

# JEFFERSON RODRIGUEZ NAJERA

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**Research interests:** *development economics; industrial and innovation policy; labor markets; impact evaluation and the political economy of public institutions; public governance*

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Virginia — Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy** May 2026

*Master of Public Policy*

- GPA 3.80/4.00. Fulbright Scholar; Batten Family Bicentennial Scholars Fellow.
- **Quantitative coursework:** Research Methods & Data Analysis I–II; Economics of Public Policy I–II; Advanced Topics in Impact Evaluation; Regional Economic Modeling; Development Economics; Poverty Reduction & Aid Policy; Policy Analysis.

**University of Costa Rica — School of Public Administration, San José** Apr 2020

- *Licentiate in Public Administration* (2020)
- GPA 9.45/10, graduation with honors; specialization in Public Budgeting & Finance. **B.A.** in Public Administration (2018), GPA 9.03/10, graduation with honors.
- **Relevant coursework:** Impact Evaluation; General Statistics; Calculus I; Public Finance.

**University of Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia — Study Abroad Semester** Jan–Jun 2018

- International Studies Office Scholarship (two awards). Coursework: Introduction to Policy Analysis; The Right to the City; Public Management Practice.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Independent Researcher — University of Virginia** Aug 2025–May 2026

*Impact Evaluation of Costa Rica's National Judicial Facilitators Service (SNFJ) · supervised by Prof. Daniel Player*

- Designed and executed a full-cycle quasi-experimental impact evaluation of a nationwide judicial-access program; built the identification strategy, data pipeline, and econometric models from scratch in Stata.
- Estimated program effects with a staggered difference-in-differences estimator, supported by two-way fixed effects, event studies, Poisson PPML, and a full battery of robustness and falsification tests.
- Assembled an administrative panel dataset from raw institutional records (2000–2025), producing the first causal evidence on the program. Working paper in progress.

**Research Assistant — Center for Social Innovation, University of Virginia** Mar 2025–May 2026

*Development economics · supervised by Prof. Molly Lipscomb*

- **Electricity Subsidies and Firm Performance (Argentina):** sourced and built nationwide firm-level and regulatory data from scratch, expanding the study from a single province to the whole country; contributed to identification, econometric modeling, robustness testing, and paper figures.
- **Public Investment and Development Outcomes (Colombia):** built territorial administrative datasets via Python web scraping and APIs; tested OLS, instrumental variables, LASSO, and machine-learning specifications on sanitation, education, and health outcomes.
- Documented all work with fully commented scripts, data visualizations, and technical memoranda.

**Research Coordinator — Innovaap / CICAP, University of Costa Rica** Jan 2020–Jun 2022

- Led a team of undergraduate researchers and coordinated every phase (survey design, analysis, interpretation) of a study on public-employment trends; the work resulted in a peer-reviewed publication in *Administrar lo Público* (coordinator, not a listed author).

## POLICY & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Independent Consultant — National Emergency Commission (CNE), Costa Rica** Aug 2025–May 2026

*Master's thesis*

- Full-cycle policy analysis (systematic literature review, cost-benefit evaluation, M&E design) on flood-induced displacement and planned relocation in Esparza, Puntarenas.

## Senior Policy Analyst — Judicial Branch of Costa Rica

Sep 2021–Jun 2024

- Led the nationwide Open Data Protocol, doubling the institution's public datasets (2022–2023); designed a regionally unprecedented inclusive-data pilot (gender identity and sexual orientation) deployed across four offices serving 10,000+ weekly users.
- Directed the geospatial-model-based urban expansion of the facilitators program: +15% national coverage and +7% active facilitators within six months.

## Senior Project Manager — CICAP, University of Costa Rica

Sep 2019–Aug 2021

- Led organizational-redesign and mixed-methods regulatory studies (JPS, 911 Emergency System, ARESEP transport study); mobilized USD 1M+ over two years.

## Co-founder & Area Coordinator — Idea Pública / Innovaap, UCR

Jul 2018–Jun 2022

- Co-founded Costa Rica's first public-innovation lab; deployed a policy-analysis methodology across 12 municipalities for the OAS Trust for the Americas; led a 15-person team.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Rodríguez-Nájera, J. (2026). From Invisibility to Evidence: Reflections on Inclusive Participatory Data Collection in the Costa Rican Judiciary. *Revista del CLAD Reforma y Democracia*, (95). (Accepted, pending publication)
- Rodríguez Nájera, J., Barquero Gamboa, C., & Hernández Cruz, O. (2021). Strategic linking of cultural public policies: case analysis of Belén, Santa Ana and Escazú. *Administrar lo Público*, 9th ed., 1(1), 70–82. ISBN 978-9968-932-41-7.
- Rodríguez Nájera, J., Barrantes Herrera, A., & Hurtado Herrera, A. (2020). Cultural public policy implementation: a compared study of management models in Santa Ana, Escazú, and Belén. *Universidad de Costa Rica*.
- Rodríguez, J., Fernández, C., Calderón, C., Calderón, J., & Umaña, J. (2018). Collaboration networks for local innovation. OAS, Trust for the Americas & Innovaap UCR.

## SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

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- **Software:** Stata (advanced); Python; R; Power BI, Tableau; Excel; MS Project.
- **Methods:** Difference-in-differences; causal inference; instrumental variables; LASSO and machine learning; event studies; panel data; cost-benefit analysis; survey design; geospatial analysis; mixed-methods research.
- **Certifications:** Certified in Behavioral Economics (IDB–INDES); Python Fundamentals; Power BI.
- **Languages:** Spanish (native); English (advanced; TOEFL iBT 105/120).

## TEACHING

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- Teaching Assistant, “Leadership in the Public Arena,” University of Virginia (2026); Junior Lecturer, School of Public Administration, University of Costa Rica (2020–2024).