

María del Carmen Huerta, PhD

Policy analyst with wide research experience acquired in international organisations, research institutions and national government. Broad knowledge of a wide range of social policy issues including early childhood education and care, child health, child well-being and poverty. Worked conducting statistical analyses of large-scale longitudinal studies. Interested in child development and the role of policies in influencing positive outcomes, especially among disadvantaged children. Hard-working, highly committed, independent and motivated to deliver results. Trilingual: native language is Spanish, fluent in English, working knowledge of French and basic Italian.

Experience

Consultant

May 2018 – April 2021

Imperial College, London

Research working on a 3-year grant project, funded by the Health Foundation (PI, Franco Sassi): “Does childhood obesity hinder human capital development?”. Remote, part-time work (20 hours a week).

March 2017– May 2018

World Bank, Social Protection and Labour

Provide technical support to a project assessing the long-term impact of Prospera (originally Progresá and then Oportunidades), Mexico’s main anti-poverty programme. Tasks have included: contributing to the integration of a historical panel of households (1997-2018); evaluating the quality of panel data; preparing a technical note and materials for presentations with experts and researchers.

January 2017 – April 2018

CAF, Development Bank of Latin America

Support the preparation and delivery of a workshop on evaluation methods to measure social and emotional skills, aimed at Latin American public entities participating in the Regional Bureau for Cooperation on Transversal and Socioemotional Skills (MESACTS- acronym in Spanish).

October 2017 – December 2017

OECD, Social Policy Division

Support the OECD in evaluating Mexico’s social progress over the last 25 years along the following dimensions: health, education, nutrition and access to jobs.

Education Policy Analyst

OECD, Education and Skills Directorate

November 2015– July 2017

Project management and supervision in Early Childhood Education and Care team

- Planned and managed the work for developing a Policy Review on Transitions from ECEC to Primary School.
- Contributed to the production of [Starting Strong V](#) report, by drafting one chapter, peer-reviewing other chapters and preparing the launch of the report with the communications team.
- Contributed to planning and managing the work of the ECEC Network, including the organisation of biannual ECEC Network meetings.
- Identified and recruited experts for specific tasks to be commissioned externally.
- Worked with and supervised junior analysts, consultants and support staff.

Education Policy Analyst

OECD, Education and Skills Directorate

June 2015– November 2015 (stage)

Member of the Scotland review team

- Prepared and participated in the review of Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence.
- Collaborated to tasks related with the launch of the report, including presenting findings to high-level officials.
- Supervised the work of research assistant.

Education Policy Analyst in CERI

OECD, Education and Skills Directorate

October 2013– October 2015

Preparation of developmental work of a longitudinal study on social and emotional skills

- Made important contributions to developing the proposal of the [longitudinal study on social and emotional skills](#) (e.g., conceptual framework, defining target population; specifying data collection instruments and methods; and, producing cost estimates).
- Contributed to the preparation of meetings, including expert meetings, steering group meetings and a high-level policy forum in Brazil.
- Produced a variety of documents such as the call for tender, brochures, summaries of project proposal, summary records of expert meetings, speeches, technical documents and an academic paper.

Policy analysis

- Contributed to the production of the Skills for Social Progress Report, by drafting one chapter, peer-reviewing other chapters and preparing the launch of the report with the communications team.
- Supervised work by other colleagues.

Liaison

- Lead and established effective communication with partners, in particular in the Latin American Region.
- Actively involved in the communication with experts, representatives of school jurisdictions and potential partners (foundations).

Social Policy analyst

OECD, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate

April 2008 – April 2013

- Contributed to developing the OECD Family Database, a tool with information of more than 60 indicators on the situation of families and children (www.oecd.org/social/family/database).
- Coordinated two research projects using birth cohort studies in five OECD countries to examine how parental behaviour influences child cognitive and behavioural outcomes.
- Conducted cross-country comparative analyses on family and child policies and outcomes using data from different sources including large-scale child and household surveys.
- Drafted reports, articles, briefs and country notes on a number of social policy issues.
- Represented the OECD in international expert meetings and conferences.

