

CHRISTIAN M. GARCÍA-WITULSKI

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EXPERTISE

Health Impact Assessment | Applied Econometrics | Epidemiology | Natural Experiments

RESEARCH INTEREST

Physical Activity | Diet | Climate Change

PERSONAL SUMMARY

I am a health economist and environmental-lifestyle epidemiologist. I hold a PhD in Economics from the Catholic University of Argentina, and a second PhD in Health and Sport Sciences-Epidemiology and Public Health focus from the University of Zaragoza (Spain). I also holds an MSc in Sport Sciences from the National University of La Plata (Argentina).

I specialize in using tools from econometrics, epidemiology, and health data science to explore the complex relationships between physical activity, diet, and climate change and their impact on chronic diseases. I have extensive experience in causal inference using advanced statistical methods and have developed quantitative ex-ante evaluation models to estimate the economic costs and public health impacts (e.g., years of life lost, life expectancy) of unhealthy behaviors to provide evidence-based policy recommendations.

For over a decade, I have been conducting studies analyzing the health and economic burden of non-communicable diseases associated with physical inactivity, sedentary behavior, obesity, consumption of ultra-processed foods, pollution, and climate change, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries.

EDUCATION

Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina • Argentina 2019 – 2021
Postdoctoral Fellow in Sustainable Development (Environmental Health)

University of Zaragoza – GENUD Research Group • Spain 2016 – 2019
Ph.D., Health and Sport Sciences – (Outstanding Cum Laude)
focus: Epidemiology and Public Health

National University of La Plata • Argentina 2014 – 2016
M.Sc., Sport Sciences
field: Physical Activity Epidemiology

Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina • Argentina 2013 – 2016
Ph.D., Economics – (Summa Cum Laude)
field: Nutrition Economics

National University of La Matanza • Argentina 2005 – 2009
B.Sc., International Trade
field: International Economics

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow in Climate Change and Health Mar 2025 – Present
Lancet Countdown Latin America

Researcher Dec 2021 – Present
Center for Sustainable Human Development - Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina

PhD student Dec 2016 – Dec 2019
Universidad de Zaragoza

PhD student Mar 2013 – Dec 2016
Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

World Bank May 2022 – April 2023
Estimating morbidity attributable to present and future temperature extremes in Paraguay

World Bank Oct 2021 – May 2022
Valuing mortality attributable to present and future temperature extremes in Argentina. Link:
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/38252/Background%20Note%20-%20English.pdf?sequence=15>

Ministerio de Producción (Argentina) – Medio ambiente y Comercio Internacional Oct 2017 – May 2018
Impacto del Comercio y el Transporte Internacional sobre la Calidad Ambiental, un Estudio en Países de América Latina y el Caribe. Link:
https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/com_inv_medioambiente_y_comercio_12_010618.pdf

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PhD level – Applied Research Quantitative Methods Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina	Oct 2019 – Present
MSc level – Econometrics and Programming Tools Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina	Jul 2019 – Present
MSc level – Final Project Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina	Jul 2019 – Present
BSc level – Econometrics Universidad del CEMA	Mar 2020 – Feb 2022

