

Germán Daniel Caruso

ECONOMIST · DATA & PUBLIC POLICY LEADER

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Senior international economist and institutional data leader with 15+ years of World Bank experience across consulting and staff roles and current responsibility as Head of the Regional and Sectoral Data Group, Inter-American Development Bank, on external service from the World Bank. Combines rigorous economics, government advisory, data governance, analytics, institutional transformation, and multidisciplinary leadership across Latin America, Africa, and fragile or politically complex settings.

Development Economics	Public Policy & Government Advisory	Data Strategy & Governance	Analytics & Decision Support
AI / ML Applications	Country Diagnostics & Operations	Institutional Transformation	Team & Stakeholder Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of the Regional and Sectoral Data Group, Inter-American Development Bank

2025–Present

External service from the World Bank

Washington, DC

- Leads the regional and sectoral data agenda, translating institutional priorities into governance frameworks, reusable data capabilities, analytics, and decision-support for operational and sector teams.
- Coordinates multidisciplinary work across economics, data science, engineering, visualization, and governance, linking technology teams, sector experts, and senior stakeholders.
- Strengthens institutional approaches to data discovery, documentation, processing, integration, and reuse across analytical and operational workflows.
- Develops standards and operating routines for ownership, metadata, documentation, data quality, interoperability, acquisition, and responsible data use.
- Oversees APIs, data integration, reusable analytical products, reproducible workflows, and responsible AI/data foundations while remaining a hands-on economist and analytics leader.

World Bank | Senior Economist

2020–2025

Washington, DC

- Led global and multi-country initiatives on human capital, climate change, migration, poverty, data systems, and development analytics across Latin America, Africa, and fragile settings.
- Managed multidisciplinary teams and complex work programs; mobilized multimillion-dollar financing through trust funds, foundations, UN agencies, and internal mechanisms.
- Co-led three global Ministerial Conclaves (2022–2024), convening 60–80 Ministers of Finance, the World Bank President, senior institutional leaders, and Nobel laureates around human capital, financing, and delivery.
- Led the Climate Change and Human Capital agenda and translated research into public-facing policy notes, data products, dashboards, analytical tools, and global policy dialogue.
- Built partnerships with governments, national statistical offices, UN agencies, foundations, development partners, and teams across the World Bank.

World Bank | Economist

2014–2020

Washington, DC

- Led analytical and operational engagements on poverty, labor markets, migration, climate, human capital, and development policy, combining quantitative analysis with country dialogue and implementation support.
- Led the El Salvador Systematic Country Diagnostic and provided fiscal and distributional analysis to senior authorities, including microsimulation of tax and subsidy reforms.
- Led technical assistance to strengthen national statistical systems and data infrastructure in Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique and supported survey-system modernization in other countries.
- Applied survey, administrative, geospatial, satellite, mobile-phone, and high-frequency data to poverty, climate, migration, and operational analytics.

International Consulting | Economist / Research Consultant

2008–2014

Argentina & United States

- Provided analytical and policy support to the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Telefónica, International Development Research Centre, and other partners.
- Conducted quantitative research on poverty, labor markets, climate shocks, conflict, institutions, and development policy using household surveys, administrative sources, and geospatial data.

SELECTED LEADERSHIP & POLICY IMPACT

Institution-building in data. Established a multidisciplinary data capability and practical standards, tools, and operating routines to improve how data are discovered, documented, governed, integrated, and used in decision-making.

Honduras – delivery and social registry modernization. Designed shared outcomes, registry architecture, dashboards, high-frequency monitoring, stocktakes, and escalation mechanisms across social development, health, education, and statistical institutions.

El Salvador – fiscal and distributional advice. Developed and communicated microsimulation scenarios on a proposed VAT increase; advised against an option with significant poverty and inequality risks, and the proposal did not proceed.

Venezuelan migration – evidence to implementation. Designed registries, dashboards, high-frequency monitoring, and leadership-review mechanisms across Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador; evidence informed service-delivery and policy discussions.

EDUCATION & RECOGNITION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2014. Dissertation chair: Richard Akresh.

M.S., Economics, University of San Andrés, Argentina, 2008.

Licentiate in Economics (Honors), University of San Andrés, Argentina, 2007.

