

Alonso Octavio Aravena Mendez
Sociologist

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Baylor University, Waco, Texas Philosophical Doctorate in Sociology, Community Analytics Track	2018 - 2023
Universidad de Playa Ancha, Valparaiso, Chile Master's Degree in Communication, Specialization in Local Communication	2011 - 2013
Universidad de Playa Ancha Valparaiso, Chile Professional Degree of Sociology	2003 - 2010
Universidad de Playa Ancha Valparaiso, Chile Bachelor's Degree in Sociology	2003 - 2010

AREAS OF INTEREST

Social Inequality and Stratification, Higher Education and Gender, Latin American and Development Studies.

HONORS/AWARDS/GRANTS

University of Connecticut and Templeton Foundation - Co-PI in Field Experiment regarding the intersection of race and religion in the Texas Job Market	2019-2020
Baylor University - Graduate School - Winning Poster at the 2019 Graduate Student Research Showcase in the Social Science Category	2019
Southwestern Social Science Association - Student Travel Grant Award recipient for the 2019 Annual Meeting	2019
Baylor University - Graduate School - Recipient of the Graduate School Fellowship as an enhancement award for 5% of graduate applicants	2018-2023
Baylor University - Department of Sociology - Selected as recipient of Departmental stipend and Tuition waiver as PhD Student.	2018-2023
Universidad de Playa Ancha - General Research Office - Funding granted for the realization of Master Thesis from the Research Funding Awards	2012-2013
Chilean Government Technical Cooperation Service Seed Capital Entrepreneurship Funding - Awarded for the creation of a small enterprise to provide social research services	2012
Universidad de Playa Ancha - Sociology Department - Ranked first among the class of Sociology undergraduate students who enrolled in 2003	2010
IX Bi-oceanic MERCOSUR Integration conference 1 st Place in Young Researchers Competition - Granted for the presentation of "Complex scenarios for the study and interpretation of Cultural Heritage in the city of Valparaíso" in partnership with Sebastián Godoy	2007

PUBLICATIONS

Aravena, A., Pacheco, C. Aportes metodológicos desde la sociología para el Análisis Crítico y Complejo del Discurso. Encuentro Latinoamericano de Metodología de las Ciencias Sociales. 2016. Retrieved from: <http://elmeccs.fahce.unlp.edu.ar/v-elmeccs/actas-2016/AravenaMendez.pdf/view?searchterm=None>.

Sefair, E. Vidal, C. Latorre, R. Morales, E. **Aravena, A.** Pantoja, P. Fortalecimiento del Rol de las Universidades Regionales en la Economía Territorial. Universidad de Valparaíso, Valparaíso. 2015.

Aravena, A. Complejidades al investigar la semiosis social y la comunicación intercultural en la interpretación del patrimonio inmaterial de los ascensores de Valparaíso. Revista Faro 15, Valparaíso. 2012. Retrieved from: <http://www.revistafaro.cl/index.php/Faro/article/view/67/53>

Aravena, A., Godoy, S. Propuestas teóricas básicas para la construcción social del patrimonio. Un desafío integrador del actor-sujeto frente a su Identidad y Patrimonio. Revista Faro 2, Valparaíso. 2005. Retrieved from: http://web.upla.cl/revistafaro/n2/02_aravena_godoy.htm

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Baylor University - Department of Sociology

Aug. 2019 – Dec. 2019

Teaching Assistant for course "Social Research Methods"

- Assisted in course taught to one section of undergraduate students by Dr. Lindsay Wilkinson
- Kept attendance, held office hours with students, graded tests and essays, and assisted during class days.

Baylor University - Department of Sociology

Jun. 2019 – Aug. 2019

Teaching Assistant for online Summer course "Introduction to Sociology"

- Assisted in course taught online to undergraduate students by Dr. Christopher Pieper
- Managed online Canvas platform, graded tests and essays, and assisted students during the Summer term.

Baylor University - Department of Sociology

Aug. 2018 - May 2019

Teaching Assistant for course "Introduction to Sociology"

- Assisted in course taught to two sections of undergraduate students by Dr. Christopher Pieper
- Kept attendance, held office hours with students, graded tests and essays, and assisted during class days.

