

MATÍAS DENEKEN

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ABOUT ME

Sociologist and Data Scientist; founder of [Methodo+Lab](#). My research focuses on violence, legitimacy, and political discourse, with a current interest in natural language processing and causal inference. I have worked across multiple research centres funded by national science ministries and am currently seeking PhD opportunities in methodology, data science, or computational social science.

EDUCATION

- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile** 2022 - 2023
Master of Arts in Sociology Santiago, Chile
 - Grade: 6.5/7
- Data and Artificial Intelligence Center - Universidad de Concepción** March 2024 - Dec. 2025
Master in Data Science and Innovation Concepción, Chile
 - GPA: *In course*
- Universidad de Concepción** 2017 - 2021
Bachelor in Sociology Concepción, Chile
 - GPA: 6.3/7

DIPLOMAS, COURSES, AND INTERNSHIPS

- Internship at the Institute for Applied Computational Science (IACS)** Jun. 2024
Harvard University 
 - Research internship focused on computational methods applied to social science problems.
 - Developed skills in high-performance computing, data analysis, and applied machine learning.
- Mixed Methods Summer School (EVMM)** Jan. 2024
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile 
 - Advanced training in integrating qualitative and quantitative research designs.
 - Applied mixed methods to projects on political attitudes and social behavior.
- Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Data Processing and Analysis in R (96 hours)** Mar. – Dec. 2021
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile 
 - In-depth coursework on statistical programming, data cleaning, and visualization in R.
 - Completed applied projects involving large-scale social survey datasets.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Fulbright Program - Equal Opportunity Scholarship [Suspended]** 2024
Fulbright Commission and Ministry of Science, Chile 
 - Scholarship awarded to pursue a fully funded PhD in the United States from 2027.
 - Granted in recognition of outstanding academic performance and research potential.
- ANID Scholarship – National Master’s No. 22220115** 2022 – 2024
National Agency for Research and Development (ANID), Chile 
 - Competitive national scholarship to pursue a fully funded Master’s degree in Chile.
 - Awarded based on academic record, research trajectory, and future potential.
- University of Concepción Award** 2022
University of Concepción 
 - Institutional award recognizing outstanding academic excellence in the Sociology program.
 - Includes formal university recognition and support to continue postgraduate studies.
- Best Sociology Student – University of Concepción** 2021
University of Concepción 
 - Awarded to the top-performing student in the Sociology program (Cohort 2017–2021).
 - Recognizes sustained academic excellence throughout the undergraduate degree.

WORK EXPERIENCE (RECENT)

- **Founder**
MethodoLab

◦ Developed interactive web applications for data exploration and communication.

◦ Processed and analyzed large-scale datasets in education, music, and culture.

◦ Applied machine learning methods to social and behavioral data.

Jan. 2026 – Present | Online
- **Research Assistant**
Observatory of Violence and Social Legitimacy (OLES)

◦ Contributed to the *Estudio Longitudinal de Percepciones y Seguridad (ELSEP)* [Click].

◦ Managed survey documentation and research data in Harvard Dataverse [Click].

◦ Designed and maintained large-scale research databases to support longitudinal survey operations and reproducible analysis.

◦ Built automated web-scraping pipelines for national newspapers to construct longitudinal corpora for computational text analysis.

◦ Conducted institutional document analysis to support policy-oriented reports and research outputs.

Jan. 2024 – Present | Santiago, Chile
- **Coordinator, Quantitative Studies Researcher**
Center for Intercultural and Indigenous Studies (CIIR)

◦ Led technical coordination for the *Longitudinal Survey on Intercultural Relations (ELRI)* – Wave 4.

◦ Managed survey documentation and research data in Harvard Dataverse [Click].

◦ Collaborated with UNDP–CIIR on policy briefs related to the Constitutional Council process.

◦ Coordinated and co-edited the book *Intercultural Change in Chile*.

Dec. 2022 – Nov. 2025 | Santiago, Chile
- **Research Assistant**
FONDECYT Project: The Right Wing in Dispute: Ideology and Tactics in Contemporary Chile

◦ Implemented large-scale web scraping of Chilean online newspapers (2016–2024) to build a longitudinal political news corpus.

◦ Applied natural language processing methods to analyze political discourse and ideological positioning.

Nov. 2024 – Sept. 2025 | Santiago, Chile

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Methodological Advisor**
PREATI – FONDEF IDeA I+D (21I10037), Santiago & Villarrica, Chile

◦ Co-developed measurement indicators for assessing Indigenous tourism activity.

◦ Facilitated focus groups with Indigenous communities in multiple territories.

◦ Coordinated the implementation of the PREATI national survey.

◦ Designed visual analytics for stakeholder reports.

Jan. 2023 – Sept. 2024
- **Research Assistant**
Fondecyt Project N° 11200900: Refounding Sociology in Chile – Santiago & Valparaíso, Chile

◦ Conducted in-depth interviews with key sociological actors.

