

Priscilla Bacalhau, PhD

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Areas of Interest: Evaluation | Economics | Education | Research | Social Impact

Summary: Results-driven Ph.D. economist with over a decade of experience in policy-oriented research and evaluation. Proven expertise in designing and leading impactful evaluations, coupled with advanced skills in quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Adept at providing technical assistance, teaching monitoring and evaluation (M&E) courses, and fostering evidence-based decision-making. Exceptional leadership, communication, and people management abilities.

Education

Visiting PhD Researcher

Stanford Graduate School of Education | 2017 - 2018 (Stanford, USA)

PhD in Economics

Getulio Vargas Foundation | 2014 - 2018 (São Paulo, Brazil)

Title: The Economic Benefits of Higher Education: From High School to Labor Market.

Master's Degree in Economics

Getulio Vargas Foundation | 2011 - 2013 (São Paulo, Brazil)

Title: Sorting in Higher Education in Brazil.

Bachelor's Degree in Economics

Federal University of Pernambuco | 2006 - 2010 (Recife, Brazil)

Title: Electric Energy Taxation in Brazil: ICMS Effects on Prices and Impact on Welfare.

Recent Experiences

FOLHA DE S. PAULO | **Columnist**

Jan/2023 – Present

- Publishes a weekly column on the nuances of educational policy, the critical role of evaluation, and the importance of data-driven policy decisions.

CLEAR – LUSOPHONE AFRICA AND BRAZIL | **Evaluation Specialist**

Jul/2020 – Present

- Leads technical assistance on M&E for governments and other partners, coordinating teams with a diverse background.
- Designs and delivers evaluation courses, contributing significantly to evaluation capacity development.
- Develops evaluation guides for governments.

WORLD BANK GROUP | **International Consultant**

May/2020 - Jun/2022

- Collaborated as a strategic partner with the Education team on public educational policy analysis.
- Provided technical assistance to government agencies.
- Conducted quantitative research and impact evaluations, enhancing M&E systems and practices.

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT | Social Impact Consultant

Oct/2015 - Present

- Conducted policy-oriented research and evaluations for UNDP, UNICEF, British Council, Lemann Foundation, among others, focusing on economic development, education, health, and inequality.
- Developed research tools and methodologies, facilitating evidence-based decision-making.
- Coordinated research and managed teams utilizing a wide range of evaluation tools.
- Led professional development training to governments, members of civil society and universities.

INSPER | Research Specialist

Mar/2016 - Mar/2019

- Developed research to support projects and public policies of education systems.
- Coordinated the elaboration and validation of research instruments.

UNIBANCO INSTITUTE | Social and Educational Projects Analyst

Feb/2013 - Jul/2015

- Developed indicators and research instruments.
- Analyzed and managed databases.
- Oversaw impact evaluations and academic research performed by consultants and researchers.
- Produced materials for evaluation and research dissemination.

CENTER OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR, FGV | Research Assistant

Aug/2011 - Jun/2013

- Performed academic literature review and data analysis for impact evaluations.
- Prepared research instruments and reports.

Certifications & Awards

- Leading with Impact | Columbia University - SIPA (2021)
- Data Science R | DataCamp (2020)
- John Frechione Travel Award | Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference (2019)
- Instrument Development for Assessment, Research or Evaluation Purposes | Stanford University (2017)
- Scholarship to study at Stanford University as a visiting researcher | Lemann Fellow (2017)
- Impact Evaluation of Public Policies and Social Projects | Fundação Itaú Social (2013)
- Gold Medal at the 1st Brazilian Mathematical Olympiad for Public Schools (2005)

Skills & Knowledge

- Mastery in Stata, R, SPSS, MS Office, and MAXQDA.
- Multilingual communicator in English and Portuguese, with proficiency in Spanish and French.
- Expertise in both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, leveraging data science for comprehensive evaluations.