Universidad de Valparaiso - Industrial Engineering School

Mar. 2018 - Jul. 2018

Adjunct Professor for course "Statistics and Probability"

- Course taught to Chilean Industrial Civil Engineering students in their fifth semester
- Introduced students to the use of statistical software packages such as SPSS and Stata

Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation

Mar. 2014 - Jul. 2018

Adjunct Professor for course "Human Rights in Latin America"

- Designed course and taught in English to international and Chilean students regarding the Organization of American States' Human Rights System, the evolution of this international framework throughout the last five decades, as well as the current state of Human Rights in the Latin American region.
- Taught skills and tools for strategic result-based planning according to United Nations Standards

Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation

Aug. 2017 - Jul. 2018

Adjunct Professor for course "Social Inequality, Exclusion and Democracy"

- Taught this course in English to international and Chilean students about inequality and exclusion around the globe
- Included qualitative research tools for studying inequality and exclusion in local societies and its interactions with executive, legislative and judicial processes.

- Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation** **Mar. 2017 - Jul. 2018**
Adjunct Professor for course "Volunteering Workshop"
 - Worked with international students to guide them in their volunteering experiences in Chile
 - Participation in the workshop included active involvement and budget proposals for impacting local volunteering organizations in Viña del Mar and Valparaiso, Chile.
- Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation** **Aug. 2014 - Dec. 2017**
Adjunct Professor for course "Latin American Social Movements"
 - Created this course and taught in English to international and Chilean students regarding theoretical and empirical aspects of Social Movements in Latin America.
 - Weekly classes included in-depth interviews with experts and activists from local movements
 - Imparted fundamental skills for the students to write valid and relevant research proposals focused on Latin American Social Movements, including theoretical and empirical factors.
- Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation** **Mar. 2017 - Dec. 2017**
Adjunct Professor for course "Gender and Sexual Minorities Studies in Latin America and Chile"
 - Course taught in English for international and Chilean students
 - Includes communicational planning skills for awareness campaigns about gender and sexual minorities issues that are relevant in Latin America and Chile.
- Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation** **Mar. 2016 - Dec. 2016**
Adjunct Professor for course "Regional Scenario of Latin America"
 - Course taught in English for international and Chilean students
 - It included academic writing skills for supporting theses on regional, national, and local sustainable development issues within the Latin American region.
- Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation** **Aug. 2015 - Dec. 2015**
Adjunct Professor for course "Chilean Indigenous Peoples"
 - Substituted the regular professor of this course for one semester
 - The course was taught in English for international and Chilean students focusing on Mapuche, Rapa Nui and Aymara cultures over the past 300 years and the current outcomes of public policies and legislation in Chile.
- Valparaiso German High-School - Erasmus Program** **Sept. 2012 - Oct. 2013**
Spanish teacher
 - Designed and taught Spanish lessons for German exchange students and German teachers
- Natalis Language Center - Valparaiso Branch** **May. 2007 - Feb. 2009**
Branch Administrator and Spanish teacher for foreigners
 - Performed administrative tasks, such as monthly and weekly planning, coordinating staff, advertising, and financial management of the Valparaiso facilities at Natalis Language Center.
 - Taught Spanish as a second language to international clients, both face-to-face and long-distance.
- Universidad de Playa Ancha - Sociology Department** **Mar. 2006 - Dec. 2006**
Teaching Assistant
 - Assisted Dr Victor Silva Echeto in course of Sociology of Communications, taught in the fourth semester of the Sociology undergrad major.
- Universidad de Playa Ancha - Communication Department** **Mar. 2006 - Dec. 2006**
Teaching Assistant
 - Assisted Dr Victor Silva Echeto in courses of "Epistemology of Communication" and "Methodology in Social Sciences", taught in the fifth and sixth semesters of the Journalism major, respectively.

APPLIED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Baylor University - Center for Community Research and Development

Apr. 2019 - Jun. 2019

Research Assistant for Student Engagement Focus Group sessions

- Assisted Department Chair in the realization of Focus Group sessions with Social Work and Engineering students
- Recorded, transcribed, and analyzed qualitative data collected in the Focus Group sessions
- Drafted report with the main results in regards to Baylor University's goals for student engagement.