◦ Collected and systematized archival materials.

◦ Contributed to the writing of peer-reviewed journal articles.

Mar. 2021 – Oct. 2023
- **Principal Investigator**
VRID-UDEC Project 220.172.027: Trends in Suicide Mortality in Chile – Concepción, Chile

◦ Cleaned and prepared DEIS mortality database for statistical analysis.

◦ Performed advanced statistical modeling of suicide trends.

◦ Produced data visualizations using ggplot2 for dissemination.

Oct. 2020 – May. 2021
- **Research Assistant**
VRID-UDEC Project 218.058.009: Discussion on Education in Chile (2017–2018) – Concepción, Chile

◦ Conducted archival research on educational policy debates.

◦ Interviewed key stakeholders in the Chilean higher education system.

Dec. 2018 – Dec. 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Instructor** 2025
Centro de Estudios Interculturales e Indígenas – Santiago, Chile
 - **Continuing education:** *InteRcultural: Computational techniques in social sciences applied to intercultural relations*
- **Teaching Assistant – Institute of Sociology** 2022 – 2024
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile – Santiago, Chile
 - **Graduate level:** Advanced Data Processing in R [SOL4001] (2S 2022, 2S 2023).
 - **Undergraduate level:** Qualitative Research Techniques [SOL133] (1S 2022), Formation and Development of Latin American Culture [SOL127] (2S 2022), Data Analysis II [SOL114] (2S 2022).
- **Teaching Assistant – Department of Sociology** 2018 – 2021
University of Concepción – Concepción, Chile
 - **Undergraduate level:** Research Methodology (1S 2018, 1S 2019, 1S 2020), Latin American Sociology (1S 2020, 1S 2021), Numerical Data Analysis I (1S 2020, 1S 2021), Methods and Techniques of Qualitative Research (1S 2020, 1S 2021).
- **Teaching Assistant – Department of Psychology** 2020 – 2021
University of Concepción – Concepción, Chile
 - **Undergraduate level:** Social Bases of Human Behavior (2020, 2021).
- **Teaching Assistant – Department of Political Science** 2021
University of Concepción – Concepción, Chile
 - **Undergraduate level:** Foundations of Social Theory (1S 2021).

PUBLICATIONS

Papers

- Díaz, F., González, R., & **Deneken, M.** (Under review). **How Intergroup Contact and Social Norms Shape Outgroup Trust Over Time among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.** *Political Psychology*.
- Gerber, M. M., Castelo Branco, F., Cubas, V., Sáez-Fuentealba, L., de Oliveira, A. R., **Deneken, M.**, & Jackson, J. (Under review). **Fear of the police and the fragility of legitimacy: Insights from Chile and Brazil.** *International Journal of Social Psychology*.
- Alenda, S., Sandoval, C., Somma, N., & **Deneken, M.** (Under review). Varieties of Radical Right Discourse in Chile: A Comparative Analysis of José Antonio Kast and Johannes Kaiser. *Latin American Research Review*.
- **Deneken, M.** (2025). **The Brief History of the Center for the Study of National Reality, CEREN (1968–1973).** *Revista Temas Sociológicos*, 37. [Spanish]
- Maltrain, V., Cárdenas, J. C., Iglesias, M., **Deneken, M.** (2023). **"Camouflaged Sociology" at ARCIS (1984–1991): Critique, Commitment, and Militancy.** *Revista Izquierdas*, 52. [Spanish]

Books

- **Deneken, M.** & Valenzuela, E. (2025). *Radiografía del cambio intercultural en Chile: Dinámicas contemporáneas entre población indígena y no indígena.* Editorial Catalonia.

Book Chapters

- Valenzuela, E., & **Deneken, M.** (2025). *El problema de la identificación indígena: Un análisis longitudinal.* En Deneken, M. & E. Valenzuela (Eds.), *(Re)configuraciones interculturales.* Editorial Catalonia.
- **Deneken, M.** (2025). *Descifrando el voto de indígenas y no indígenas en Chile en el referéndum constitucional del 4 de septiembre de 2022: Un enfoque psicosocial.* En Deneken, M. & E. Valenzuela (Eds.), *(Re)configuraciones interculturales.* Editorial Catalonia.
- **Deneken, M.** (2023). *An Exonerated Story: The Center for the Study of National Reality (1968–1973).* In Karle, C. (Ed.), *CEREN, an Unfinished Project. 50 Years Later* (pp. 23–33). Ediciones FEUC.

