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ANDRÉS BELLO
CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
CHINO LATINOAMERICANO

CHINA AND THE ENERGY TRANSITION
IN SOUTH AMERICA

INTERVIEWEE PROFILES

JULY 2026

Andrés Bello Foundation – China-Latin America Research Center

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INTERVIEWEE PROFILES

The following section presents concise profiles of the interviewees, prepared in accordance with their expressed preferences regarding anonymity, as indicated in the informed consent forms signed before each interview. These profiles reflect the level of identification authorized by each participant and are included to provide contextual understanding of the diversity of perspectives gathered. For further details regarding the consent instrument and its structure, readers may refer to the sample document provided in the annexes.

In total, the study comprises 50 interviews conducted across the six countries analyzed. Additionally, a series of interviews were conducted in the United Kingdom to inform the section of the report specifically focused on UK-South America cooperation.

FULL DISCLOSURE: INTERVIEWEES WHO AGREED TO HAVE THEIR PROFILES MADE PUBLIC

1. **Camilo de Felipe** is a Professor of International Relations at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. He holds a PhD from East China Normal University and researches the Belt and Road Initiative's discourse in Latin America and China's role in Colombia's energy transition.
2. **Carlos de la Torre** is an Ecuadorian sociologist and political scientist, currently Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. His research focuses on populism, democracy, and political change in Latin America, with extensive work on Ecuadorian politics and discourse analysis.
3. **Carlos Renato Ungaretti** is a Brazilian researcher and PhD candidate at UFRGS. He serves as an assistant researcher at IPEA and a senior fellow at Observa China, specializing in energy, sustainability, and Brazil-China strategic relations.
4. **Carolina Viola** is a political scientist and Director of the Socio-environmental Observatory on Chinese Investment in Ecuador and Latin America at PUCE, where she also teaches. Her research focuses on energy transition, governance, geopolitics, and the socio-environmental impacts of Chinese investments in the region.
5. **Cesar Felipe Gutierrez Peña** is a mechanical engineer and former President of Petroperú (2006–2008). A prominent energy analyst and columnist, he is known for his expertise in hydrocarbons, public utilities, and energy regulation, as well as for advocating transparency and reform in state-owned enterprises.
6. **Claudio Coloma** is a Chilean scholar and Assistant Professor at Universidad de



Las Américas, specializing in critical international relations theory. His research examines Latin America–China relations through post-Marxist and discourse analysis frameworks, focusing on ideology, pragmatism, and global power shifts.

- 7. Cynthia Sanborn** is a political scientist and Director of the Center for China and Asia-Pacific Studies at Universidad del Pacífico. With a PhD from Harvard, she is a leading expert on Latin America–China relations, focusing on extractive industries, sustainable development, and governance of natural resources.
- 8. Diego Luna Quevedo** is a Uruguayan environmental governance specialist based in Chile and a Senior Policy and Governance Advisor at Manomet Conservation Sciences. With over two decades of experience, he promotes inclusive conservation and biodiversity governance across Latin America through multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- 9. Edison Andres Pogo** is an Ecuadorian energy expert and Electrical Advisor at CELEC, as well as a Future Energy Leader with the World Energy Council. He has led energy transition initiatives with USAID and held advisory roles in Ecuador’s Ministry of Energy, with experience spanning hydroelectric, oil, and automation projects.
- 10. Exequiel José Lello Ivacevich** is an Argentine lawyer and Director of JEMSE, Jujuy’s state-owned energy and mining company. Formerly Minister of Economic Development and Production, he has been central to advancing Jujuy’s lithium and renewable energy strategy through public-private partnerships and sustainable investment.
- 11. Fundación Mil Hojas** is an Ecuadorian investigative journalism organization dedicated to promoting transparency, accountability, and access to public information. It focuses on uncovering corruption, environmental issues, and abuses of power through data-driven, independent reporting.
- 12. Igor Patrick** is a Brazilian journalist and China analyst with dual Master’s degrees in Global Affairs (Tsinghua University) and China Studies (Peking University). A Schwarzman and Yenching Scholar, he serves as the South China Morning Post’s first full-time Latin America correspondent, focusing on China’s media influence and soft power in the region.
- 13. Jack Lo Lau** is a journalist and Director of the Journalism Program at PUCP. With over twenty years of experience, he has worked across major media and environmental initiatives, focusing on sustainability, extractive industries, and environmental communication.
- 14. Javier Nicolás Lewkowicz** is an Argentine journalist with a degree in Economics



from the University of Buenos Aires. He specializes in international trade, industrial policy, and China–Latin America economic relations.