Baylor University - Center for Community Research and Development

Aug. 2018 - Apr. 2019

Research Assistant for Waco-McLennan County Community Health Needs Assessment

- Revised the translation to Spanish of the survey and elaborated the Spanish version in Qualtrics
- Directed call center and fieldwork sessions with undergraduate Baylor students
- Elaborated final report for the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District and other relevant stakeholders.

Universidad de Valparaíso - Industrial Engineering School

Nov. 2017 - Aug. 2018

Institutional Planning Consultant

- Developed the institutional proposal for the creation of the first Electromechanical Engineering program in Chile.
- Designed, applied and analyzed qualitative instrument for focus groups with national experts on Engineering and faculty members of the Industrial Engineering School
- Analyzed current market demands for electromechanical engineers from January to July 2018 in Chile.

Universidad de Playa Ancha – Education School

Jun. 2017 - Jan. 2018

Quantitative Methodology Advisor

- Provided advice on the quantitative analysis of a scale to measure Satisfaction of alumni, faculty, and external employers for the Primary School Education department, focused on competences and skills present in the dimensions of the graduation professional profiles and the Framework for Good Teaching (MBE).

Universidad de Playa Ancha – Education School

Sep. 2017 - Dec. 2017

Quantitative Researcher

- Designed and analyzed an instrument to describe the profiles of primary school teachers of English in public schools of Valparaiso, Viña del Mar, and San Felipe.
- Contrasted the self-assessment and experience of teachers surveyed with the assessment of external evaluators of the English classes.

Universidad de Valparaíso - Center for Science, Technology and Society Studies

Jan. 2017 - Apr. 2017

Quantitative Analyst

- Analyzed at the Center for Science, Technology and Society Studies a scale of attitudes towards Science and Technology with data from the the 2016 National Survey for the Social Perception of Science
- Presented the methodology and findings in front of a panel of experts at the National Commission for Science and Technology (CONICYT).

Universidad de Valparaíso - Industrial Engineering School

Nov. 2016 - Feb. 2017

Quantitative Research Advisor

- Validated instrument to assess the Importance and Performance of Teaching, Administrative, Infrastructural, and Learning factors using Importance-Performance Analysis approach
- Constructed and analyzed the dataset for the Civil Engineering programs taught of the College of Engineering at Universidad de Valparaiso.

Universidad de Valparaíso - Office of Institutional Planning and Development

Jul. 2016

Project Management Consultant

- Elaborated application proposal for National Funding Program from the Chilean Economic Development Council called "Engineering 2030 for Regional Universities" to prepare new development plans for Engineering Schools in Chile.

Universidad de Valparaíso - Institute of Sociology and Psychology School

Apr. 2016 - Jul. 2016

Institutional Planning Consultant

- Elaborated the document for the creation of the Social Sciences School to be submitted to Universidad de Valparaiso's Academic Council

- Analyzed institutional records, both qualitative and quantitative, for the formulation of the proposal, as well as prospective analysis of relevant academic indicators and the impact of the Social Sciences School on their prior institutional affiliation.

Universidad de Valparaíso - Office of Institutional Planning and Development Apr. 2015 - Mar. 2016

Full time Researcher

- Developed a mixed methods research design in a national research grant for the Subsecretary of Regional Development of the Chilean Government, with the goal of strengthening the role of Regional Universities in Territorial Economies using a macro-regional approach with a multidisciplinary team of Sociologists, Engineers, Economists, and Designers.
- Collected quantitative information on R+D+i+e in each region of Chile and produced qualitative analysis of Regional Development Strategies, Regional Innovation Strategies, as well as on the legal and administrative implications for regional development within the founding documents of Chilean Universities
- Designed and moderated focus groups with representatives from Academia, Local and Regional Governments, as well as from the Private and Not-for-profit sectors
- Elaborated and edited a digital book with main findings and results of the study.