Other publications

- **Deneken, M.**, Valenzuela, E., & Murray, M. (2025, October 5). *Indígenas y no indígenas frente al espejo.* Tercera Dosis.
- González-Biedma, L., **Deneken, M.**, & González-Arias, J. (2025). *Quali-quantitative data collection techniques and instruments: Analysis of socioeconomic determinants for university admission in Chile* [SPANISH: Técnicas e instrumentos de recolección de datos cuali-cuantitativos. Análisis de determinantes socioeconómicos para la admisión universitaria en Chile]. *Revista Educación Iberoamericana: Investigación y Reflexión*, 1(1), 59–70.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATION

2026

- **Deneken, M. (2025). (Re)configuraciones interculturales: A longitudinal analysis of Indigenous–non-Indigenous dynamics in Chile (2016–2023).** Book presentation at *LASA 2026 – Latin American Studies Association Congress*.

2025

- Gerber, M. M., Figueredo, A., **Deneken, M.**, & Bahamondes, J. (2025). **State violence and resistance: Police violence, human rights and anti-repression measures.** *International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting*.
- **Deneken, M.**, Díaz, F., González, R., & Fuenzalida, D. (2025). **A longitudinal examination of factors facilitating and hindering intergroup trust: Dynamics between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Chile (2016–2023).** *International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting*.
- **Deneken, M. (2025). A radiography of media coverage of the police in Chile: A longitudinal analysis of online press (2000–2024).** Paper presented at the panel *Police Legitimacy and the Democratic Process in Chile* (Panel VIO–668), *LASA 2025 – Latin American Studies Association Congress*.

2024

- **Deneken, M.**, Díaz, F., González, R., & Fuenzalida, D. (2024). **A Longitudinal Examination of Factors Facilitating and Hindering Intergroup Trust: Dynamics between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People in Chile (2016–2023).** *La Triada Conference – Latin American Congress of Social Sciences and Government*.
- Cárdenas, J.C., **Deneken, M.**, & Maltrain, V. (2024). **Sociology in Post-Dictatorship Chile.** *XII Chilean Sociology Congress – Universidad Diego Portales*.

2023

- Cárdenas, J.C., **Deneken, M.**, & Maltrain, V. (2023). **Refounding Sociology in Chile: Camp Disputes, Shifts, and Continuities in Sociological Knowledge Production and Use in the Post-Dictatorship Era (1990–2020).** *Seminar on Chilean Sociology in Post-Dictatorship – Universidad de Valparaíso*.

2022

- **Deneken, M. (2022). Masonry, MAPU, and MIR: The Refoundation and Deployment of Sociology at Universidad de Concepción (1991–2000).** *XXXII Congress of the Latin American Sociology Association – UNAM, Mexico*.
- **Deneken, M. (2022). Train to the South: The Refoundation of Sociology at Universidad de Concepción.** *Chilean Sociology Congress – Universidad de Concepción*.

2021

- **Deneken, M.** & Cárdenas, J. (2021). **The Refoundation of Sociology at Universidad de Concepción.** *XIV Sociology Workshop – UBA, Argentina*.
- Montero, V., Santibáñez, C., Ortiz, C., & **Deneken, M. (2021). Disagreement and Polarization in Higher Education: Free Tuition and Profit in Perspective.** *Research Colloquium – Universidad de Concepción*.

2019

- Montero, V. & **Deneken, M. (2019). The Tension between Free Tuition and Profit in the 2018 Educational Reform.** *XXXII Congress of the Latin American Sociology Association – Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Peru*.
- **Deneken, M. (2019). The Chilean Right in the Post-Transition: The Case of José Antonio Kast.** *XXXII Congress of the Latin American Sociology Association – Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Peru*.

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Data Processing	R, Python, Stata, SQL
Information Management	ATLAS.ti, Mendeley, Zotero
Text Processing	Microsoft Office, L ^A T _E X

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **Secretary General – UC Graduate Student Academic Council (CADEPUC),** [link](#) 2022 – 2023
- **Master’s Representative – Institute of Sociology, UC** 2022

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- **Guest interview.** Centro de Estudios Interculturales e Indígenas (CIIR). (2025). *Intermedio Podcast — Episode 14: Matías Deneken* [Video]. YouTube. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Name mentioned (as a researcher on right-wing studies/projects).** Gómez, A. (2025, May 18). *Republicans and libertarian nationalists: How the new right-wing currents resemble and differ from each other.* *La Tercera.* [\[Link\]](#)

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

poesiaR (R package)

Creator & maintainer — R package for importing, cleaning, and analyzing poetry corpora.

matdknu.github.io/poesiaR

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Latin American Studies Association | 2023 – Present |
| • International Society of Political Psychology | 2024 – Present |
| • International Sociological Association | 2024 – Present |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (B2)
Interests: Natural Language Processing, Computational Social Science

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- **Mónica Gerber, PhD Social Research - London School of Economics**
Government School, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- **Roberto González, PhD Psychology - Kent University**
Psychology School, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- **Mauricio Bucca, PhD Sociology - Cornell University**
Sociology Institue, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile