

Marcelo S. O. Goncalves

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Education

- Duke University** *Durham, NC, USA*
PhD in Public Policy *July 2026*
MA Economics
◦ **Supervisor:** Sarah Bermeo (Co-Chair), Alex Pfaff (Co-Chair), Subhrendu Pattanayak, Edmund Malesky.
- University of California, San Diego** *San Diego, CA, USA*
Master of International Affairs *June 2018*
◦ Concentration: Public Policy
◦ Additional Certificates: Policy Design and Evaluation; Quantitative Analysis
- University of Brasilia** *Brasilia, Brazil*
MA Political Science *April 2007*
BA Political Science *March 2005*
- National School of Public Administration** *Brasilia, Brazil*
Specialization in Public Policy and Management *June 2006*

Publications

Peer-reviewed publications

- Article: [Building resilience in the Global South: Evidence from a decentralized water policy in Brazil](#) [↗](#) - *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (JEEM)*
- Article: [Book Bans in Political Context: Evidence from U.S. Public Schools](#) [↗](#) (2024) *PNAS Nexus*. (with Isabelle Langrock, Jack LaViolette, & Katie Spoon)
- Book Chapter: [Data-Driven Implementation: The Role of Information and Technology in Public Responses to Social Emergencies](#) [↗](#). in: *Pandemic, Lockdown, and Digital Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities for Public Administration, NGOs, and Businesses* (2021): 25-45. (With Bruno B. Cardoso)

Working Papers/ Work in Progress

- The Political Logic of Persistent Deforestation: Electoral Incentives and Public Goods in the Brazilian Amazon (with Pablo Beramendi) - *Submitted/ Editorial Decision Pending*.
- [Grassroots Guardians: How collective institutions Amplify Efforts Against Deforestation in Brazil](#) [↗](#). (With Mateo Villamizar-Chaparro & Subhrendu Pattanayak)
- Institutions, Incentives, and Identity in Land Use Decisions: A Micro-Level Analysis of Deforestation Drivers in the Global South (with Paula J. Sarmiento)
- Access to Water and Climate Change: Adaptation, Fertility Decisions and Birth Outcomes in the Brazilian Semiarid Region (with Marcos Rangel)
- Environmental Governance and Land-Based Conflict: How Environmental Policy Reduces Conflict in the Amazon

Policy reports

- [Climate Related Game Changers: Enhancing Adaptation Program Impact to Address Climate Game Changers](#) [↗](#). Research Technical Assistance Center: Washington, DC. Briefing available [here](#) [↗](#). (with Sarah Bermeo, Sarah W. Dickerson, & Paula J. Sarmiento)

Book chapters

- “O Programa Cisternas como Estratégia de Adaptação Climática (The Cistern Program as a Climate Adaptation Strategy)”. in: *Água para colher futuro: 20 anos do Programa Cisternas* (2024).
- [“Food security and nutrition and the human right to adequate food in Brazil: monitoring indicators and the constitution of 1988 to today”](#) [↗](#) (2010). Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional, Brasília,

Teaching

Instructor of Records

Duke University

Durham, NC, USA

2025

- Political Economy of the Climate and Environment. Graduate seminar for PhD and advanced Master's students.

Teaching Assistant

Duke University

Durham, NC, USA

2022-2024

- Graduate-level courses: Introduction to Statistics; Causal Inference; Master's Project; and Evaluation of Public Expenditures.

Teaching Assistant

University of California, San Diego

San Diego, CA, USA

2016-2018

- Undergraduate courses: Introduction to Statistics, Power and Justice, Introduction to International Relations.
- Graduate courses: Globalization.

Lecturer

Centro Universitário do Distrito Federal (UDF)

Brasilia, Brazil

Feb-July 2013

- Public Policy Evaluation (Undergraduate course).

Lecturer

Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV)

Brasilia, Brazil

Feb-July 2013

- Planning and Budgeting for the MBA in Public Management.

National School of Public Administration (ENAP)

2008-2012

- Professional courses in topics such as Brazilian State and Politics, Globalization, Public Administration and Development, and Ethics and Politics.

University of Brasilia

2006 & 2008

- Introduction to Political Science.