Researcher**National Centre for Social Research, London**

September 2007 – March 2008

Participated in all research phases of two national studies looking at maternity leave, childcare and early years services. Research phases included questionnaire and sample design, pilot testing, monitoring data collection, data analysis and drafting reports.

Research Officer**LSE, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London**

September 2005 – September 2007

- Conducted high-quality, rigorous analysis using large longitudinal surveys (e.g., Millennium Cohort Study) to examine the pathways through which family circumstances influences outcomes later in life, including children's cognitive and non-cognitive development.
- Published in peer-reviews journals and disseminated findings in international conferences.
- Organised and chaired internal seminars.

Teacher Assistant**London School of Economics and Political Science, London**

October 2002 – July 2005

- Teaching undergraduate and graduate students Basic Population Analysis.

Advisor to *Oportunidades***Ministry of Social Development, Mexico**

January 1999 – December 2000

- Participated in all phase of the evaluation of Mexico's main anti-poverty programme, including designing questionnaires, briefing and supervising field-work, conducting interviews, data cleaning and data analysis.
- Worked closely with national and international research organisations.
- Drafted official documents, briefs and evaluation reports.

Education**PhD in Social Policy (2001 – 2005) London School of Economics**Thesis: Child Health and Nutrition in Rural Mexico: Did *Progresa* improve the life chances of the very poor?

Funded: 100% scholarship

Investigated to what extent Progresa (Mexico's main anti-poverty programme) improved different aspects of child well-being. Analyses were conducted using a unique data set that contained a longitudinal randomised treatment and control sample. The findings provided useful recommendations for child poverty alleviation strategies in Mexico and other developing countries.

MSc in Demography (1997 – 1998) London School of Economics

Thesis: Child Malnutrition in Guatemala and Colombia.

Funded: 100% scholarship

BSc in Actuarial Science (1990 – 1994) Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

List of Publications

- Huerta M.C. (2018), "Evaluación de Habilidades Socioemocionales y Transversales: Un Estado del Arte", Nota Conceptual para el Taller de Evaluación, Data y Sistemas de Información, DIALOGAS, Adelante, Agcid Chile, MESACTS y CAF-banco de desarrollo de América Latina.
- Huerta M.C. and L. Panico (2018), "Evaluating the evidence of the importance of extracurricular activities in promoting socio-emotional skills", Annex 10 in *Les Temps es les lieux tiers des enfants et adolescents hors maison et hors scolarite*, Conseil de l'Enfance et de l'Adolescence, Paris, <http://www.strategie.gouv.fr/publications/temps-lieux-tiers-enfants-adolescents-maison-scolarite>.
- Taguma, M, A. Engel and M.C. Huerta (2016), "More needs to be done to reap multiple benefits of monitoring quality", *Early Childhood Matters*, Vol. 125, pp. 83-84.
- OECD (co-author) (2015), "Improving Schools in Scotland: An OECD Perspective", OECD Publishing, Paris.
- OECD (co-author) (2015), "Skills for Social Progress: The Power of Social and Emotional Skills", OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Miyamoto, K., Huerta, M.C. and Kubacka, K. (2015), "Fostering Social and Emotional Skills for Well-Being and Social Progress". *European Journal of Education*, Vol. 50, pp. 147–159.
- Huerta M.C., W. Adema, J. Baxter, W.J. Han, M. Lausten, R. Lee and J. Waldfogel (2014), "Fathers' Leave and Fathers' Involvement: Evidence from Four OECD Countries", *European Journal of Social Security*, Vol. 16/4, pp. 308-346.
- Huerta, M.C., W. Adema, J. Baxter, W.J. Han, M. Lausten, R.H. Lee and J. Waldfogel (2013), "Fathers' Leave, Fathers' Involvement and Child Development: Are They Related? Evidence from Four OECD countries", *Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 140*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Huerta, M.C. and A. Goglio (2012), "Combatir la pobreza y la desigualdad" in *Getting it Right: Una agenda estratégica para las reformas de Mexico*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Huerta, M.C. and P. Marianna (2012), "Mejorar el acceso al empleo formal" in *Getting it Right: Una agenda estratégica para las reformas de Mexico*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- OECD (co-author) (2012), "Closing the Gender Gap: Act Now", OECD Publishing, Paris.
- OECD (co-author) (2011), "Doing Better for Families", OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Huerta, M.C., W. Adema, J. Baxter, M. Corak, M. Deding, W.J. Han and J. Waldfogel (2011), "Early Maternal Employment and Child Development in Five OECD countries", *Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 118*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Huerta, M.C. and F. Borgonovi (2010), "Education, alcohol use and abuse among young adults in Britain", *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol. 71, pp. 143-151.
- Borgonovi, F. and M.C. Huerta (2009), "Adversity in childhood and mental health in adulthood: the role of social capital", *Social Policy and Society*, Vol. 8/1, pp. 99-113.
- Burchardt, T. and M.C. Huerta (2009), "Introduction: Resilience and Social Exclusion", *Social Policy and Society*, Vol. 8/1, pp. 59-61.
- La Valle I., Clery, L. and M.C. Huerta (2008), "Maternity Rights and Benefits 2007", *Department for Work Pensions Report No. 496*, London.