World Bank HD VPU Award (2023) · Poverty GP Peer-to-Peer Award (2021) · World Bank VPU awards (2018–2020) · University of Illinois Department of Economics Award for Excellence in Teaching (2014)

TEACHING & SPEAKING

Cornell University – Guest Lecturer, August 2026. Invited virtual lecture for Data Management and Programming in the Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy Master's program in Data Science and Public Policy, followed by student Q&A; discussed professional trajectory, data and public policy, and the role of data in multilateral institutions.

University teaching. Former Visiting Professor at the University of San Andrés; taught Economics and Econometrics of Poverty and contributed to graduate and undergraduate economics instruction.

SELECTED RESEARCH

The Legacy of Natural Disasters: The Intergenerational Impact of 100 Years of Natural Disasters in Latin America. *Journal of Development Economics*.

Long Run and Intergenerational Effects of Natural Disasters: A Case Study of the 1970 Ancash Earthquake (with Sebastián Miller). *Journal of Development Economics*.

Heat Exposure and Youth Migration in Central America and the Caribbean (with Javier Báez, Valerie Mueller, and Chiyu Niu). *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings*.

Spillover Effects of the Venezuelan Crisis: Migration Impacts in Colombia (with Christian Gómez and Valerie Mueller). *Oxford Economic Papers*.

Detailed Geographic Information, Conflict Exposure, and Health Impacts (with Richard Akresh and Harsha Thirumurthy). *World Development*.

Climate Changes Affect Human Capital (with Ilan Noy and Inés de Marcos). *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*.

Leveraging Unsupervised Machine Learning to Examine Women's Vulnerability to Climate Change (with Valerie Mueller and Alexis Villacis). *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*.

Are We All Playing the Same Game? The Economic Effects of Constitutions Depend on the Degree of Institutionalization (with Mariano Tommasi and Carlos Scartascini). *European Journal of Political Economy*.

Extreme Weather and Poverty Risk: Evidence from Multiple Shocks in Mozambique (with Javier Báez and Chiyu Niu). *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*.

Droughts Augment Youth Migration in Northern Latin America and the Caribbean (with Javier Báez, Valerie Mueller, and Chiyu Niu). *Climatic Change*.

Deprivation and the Dimensionality of Welfare: A Variable-Selection Cluster-Analysis Approach (with Walter Sosa-Escudero and Marcela Svarc). *Review of Income and Wealth*.

From Bad to Worse: The Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Developing Countries – Evidence from Venezuela (with Lautaro Chittaro, María Emilia Cucagna, and Luis Pedro España). *Latin American Economic Review*.

The Scars of Civil War: The Long-Term Welfare Effects of the Salvadoran Armed Conflict (with Pablo Acosta, Javier Báez, and Carlos Carcach). *Economía – LACEA*.

The Distributional Impacts of the Reduction in Remittances in Central America in COVID-19 Times (with María Cucagna and Julieta Ladronis). *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*.

SELECTED POLICY & KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Climate and human capital. How to Protect, Build, and Use Human Capital to Address Climate Change; Avoiding the Meltdown in Human Capital due to Climate Change: Delivering for People and the Planet (World Bank).

Migration and country policy. Una Oportunidad para Todos: Los Migrantes y Refugiados Venezolanos y el Desarrollo del Perú; Migración desde Venezuela a Colombia (World Bank).

MEDIA & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Additional policy work. Country diagnostics, poverty assessments, analytical tools, and statistical-capacity work across Latin America and Africa.

Media & talks. BBC Worklife; Centroamérica Resiliente; World Bank Live; Chicago Policy Review; World Bank Blogs; La Nación; El Litoral.

Academic service. Former Associate Deputy Editor, *Climatic Change*; referee for leading economics and development journals; mentor to researchers and junior economists; invited engagements include the U.S. Department of State, ministries, central banks, IFPRI, UNICEF, IOM, SICA, Oxford, University of Göttingen, Duke/USAID, and LACEA.

LANGUAGES & ANALYTICAL TOOLKIT

Languages: Spanish (native); English (fluent, primary professional language); Portuguese (intermediate); French (basic/intermediate); Italian (basic/intermediate).

Analytics & tools: Applied microeconometrics, microsimulation, poverty and distributional analysis, geospatial and high-frequency analytics, survey and administrative data, machine-learning applications; working familiarity with Python, R, Stata, SQL, Power BI, Tableau, APIs, metadata, and data catalogs.