- 15. José Antonio de Echave Cáceres** is an economist and co-founder of CooperAcción, specializing in environmental governance and mining policy. A former Vice-Minister of Environmental Management, he is a key voice on socio-environmental conflicts, transparency, and community participation in Peru's extractive sector.
- 16. Juan Enrique Serrano Moreno** is a Chilean academic and legal scholar at the University of Chile, specializing in international political economy and Latin America–China relations. His research explores the geopolitical and regulatory dimensions of Chinese investment, with a focus on energy, infrastructure, and regional integration.
- 17. Juan Manuel Saldarriaga** is a journalist specializing in mining, hydrocarbons, and energy. As Economic and Business Reporter at Día1 of Grupo El Comercio, he provides in-depth coverage of extractive industries and Chinese investment, contributing to national debates on transparency and energy transition.
- 18. Juan Sebastián de Mesa Zapata** is an economist with a master's degree in Economic Sciences from the National University of Colombia. He has experience in preparing environmental licenses for projects such as power transmission lines and hydroelectric plants, including the Ituango Hydroelectric Project, where he worked on resettlement and rights restitution for affected communities. Currently works for the National Planning Department of Colombia and the Inter-American Development Bank.
- 19. Juliana González Jáuregui** is an Argentine political scientist and researcher specializing in China–Latin America relations. She focuses on foreign policy, international cooperation, and the geopolitical dimensions of China's engagement in the Southern Cone.
- 20. Laura Urrejola** holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Brasília, specializing in China's infrastructure investments in Latin America. Her research and professional experience center on Chinese engagement in the energy and logistics sectors, complemented by her work as Environmental Manager at Transnorte Energía.
- 21. Maia Bárbara Seeger Pfeiffer** is a Chilean journalist and Executive Director of Sustentarse, specializing in environmental governance, human rights, and accountability in extractive industries. She engages in national and international forums on transparency, ESG compliance, and civil society participation in development finance.



- 22. María José Alzari** is an Argentine legal and sustainability expert and Coordinator of Transparency and Social License at CEADS. With over twenty years of experience, she advises companies on ESG compliance, human rights due diligence, and stakeholder engagement in the mining, energy, and infrastructure sectors.
- 23. Maurício Santoro** is a Brazilian political scientist with a PhD in Political Science from IUPERJ. He is an Assistant Professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), where he researches Brazil's foreign policy, South-South relations, and the geopolitics of China's engagement in Latin America.
- 24. Niklas Weins** is an Assistant Professor at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. He holds a PhD in Environment and Society from the State University of Campinas and Master's and Bachelor's degrees from universities in Brazil and Germany, specializing in environmental sociology, development studies, and political economy.
- 25. Nikolas Carneiro** is a researcher at FGV Energia specializing in Brazil's electricity sector. He holds a degree in Economics from Unicamp and is pursuing a master's in International Political Economy at UFRJ, focusing on energy research and data analysis.
- 26. Pablo Bergese** is an Argentine chemical engineer and Coordinator of Mining Sustainability for Jujuy's Secretariat of Mining and Hydrocarbons. With nearly twenty years in public service, he focuses on sustainable lithium extraction, environmental monitoring, and policy coordination between government, communities, and industry.
- 27. Pablo Fernando Palomares** is Secretary of Regional Integration and International Relations for the Government of Jujuy, Argentina. He leads the province's cross-border cooperation and international engagement strategy, promoting regional development, energy diplomacy, and subnational participation in global sustainability efforts.
- 28. Pablo Hidalgo** is an economist specializing in data analysis, market research, and international economic cooperation. His work bridges academia and applied research, with expertise in data science, social and solidarity economy, and evidence-based policy design.
- 29. Renato Carlos Sersale di Cerisano** is an Argentine diplomat and former ambassador to the United Kingdom and South Africa. With over four decades of experience, he is recognized for his leadership in international diplomacy, global governance, and Latin America's foreign policy and energy integration.