Universidad de Valparaíso- Office of Institutional Planning and Development Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015

Regional Planning Consultant

- Advised on the application for Regional Innovation Funding Program with Regional Government for “Efficient Management of hydric resources for the Agricultural Food Industry of the Valparaiso region”

Universidad de Playa Ancha - Office of Integral Student Development Dec. 2014 - Dec. 2015

Quantitative Analyst

- Analyzed graduating student survey and state of the art on university graduation rates in Chile

Universidad de Valparaiso - Office of Institutional Planning and Development Aug. 2015 - Sep. 2015

Project Management Consultant

- Completed grant application form for the creation of an Institutional Extension Center Project through funding opportunity from the Secretary of Economy with the Architecture School, the Engineering School and the Economy School

Universidad de Valparaíso - Engineering School Sept. 2013 - March 2014

Full-time Research and Planning Consultant

- Wrote proposal in Spanish and English for a National Research & Development Fund for Schools of Engineering from the Government’s National Production Corporation (CORFO) called “Nueva Ingeniería 2030”
- Analyzed quantitative indicators from THE Ranking and QS World University Rankings and applied them to the Departments of the Engineering School in order to assess their academic performance
- Designed qualitative and quantitative instruments to study the performance of 9 international universities with world-class programs in engineering from the USA and Europe
- Coordinated the proposal’s support from international experts from the USA and Spain

Universidad Austral de Chile (UACH) - FONDECYT Regular 1130921 Aug. 2013 - Jan. 2014

Methodology advisor

- Provided methodology advising for a national grant for the Scientific and Technological Development National Fund (FONDECYT) on the intercultural representation in newspapers from Chile and Peru regarding their borders and sea conflict of 2013
- Applied techniques and instrument for the Critical and Complex Discourse Analysis approach developed during Master thesis

G.I.E. Gestión, Innovación, Educación, Ltda. Apr. 2013 - Oct. 2013

Quantitative Researcher

- Designed and tested quantitative instrument to study desertion factors at the School of Engineering of Universidad de Valparaiso

Universidad de Playa Ancha - CONICYT PLU 1110**Nov. 2012 - Oct. 2013***Associated Thesis Student*

- Devised quantitative instruments for Critical and Complex Discourse Analysis (ACCD in Spanish)
- Worked on Master thesis focused on the discourse constructions in reader's mail published by 2 local newspapers, regarding the social actors of the students social movement of 2011

Universidad Andrés Bello - High-School Pedagogy Program**Mar. 2013 - Aug. 2013***Qualitative Researcher*

- Designed qualitative instrument to study the process of Evaluation at the High School Pedagogy Program.
- Moderated focus groups
- Transcribed and analyzed qualitative results

Prado Gráfica y Comunicaciones EIRL**Jan. 2011 - Aug. 2012***Researcher and Project Coordinator*

- Obtained and analyzed social data for the creation of educational materials through qualitative and quantitative techniques, including surveys, ethnography, in-depth interviews and online questionnaires.
- Coordinated fieldwork and reporting with team members from disciplines such as Education, Psychology, Public Administration and Design.
- Elaborated project reports and presented results to Ministry of Education and Lo Barnechea City Hall

Xstrata PLC - Xstrata Process Support**Mar. 2009 - Jul. 2012***Market Researcher and Translator*

- Conducted copper market research in Chile and Latin America
- Translated brochures and documents for Metallurgy Companies
- Advised on Chilean laws and mining industry for strategic decision-making

Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes - FONDART**Mar. 2009 - Oct. 2010***Database analyst*

- Compiled and standardized data bases for cultural Projects funding from 2004 through 2009 for the Fund for Arts and Culture (FONDART) of the National Council of Culture and Arts (CNCA)
- Established new categories to analyze and report on national cultural funding for every Chilean city and region.

Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes - Cultural Heritage Office**Apr. 2008 - Aug. 2008***Sociology Intern*

- Analyzed cultural funding government programs databases
- Developed analysis model for Cultural Heritage funding programs
- Advised on National Cultural Consumption and Participation Survey.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

United Nations Institute for Training and Research**2017**

Certified Course "Gender Matters"

United Nations Institute for Training and Research**2017**

Certified Course "Introduction to the 2030 Agenda: A new Agenda for a Sustainable World"

Chilean Council for Transparency**2017**

Certified Course "Document Management and Transparency"

Chilean Council for Transparency**2017**

Certified Course "Strengthening of Probity and Transparency in the Public Sector"

University of Maryland**2016**

Certified Course "Framework for Data Collection and Analysis"

University of Michigan**2016**

Certified Course "Data Collection: Online, Telephone and Face-to-face"

