizio Bernardi

2018 - March 2023

Thesis: *Selection or Moderation? Three essays on educational inequalities.*

Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Visiting Scholar

Fall 2021

Instituto Carlos III-Juan March, Madrid
M.A. of Research in Social Sciences.

2016 - 2018

Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham
B.A. in Political Science (Erasmus+ programme)
First Class

2014 - 2015

Universidad de Murcia, Murcia
B.A. in Political and Administration Sciences.
Summa Cum Laude

2012 - 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- **Espadafor, M.C.** & García-Sierra, A. (2025). The intergenerational effect of educational expansion: evidence from a natural experiment in Spain. *European Sociological Review*. JCR 2024: JIF 3.0; Q1 Sociology.
- Gil-Hernández, C.J. & **Espadafor, M.C.** (2025). Teacher bias by student SES or measurement error in ability? A cautionary tale for observational studies. *Social Science Research*. JCR 2024: JIF 3.5; Q1 Sociology.
- Valdés, M.T., **Espadafor, M.C.** & Conte Keivabu, R. (2025). Can a low emission zone improve academic performance? Evidence from a natural experiment in the city of Madrid. *Population & Environment*, 47. JCR 2024: JIF 2.5; Q1 Environmental Studies / Demography.
- Kreiman, G. & **Espadafor, M.C.** (2022). Unexpected Allies: The Impact of Terrorism on Organised Crime in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 1–20. (equal authorship). JCR 2024: JIF 1.6; Q2 Political Science / International Relations.
- **Espadafor, M.C.** & Martínez, S. (2021). The negative consequences of sports gambling opportunities on human capital formation: evidence from Spain. *PLOS One*. (equal authorship). JCR 2024: JIF 2.6; Q2 Multidisciplinary Sciences.
Outreach: Spanish media (ElDiario.es, Cadena Ser, RTVE), Canada (greo.ca) and USA (Massachusetts Gaming Association).

Book chapters (non-peer reviewed)

- **Espadafor, M.C.** & Martínez, S. (2024). “Desigualdad, pobreza y casas de apuestas”. In *La desigualdad en España*. Lengua de Trapo.

Working in progress

- **Espadafor, M.C.**, Bernardi, F., Lievore, I. & Valdés, M.T. (2024). Selectivity and risks across educational transitions in Europe.
MapIneq Working Paper D3.3 (Horizon Europe).
- Lievore, I., Valdés, M.T., **Espadafor, M.C.** & Bernardi, F. (2023). The geography of tertiary education inequalities over time.
MapIneq Working Paper D3.2 (Horizon Europe).
- **Espadafor, M.C.** Selection and Moderation: A Framework Beyond Compensatory Advantage for Family SES Effects on Educational Inequalities.
Working paper available upon request.
- **Espadafor, M.C.** & Passaretta, G. Does family socioeconomic status compensate for an early entry into school life? Evidence from Germany.
Working paper available upon request.
- **Espadafor, M.C.** The uneven risk and effect of grade retention across family origins.
Working paper available upon request.
- **Espadafor, M.C.** Are boys more vulnerable to family disadvantage? Evidence from the United Kingdom.
Working paper available upon request.
- **Espadafor, M.C.** & García-Sierra, A. Educational Reforms, Mothers' Occupation-Specific Skills and Children's Outcomes.
In preparation.

SELECTED KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER (2025-2026)

Public projects on strategic foresight and research infrastructure:

- **Generaciones del Futuro:** led the initiative, secured funding, and built the institutional partnership behind Spain's first longitudinal cohort study with administrative-survey data linkage and intergenerational ties (CSIC, INE).
- **EU-wide Foresight Network (Sherpa level):** attended European Commission Sherpa meetings (senior officials).
- **Intergenerational Fairness Strategy:** collaboration with European Commission & JRC (method inputs/governance framing).
- **OECD Global Foresight Community Day:** workshop facilitation on weak signals & scenarios.
- **HispanIA 2040:** developed Spain's first national foresight strategy on how AI can shape a better future for all and a stronger welfare state.
- **Future Trends:** developed a Government web series that translates horizon-scanning into clear narratives and implications for Spain's policy agenda.
- **Country Compass:** developed a data-driven storyline tracking social and economic transformations since the 1980s to inform long-term strategic choices.

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

LIVES Centre visiting grant (€5,000) - Declined LIVES Centre, University of Lausanne	<i>Spring 2024</i>
INVEST visiting grant INVEST Centre, University of Turku	<i>Fall 2022</i>
ECSR Network Workshop Grants (€5,000) European Consortium for Sociological Research	<i>Fall 2021</i>
US Visiting Grant (University of Wisconsin-Madison, €4,000) European University Institute	<i>Fall 2021</i>
Salvador Madariaga Predoctoral Scholarship Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO).	<i>2018 - 2022</i>
Research Collaboration Scholarship Universidad Carlos III.	<i>2017 - 2018</i>

CONFERENCES

DIGCLASS International Workshop	<i>2023</i>
LIVES Conference - Lausanne	<i>2023</i>
PAA Annual Conference	<i>2022</i>
ECSR Annual Conference	<i>2020, 2021</i>
ISA RC28	<i>2020, 2021, 2022</i>
Workshop "Causality in the Social Sciences", DWZH (Germany)	<i>October 2020</i>
Convegno SISEC	<i>2020, 2022, 2023</i>
ESS, First Spanish Congress, Madrid (Spain)	<i>September 2018</i>

COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

STATA: Advanced level
R: Advanced level
L^AT_EX: Advanced level
Spanish: Native

French: Beginner
Italian: Intermediate
English: Fluent

SELECTED TEACHING

The ABCs of RDDs and IVs

RECSM, UPF - 2024, 2025, 2026

This is an advanced course on RDDs and IVs prepared for the RECSM Summer Methods School. You can read more about the summer school [here](#).

The ABCs of RDDs

TNSQUARE, Trento - October 2023

This introduction to RDDs is designed to cover some of the basics of this causal inference design, paying special attention to applications to sociological research; it was prepared for the TNSQUARE third edition at the Università di Trento.

Introduction to R

UNED - March 2023

This introduction to R course is designed to cover some of the basics of this open-source language, including vectors, factors, lists, and data frames, and it will focus on some of the powerful tools that R provides for data manipulation and visualisation, such as tidyverse, dplyr and ggplot2.

Panel Data Analysis

EUI - April 2022

Place: European University Institute

This is an advanced methods course (20 credits) co-taught with Giampiero Passaretta on Panel Data Analysis.

SELECTED ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer

Present

RSSM, ESR, REIS and State Research Agency (AEI) in Spain

Organiser: UNED50 International Seminar

Sept. 2023

Place: UNED-Madrid

You can read the programme [here](#).

Organiser: ECSR Network Workshop

June 2022

Place: EUI-Florence

Compensatory Advantage and inequality generating mechanisms

Co-organiser

2019 - 2021

Inequality Working Group & Distant CLIC (EUI)

We organise both [seminars](#), workshops and a [yearly conference in June](#).

Co-organiser and Chair: Distant CLIC Conference 2020

June 2020

You can read the programme [here](#).

REFERENCES

Fabrizio Bernardi

Full Professor of Sociology
UNED-Madrid
fbernardi@poli.uned.es

Jani Erola

Full Professor of Sociology
University of Turku
jani.erola@utu.fi