María Nathalia Ramírez Chaparro

PhD Student ·

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Education

2023–present	**PhD Fellow in Innovation, Economics, Governance and Sustainable Development (IEGSD)**, UNU-MERIT / Maastricht University, Maastricht, the Netherlands
2020–2021	**M.A. in Development Studies**, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, the Netherlands
2015–2019	**B.A. in Economics, Cum Laude**, Universidad Santo Tomás, Colombia

Professional Experience

2024	**Research Assistant, AFD project on a systematic review of social protection instruments by energy transition pathways**, UNU-MERIT / Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
2022	**Research Assistant, Human Development Report Colombia**, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Colombia
Aug 2021–May 2022	**Intern, Human Development Report Office**, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York / Home-based
2017–2019	**Research Assistant**, Universidad Santo Tomás, Colombia
Dec 2018–Jun 2019	**Leasing SMEs Intern**, Bancolombia, Bucaramanga, Colombia

Other Publications

Published

Book Chapter. Chacón, C., & Ramírez, M. 2019. Propuesta de un instrumento de caracterización socioeconómica para los programas de inclusión productiva dirigidos a la población rural en Colombia. In *Gestión del conocimiento: Perspectiva multidisciplinaria*, 197–212. Venezuela.

Book Chapter. Chacón, C., & Ramírez, M. 2020. Las percepciones sobre los migrantes venezolanos y su inclusión laboral en Bucaramanga. In *Desarrollo humano y educación integral: apuestas formativas de la Universidad Santo Tomás*.

Journal Article. Chacón, C., & Ramírez, M. 2020. Desigualdad en América Latina: contrastes entre el coeficiente de Gini y el índice de Palma. *Conocimiento Global*, 5(1): 11–32.

Institutional Report. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 2023. *Informe Nacional de Desarrollo Humano, Cuaderno 2: Percepciones y bienestar subjetivo en Colombia, más allá de los indicadores*.

Journal Article. Fajardo, E., Plata, L., Romero, H., & Ramírez, M. 2018. Un análisis de series de tiempo de la producción de carbón en Colombia para el periodo 1995–2015. *Revista Espacios*, 39: 5–16.

Journal Article. Fajardo, E., Plata, L., Romero, H., & Ramírez, M. 2018. Determinantes de la calidad de la educación en Colombia a nivel secundario: una aplicación del análisis de correspondencia canónica. *Revista Espacios*, 39: 25–35.

Journal Article. Chacón, C., & Ramírez, M. 2019. Inmersión en los ecosistemas digitales, una forma de mejora de la educación en las áreas rurales en Colombia. *Revista ReveLa*, 8: 52–67.

Blogs, Interviews, and Public Commentary

Blog Post. Ramírez Chaparro, M. N., & Nimeh, Z. 2026. Poverty in the age of extreme inequality: increasingly hidden, persistently unjust. *UNU-MERIT Blog*.

Blog Post. Ramírez Chaparro, M. N. 2025. Share the invisibility of hidden poverty: reflections from a social protection perspective. *UNU-MERIT Blog*.

Interview. Ramírez Chaparro, M. N. 2025. European Youth Event: young activist fights poverty – Interview with Maria Nathalia Ramirez. *UNU-MERIT*.

Invited Public Contribution. Ramírez Chaparro, M. N. 2025. Testimony featured in "The Youth Call to COP30 Leaders" on climate disinformation and climate inaction. *Climate Information Watch*.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2026	**Young Researchers Grant, Álvaro Reyes Call – CEMR**, Project funded: Cartographies of Hidden Poverty
2023–2027	**UNU-MERIT Scholarship**, PhD Fellowship, Maastricht University
2014–2018	**Faculty Academic Excellence Scholarship**, Awarded for highest GPA, Universidad Santo Tomás, Colombia
2014	**Selected Participant, Semillero de Talentos**, COLFUTURO graduate study preparation and advising program

Presentations

2026	**Presenter**, Research Day 2026, School of Business and Economics, Maastricht University, Maastricht, the Netherlands
2025	**Panelist, "Regenerating the Economy: Back to the Future" with Sabina Alkire, Gaël Giraud, and Cristina Calvo**, Economy of Francesco Global Event 2025, Castel Gandolfo, Italy
2025	**Presenter**, "Extraordinary Ideas in Action: Pitches for a New Economy," Economy of Francesco Global Event 2025, Castel Gandolfo, Italy
2025	**Presenter**, 3rd International Conference on Aporophobia, IQS (Institut Químic de Sarrià), online
2025	**Presenter**, 2nd International Conference on Hard-to-Reach Populations: Applied Research and Data Collection Methods with Hidden, Marginal, and Excluded Populations, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
2021	**An index to measure the response of Latin American governments to the COVID-19 pandemic from a multidimensional poverty perspective**, 16th EADI General Conference: Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice, The Hague, Netherlands
2018	**Rural poverty and its multidimensionality in South America: a canonical correspondence analysis**, X Congress of the Latin American Association of Rural Sociology (ALASRU), Montevideo, Uruguay
2018	**Educational quality in Colombia: analysis of canonical correspondence with socioeconomic indicators**, VI Congreso de Economía Colombiana, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

Teaching Experience

Semester 1, 2025–2026	**Tutor, Introduction to Global Studies**, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS), Maastricht University
2025–2026	**Second Reader and Thesis Evaluator; Thesis Supervisor**, Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development (MPP), UNU-MERIT / Maastricht University

Mentoring

2025	**Maria Guadalupe Garcia Alonso**, Mentored for EAAMO'25 – Oxford Local: ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization
2024–2026	**Two MPP students**, Mentor, Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development

Outreach & Professional Development

Service and Outreach

2025–present	**Social Protection Group, UNU-MERIT / Maastricht University**, Co-organizer
2025	**Research Week, UNU-MERIT / Maastricht University**, Co-organizer
2021; 2025	**Ambassadors Platform, socialprotection.org / International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG)**, Ambassador

Workshops and Professional Development

Co-organizer, "Youth and Future Generations: Ensuring Intergenerational Solidarity and Justice," European Youth Event (EYE2025), European Parliament, Strasbourg, France, 2025.

Summer Schools

2025	**University of Oxford**, Participant, 19th Course on Applied Research Methods with Hidden, Marginal and Excluded Populations
2024	**University of Barcelona / ECINEQ**, Participant, Summer School on The Economics of Poverty and Inequality: Global Challenges in the 21st Century
2024	**CERES Research School**, Participant, CERES PhD Training Course

Volunteer Engagement

2019–2020	**Cameroon Association for Active Youth**, UN Volunteer (online)

Professional Memberships

European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), since 2025
Development Studies Association (DSA), since 2025