University of California Irvine Certified Course “ Managing Project Risks and Changes ”	2016
University of California Irvine Certified Course “ Budgeting and Scheduling Projects ”	2016
University of California Irvine Certified Course “ Aspectos Fundamentales de la Gerencia ”	2016
Amnesty International Certified Course “ Human Rights: The Right to Freedom of Expression ”	2015
University of California, Berkeley Certified Course “ Academic and Business Writing ”	2015
University of California, Irvine Certified Course “ Initiating and Planning Projects ”	2015
Johns Hopkins University Certified Course “ University Teaching 101 ”	2015
University of Virginia Certified Course “ Fundamentals of Project Planning and Management ”	2015
University of California, Berkeley Certified Course “ English Grammar and Essay Writing ”	2015

RECENT CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting **October 2019**
Presentation “Aportes metodológicos desde la sociología para el Análisis Crítico y Complejo del Discurso” in the working group Comparative, Interdisciplinary, and Transdisciplinary Methodological Experiences at Universidad de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

Chilean National Social Work Congress **October 2019**
Presentation “Aportes metodológicos desde la sociología para el Análisis Crítico y Complejo del Discurso” in the working group Comparative, Interdisciplinary, and Transdisciplinary Methodological Experiences at Universidad de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

Baylor University - Department of Sociology **December 2018**
Guest lecture “Understanding Social Movements and Change” for students in the Introduction to Sociology class taught by MA Michael Lotspeich at the Sociology Department.

Baylor University - Department of Sociology **October 2018**
Guest lecture “Gender and Power” for students in the two Introduction to Sociology classes taught by Dr Christopher Pieper at the Sociology Department.

Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation **May 2018**
Lecture “Socioeconomic Evolution of Chile” for Southern New Hampshire students and faculty members during their International Entrepreneurship Abroad Program.

Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation **May 2018**
Lecture “Contemporary Chile: From “No” to Democracy” for Southern New Hampshire students and faculty members during their International Entrepreneurship Abroad Program.

Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation **January 2018**
Lecture “Chilean Social Movements” for Lynchburg College students in their volunteering abroad Summer Program.

Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation **May 2017**
Lecture “Socioeconomic Evolution of Chile” for Southern New Hampshire students and faculty members during their International Entrepreneurship Abroad Program.

Universidad Viña del Mar - Office of International Cooperation **May 2017**
Lecture “Contemporary Chile: From “No” to Democracy” for Southern New Hampshire students and faculty members during their International Entrepreneurship Abroad Program.

V Encuentro Latinoamericano de Metodología de las Ciencias Sociales **November 2016**
Presentation “Aportes metodológicos desde la sociología para el Análisis Crítico y Complejo del Discurso” in the working group Comparative, Interdisciplinary, and Transdisciplinary Methodological Experiences at Universidad de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

IX Chilean Sociology Congress - Chilean Sociology Association **October 2016**
Presentation “Análisis Crítico del Discurso sobre el movimiento estudiantil en correos de lectores publicados por El Mercurio de Valparaíso y El Diario Austral de Los Ríos entre agosto y octubre de 2011” for the working group on Social Movements and Collective Actions at Universidad Católica del Maule, Talca, Chile.

LANGUAGE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION TESTING

Spanish: Native Speaker

TOEFL - Educational Testing Service **Oct. 2017**
Result: 115 points out of 120
Reading: 29, Listening: 29, Speaking: 27, Writing: 30.

GRE Test - Educational Testing Service **Oct. 2017**
General GRE Test
Verbal: 164 (94th percentile), Quantitative: 156 (61st percentile) and Analytical Writing: 5 (92nd percentile).

COMPUTER SKILLS

Advanced user of Microsoft Office, statistical analysis software (SAS, Stata, and SPSS) and qualitative analysis software (Atlas.ti and Nvivo)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Caminata Solidaria De La Barra Mar. 2017 - Mar.2018
Coordination, planning and standards for tasks of volunteering organization that provides homeless people in Valparaiso with hot beverages and sandwiches every Friday evening. It has included organizing fundraising initiatives, participating.

Felipe Camiroaga Saturday School 2017 - Jul. 2018
Advisor in planning and coordination for volunteering activity that provides children with school tutoring classes on Saturday mornings in the Toma Felipe Camiroaga (precarious Chilean land occupations, similar to shantytowns or favelas sponsored by Viña del Mar’s Union Church.