Kiernan, K. and M.C. Huerta (2008), "Economic Deprivation, Maternal Depression, Parenting and Child's Cognitive and Emotional Development in Early Childhood", *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 59/4, pp.783-806.

Lewis, J., Campbell, M. and M.C. Huerta (2008), "Patterns of Paid and Unpaid Work in Western Europe: Gender Commodification, Preferences and Policy Implications", *Journal of European Policy*, Vol. 18/1, pp.783-806.

Huerta, M.C. (2006), "Child Health in Rural Mexico: Did Progresa reduce children's morbidity risks?", *Journal of Social Policy and Administration*, Vol. 40, No. 6.

Stewart, K. and M.C. Huerta (2006), "Reinvesting in Children? Policies for the Very Young in South Eastern Europe and the CIS", *Innocenti Working Paper 2006-01*.

Conferences, seminars and workshops attended (past 5 years)

Workshop on Evaluation Methods to Measure Socioemotional and Transversal Skills; DIALOGAS, Adelante, Agcid Chile, MESACTS y CAF-banco de desarrollo de América Latina; Bogota, Colombia; April 11-13, 2018.

[NCDS 60 years of our lives](#); Centre for Longitudinal Studies; London, United Kingdom, March 8-9, 2018.

[Global Change Leaders](#) in Education; Ashoka; Lyon, France; Jan 31- Feb 3, 2018.

Second International Seminar: Connecting technical and methodological advances with the design of public policies for the development of socioemotional and transversal skills throughout the life cycle: a need and a challenge; DIALOGAS, Adelante, Agcid Chile, MESACTS y CAF; Santiago, Chile, 18-20 October, 2017.

21st OECD Early Childhood Education and Care Network Meeting; Lisbon, Portugal; July 3-5, 2017.

[A Great Start In Life Conference](#); European Commission; Brussels, Belgium; Nov 30 and Dec 1, 2016.

20th OECD Early Childhood Education and Care Network Meeting; Hungary, Budapest; November 17-18, 2016.

19th OECD Early Childhood Education and Care Network Meeting; Luxembourg; June 9-10, 2016.

1st International Early Childhood Action Congress; Ensemble for Early Childhood Education; June 6-7, 2016.

[¿Qué evaluar para una educación integral y de calidad?](#); Congreso latinoamericano sobre evaluación de competencias y capacidades ciudadanas, y habilidades para el buen vivir; BID and Fundación Antonio Restrepo Barco; Bogota, Colombia; December 3-4, 2015.

2nd Starting Strong TALIS Survey meeting; OECD; Copenhagen, Denmark; November 24-25, 2015.

[Las Competencias Transversales y Socioemocionales: un Nuevo Eje de la Política de Inclusion](#); Programa EuroSocial; Madrid, Spain; October 20-21, 2015.

[High Level Policy Forum on Skills for Social Progress](#); OECD; Sao Paulo, Brazil; March 24 – 25, 2014.

Additional Information

- Advanced knowledge of Stata, M-plus and other statistical packages.
- Studentship awards for PhD and MSc.
- Teaching award Department of Social Policy at LSE for academic sessions 2003-04 and 2004-05.
- Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (proficient), Italian (basic).
- Available for travelling within Europe and Latin America.