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- **García-Witulski, CM.** “Climate change impacts on physical inactivity: A panel data study of global warming across 156 countries from 2000 to 2022”, *The Lancet Global Health* (with Mariano Rabassa, Oscar Melo, and Juliana Helo Sarmiento), R&R.
- **García-Witulski, CM. et. al** “The 2025 Lancet Countdown Latin America report: moving from promises to equitable climate action for a prosperous future”, *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, 2025.
- **García-Witulski, CM.** “Comparative risk assessment modeling of cardiovascular and all-cause burden attributable to sitting time and physical inactivity: evidence from Argentina”, *Journal of Public Health*, 47(1), e28–e37, 2025.
- **García-Witulski, CM.** “Non-communicable disease mortality and economic costs attributable to non-optimal Body Mass Index in Argentina”. *Public Health*, 2025.
- Schulz-Antipa, P; **García-Witulski, CM**, Rabassa, M; Conte Grand, M “From rising temperature to rising health concerns: A study of climate change effects in Paraguay”. *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, 2023.
- **García-Witulski, CM.** “Comparative risk assessment modeling of cardiovascular and all-cause burden attributable to sitting time and physical inactivity: evidence from Argentina”. *Journal of Public Health*, 2024.
- **García-Witulski, CM**, Rabassa, M; Conte Grand, M. “Valuing mortality attributable to present and future temperature extremes in Argentina”. *Economics and Human Biology*, 2023.
- **García-Witulski, CM.** “Valuing preventable deaths from major non-communicable diseases and all-causes attributable to sedentary behavior in Argentina”. *Public Health*, 2023.
- Werneck, AO, Araujo, RHO, Aguilar-Farias, N, Ferrari, G, Brazo Sayavera, B, **García-Witulski, CM.**, Dourado, VZ, Barboza, LL, Silva, ECM, Sadarangani, KP, Nieto-Martinez, R, García-Hermoso, A, Ramírez-Vélez, R, Silva, DR. “Physical Activity and Sitting Time Patterns and Sociodemographic Correlates Among 155,790 South American Adults”. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 2023.
- **García-Witulski, CM.** “Contemporary and Dynamic Effects of Socio-economic Factors on Physical (In)activity: Does Intensity Matter?”. *Frontiers in Public Health*, doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2022.1016353, 2022.
- **García-Witulski, CM.** “Temporal and Spatial Trends From Counterfactual Scenarios of Physical Activity on Mortality, Years of Life Lost, and Life Expectancy Due to Noncommunicable Diseases in Argentina”. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 8:1-17, 2022.
- Werneck, AO, Araujo, RHO, Aguilar-Farias, N, Ferrari, G, Brazo Sayavera, B, **García-Witulski, CM.**, Dourado, VZ, Barboza, LL, Silva, ECM, Sadarangani, KP, Nieto-Martinez, R, García-Hermoso, A, Ramírez-Vélez, R, Silva, DR. “Time trends and inequalities of physical activity domains and sitting time in South America”. *Journal of Global Health*, 12:04027, 2022.
- Rabassa, M; Conte Grand, M; **García-Witulski, CM.** “Heat Warnings and Avoidance Behavior: Evidence from a Bike-Sharing System”. *Environmental Economics and Policy Studies*, 23(1):1-28, 2021.
- **García, CM.** “Association of globalization in its different dimensions with overweight and obesity: an analysis in 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries”. *Salud Pública de México*, 61:174-183, 2019.
- Sanchez Oliver, AJ; **García, CM**; Galvez Ruiz, P; Gonzalez Jurado, JA. “Mortality and economic expenses of cardiovascular diseases caused by physical inactivity in Spain”. *Journal of Physical Education and Sport*, 18:1420-26, 2018.
- **García, CM.** “Impact of physical inactivity on mortality and economic costs due to cardiovascular deaths, Evidence from Argentina”. *Pan American Journal of Public Health*, 21;41:e92, 2017.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- **García-Witulski, CM.** “The Impact of Temperature on Mortality in Argentinean Municipalities”. *The Economics of Climate Change in Argentina*, Springer.

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Modeling and Analysis	STATA, R, QGIS, ARCGIS
Software and Tools	Latex, MS Office

JOURNAL EXTERNAL REVIEWER

- Scientific Reports
- BMC Medicine
- International Journal of Health Planning and Management
- Preventive Medicine Reports
- Sustainable Cities and Society
- BMC Public Health
- Transportation Research: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour
- BMC Cancer

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Mariana Conte Grand

University of CEMA

Department of Economics

Argentina

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Alejandro González de Agüero

University of Zaragoza

GENUD research group

Spain

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