- 30. Xabier Cobeña** is a PhD candidate in International Studies and a researcher at FLACSO Ecuador. With experience in public administration and academia, his work focuses on territorial planning, extractivism, energy transition, and environmental politics in Latin America.

PARTIAL ANONYMITY: INTERVIEWEES WHO CHOSE NOT TO DISCLOSE THEIR NAMES PUBLICLY

Interviewees who requested partial anonymity are identified with the letter P (for Partial Anonymity) followed by a unique number (e.g., P1, P2, P3).

- 1. P1:** An academic specializing in ecological economics, focusing on the relationship between economic systems and environmental sustainability. Their work explores social metabolism, extractivism, and the transition toward equitable, knowledge-based development models.
- 2. P2:** Ecuadorian lawyer and President of the Anti-Corruption Foundation. A professor at the International University of Ecuador, he specializes in philosophy of law, legislative and electoral law, intellectual property, and transparency in public governance.
- 3. P3:** Ecuadorian engineer and former Minister of Energy and Hydrocarbons (2017-2019). With over forty years in the oil and gas industry, he led key reforms to attract private investment, diversify energy partnerships, and modernize Ecuador's hydrocarbon sector.
- 4. P4:** Chilean energy and environmental advisor and Regional Lead for Latin America at G-advisory (Grupo Garrigues). With over twenty years of experience, he specializes in regulatory strategy, ESG risk management, and sustainable energy and infrastructure development across the region.
- 5. P5:** Peruvian economist and professor at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, specializing in Asian and international economics. With a PhD from Kobe University, he is a leading expert on Asia-Latin America relations, trade, and China's economic engagement with the region.
- 6. P6:** Colombian professional with a background in Government, Public Affairs, and Economics from Universidad de los Andes, and a master's degree in Environmental Policy (iMEP) from Duke Kunshan University. His work spans environmental policy and climate change, with experience across academia, civil society, and multilateral organizations.



FULL ANONYMITY:

Furthermore, 14 additional interviewees requested full anonymity; therefore, their profiles have been omitted from this report in accordance with confidentiality agreements.



Lead author

Parsifal D'Sola Alvarado

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CREDITS

Parsifal D’Sola Alvarado

Lead author, lead researcher, interviewer

Sebastián Castaño Palacio

Researcher, editor, interviewer and co-author of the Colombia profile.

Gabriel Mariano Varón Henao

Author of Chapter 3 (Comparative Patterns), data analyst, researcher and editor.

Julia Morato

Co-author of the Brazil profile.

Gabriela Alvarado

Graphic design and microsite development.

PEER REVIEW

This report underwent a peer review process by independent specialists.

The Andrés Bello Foundation appreciates the valuable observations and recommendations made during this process, which contributed to strengthening the rigor and quality of the analysis.

The reviewers commented on preliminary versions of the manuscript. Responsibility for the final content of this publication lies exclusively with the authors.

REVIEWERS

- **Dr. Camilo Defelipe Villa**, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)
- **Jack Lo**, environmental journalist (Peru)
- **Dr. Sergio Cesarín**, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (Argentina)
- **Fermín Koop**, Dialogue Earth (Argentina)
- **Dr. Juan Enrique Serrano**, Universidad de Chile (Chile)
- **Andrés Pogo**, Universidad Internacional de Ecuador (Ecuador)
- **Anonymous reviewer** (Brazil)



INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT

The opinions and analyses contained in this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors.

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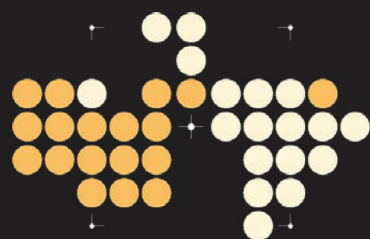
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Andrés Bello Foundation – China-Latin America Research Center
Calle 69A # 9- 66, Bogota D.C., Colombia

📍 www.fundacionandresbello.org

✉ info@fundacionandresbello.org



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