Grants, Awards and Fellowships

- 2025-2026: von der Heyden Global Fellowship, competitive fellowship and Duke Fellowship (\$31,875)
- 2024-2026: Social impact assessment of FSC in Brazil, awarded by Center for International Forestry Research (\$56,000)
- 2024: CLACS Research Travel Grant (\$3,000)
- 2021-2023: Latin American and Caribbean Studies Fellowship Award, Duke University (\$10,000)
- 2021-2022: Race and the Professions Fellowship - The Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University (\$3,000)
- 2017-2018: Dean's Fellow for academic excellence, student leadership and community involvement
- 2016-2018: Global School of Policy and Strategy, University of California, San Diego - Fellowship Award (\$28,500)
- 2005-2006: Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education (CAPES) - Graduate Fellowship
- 2004-2005: Vocation for Diplomacy Award – Rio Branco Institute (Brazilian Diplomacy Academy), (R\$25,000)
- 2002-2004: Special Training Program (fellowship granted by the Ministry of Education to high-performing Undergraduate Students)

Professional & Policy Experience

Before transitioning to Academia, I served as a [Specialist in Public Policy and Management](#) within the Brazilian Federal Civil Service. In this capacity, I have held the following leadership and technical roles:

Senior Policy Advisor

Ministry of Social Development

Brasilia, Brazil

Jan 2019-Aug 2021

- Deputy Chief of Staff of the Secretariat of Evaluation and Information Management (SAGI).

Joint-Secretary for Racial Equality
Ministry of Human Rights

Brasilia, Brazil
Jun 2018-Jan 2019

Chief of Staff
National Council for Food Security

Brasilia, Brazil
Aug 2014-Aug 2016

Policy Analysis Manager
Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil

Brasilia, Brazil
Dec 2012-Aug 2014

Advisor
National Council for Food Security and Ministry of Social Development

Brasilia, Brazil
Feb 2009-Dec 2012

Project Planning Manager
Ministry of Labor and Employment

Brasilia, Brazil
Feb 2008-Feb 2009

Advisor
Ministry of Labor and Employment

Brasilia, Brazil
Jun 2006-Feb 2008

Consulting Projects

- **CIFOR-ICRAF, 2025–2026:** Evaluation of environmental certification schemes, with a focus on development outcomes beyond environmental indicators.
- **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), 2025–2026:** Impact evaluation of water quality on educational outcomes in Brazil.
- **USAID RTAC, 2022:** Assessment of climate “game changers” and requirements for adaptation interventions, emphasizing theory of change, vulnerability metrics, and foresight analysis.
- **Oxfam International, 2022:** Prepared background inputs for the report *Doing Business on Uneven Ground* [↗](#), examining land inequality in agri-food supply chains.

Recent Presentations and Talks

Camp Resources
30th Camp Resources

Asheville, NC, USA
Aug, 2025

- Institutions, Incentives, and Identity: Understanding Deforestation Drivers in the Global South.

EAERE
30th Annual Conf. of the European Assoc. of Environmental Economists

Bergen, Norway
Jun, 2025

- Building Climate Resilience in the Global South: How a Decentralized Water Policy Alleviates Climate Shocks Impacts in Low-Income Communities.

Forest and People
Forest and people: from skyview to local dynamics. Paris School of Economics

Aussois, France
Jun, 2025

- The Political Logic of Persistent Deforestation: Electoral Incentives and Public Goods in the Brazilian Amazon

LAERE
Congress of the Latin American and the Caribbean Assoc. of Environmental and Resource Economists

Bogota, Colombia
March, 2025

- Building Climate Resilience in the Global South: How a Decentralized Water Policy Alleviates Climate Shocks Impacts in Low-Income Communities.

16th EfD Annual Meeting
The 16th Environment for Development (EfD) Annual Meeting

Kampala, Uganda
Sep, 2022

- Institutions for Sustainable Development: Evidence on collective titling, deforestation, and development

Other Projects / Service / Outreach

- Reviewer: *Environment and Development Economics*
- Reviewer: *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.
- Reviewer: World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (WCERE 2026)
- Reviewer: the journal *Questions in Politics*
- Reviewer: *Nexus: The Global South Journal* (Undergraduate Journal)
- Volunteer Work (during undergrad): Co-founder of the projects [Politeia](#) and [Politics at the School](#). Projects designed to promote civic values and educate young students about political participation and democratic institutions.

Skills & Additional Training

Languages: Portuguese (native), English (advanced), Spanish (Intermediate), French (beginner)

Statistical packages and Data Science Tools: STATA, R, Python, Git

Geospatial and Remote Sensing: ArcGIS, Quantum GIS, Google Earth Engine

Other tools: MS Office, Qualtrics, L^AT_EX

Additional training: Summer Institute in Computational Social Science - SICSS (2022); The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research - IQMR, Syracuse University (2023)