Alejandra Leyva

Political Scientist | AI Safety Researcher

Personal Website | Email | LinkedIn | Substack

SKILLS

- Evidence-based public policy advisory and brief-writing for senior stakeholders
- Empirical research and mixed-methods analysis (quantitative & qualitative)
- Client and stakeholder management in cross-functional teams
- Frontier AI governance, model evaluations and AI safety policy frameworks
- Statistical and analytical tools (Stata, QGIS, Power BI, Excel; basic Python for analysis)
- AI-powered media and information monitoring (Signal AI, Cision, Brandwatch)
- Strategic communication and narrative building for complex, technical topics
- Data visualisation and insight reporting for non-technical audiences

LANGUAGES

- Spanish - Native
- English - Professional
- French - Intermediate

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Political scientist and researcher focused on AI governance, international coordination, the role of middle powers and institutional preparedness for advanced AI. I use mixed methods, game theory and forecasting in my research. My current work explores AI sovereignty and how middle powers can coordinate their leverage to influence frontier AI developers. I also lead expert roundtables on human value and claims in post-control AI scenarios. Alongside this, I am developing an advocacy campaign, open letter and policy brief on AI-enabled autonomous weapons.

AI GOVERNANCE & SAFETY EXPERIENCE

Sentient Futures | Project Incubator Fellow, Post-Control Initiative | 2026 – ongoing
Design and lead interdisciplinary expert roundtables exploring human claims and cooperation in post-control AI scenarios, with key findings synthesised in a research report.

Sapiens First | Fellow, Advocacy track | 2026 – ongoing
Developing an advocacy campaign, open letter and policy brief proposing restrictions on AI-enabled autonomous weapons in California, particularly in civilian and law-enforcement settings.

Project AWARE | Selected Researcher, Country Governance, Colombia | 2026 – Present
Assessing Colombia's exposure to foreign AI systems, identifying institutional and policy gaps, and developing recommendations to strengthen national AI governance and its bargaining position with foreign AI providers.

AI Safety Hackathons | 2026

- **Apart Research | Global South AI Safety Hackathon.** Developed an AI Sovereignty Risk Map and original dataset of Mexican government AI actions to assess institutional preparedness and identify gaps in national AI governance. Paper submitted to SLAS 2027.
- **LISA and BlueDot Impact| Breaking barriers to AI Safety**. Developed a UK AI safety policy framework by mapping existing institutions and policy proposals, identifying governance gaps, and recommending areas for greater institutional coordination.

BlueDot Impact | Frontier AI Governance Course | 2026
Completed intensive training in frontier AI risks, governance frameworks, evaluations, compute governance and policy responses to advanced AI systems.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Signal AI, Remote / London, UK
Project-based Risk Analyst, Jan 2026 – Present | Research Analyst, Jul 2022 – Jul 2023

- Drove research and reporting for clients including Decathlon, Diageo, DeepMind and Netflix, turning media, risk and reputation data into executive-level insights and recommendations for senior stakeholders.
- Aligned clients, engineering and product teams, translating client needs into requirements and validating that delivered tools work in real operations.
- Co-developed and validated topic taxonomies on regulation, compliance and public accountability, drawing on political science training to improve model outputs.
- Designed thematic datasets, queried media intelligence APIs and designed Power BI dashboards to analyse key trends.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Supreme Court of the Electoral Judiciary (TEPJF), Mexico City

Senior Policy Adviser, Jan 2025 – Oct 2025 | Policy Adviser, Mar 2018 – Jul 2019

- Strategically led policy-relevant research supporting judgments on complex cases related to democracy and security at Mexico's highest electoral court, synthesising quantitative data, case files and context into recommendations for Magistrate Reyes Rodríguez Mondragón.
- Designed and developed early-warning systems and dashboards (Power BI, QGIS, Stata) mapping judicial trends, voting patterns, and institutional risks for senior decision-makers.
- Distilled public-facing explanations of complex rulings, translating dense legal reasoning into accessible narratives for the press and public.

META (Facebook) via Insight Select, London, UK

Media Strategic Analyst, Jul 2023 – Feb 2024

- Spearheaded evidence-driven analyses on news cycles surrounding data-use policy, privacy regulation, and AI-related issues in Europe for senior leaders.
- Monitored journalists, watchdog groups, and policymakers to assess reputational and regulatory exposure.
- Delivered concise, time-sensitive insights supporting measurement and PR teams during product launches and crises, for example, the use of user data for AI training purposes.

Centric Community Projects, London, UK

Trustee, Nov 2021 – Jul 2024

- Oversaw governance and compliance for charitable initiatives, supporting the allocation of resources to community organizations across the UK.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

- **TerraVerde Sustainability, London, UK** | Researcher | Nov 2021 – Jul 2022. Analysed legal frameworks impacting environmental and tourism sectors, providing actionable policy insights for business and regulatory adaptation.
- **Centre for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE), Mexico City** | Project Analyst | Nov 2017 – Mar 2019. Conducted quantitative studies on justice reforms, focusing on behavioural responses to legal changes in gender and violence.
- **Political Communication Workshop (SPIN), Mexico City** | Political Consultant | Sep 2017 – Mar 2018. Led media strategy during political crises, integrating media monitoring tools to improve decision-making under pressure.
- **Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal (TEPJF), Toluca** | Investigator | Mar 2015 – Mar 2016. Conducted behavioural analysis on how violence impacted voter participation and judicial decisions on electoral integrity.
- **National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH), Mexico City** | Research Assistant | Sep 2013 – Mar 2015. Built and managed databases tracking national human rights violations, including intentional homicides and armed group activities.

EDUCATION

Loughborough University, London, UK

M.Sc. Security, Peacebuilding and Diplomacy, 2019 – 2021

- Awarded Best Dissertation of the Institute.
- Dissertation: How political leadership strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic influenced public trust and policy effectiveness (mixed-methods analysis across diverse political regimes).

Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM), Mexico City

B.A. in Political Science, 2010 – 2015

- Thesis: Developed an econometric model using municipal-level homicide data to examine the relationship between women's autonomy and gender-based violence in Mexico (2000–2015).