External Review of the Rimisp Territorial Cohesion for Development (CTD) Program:

Scientific Contributions

FINAL REPORT

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1. BACKGROUND OF EVALUATION REPORT

1.1. Background of the Study

The Rimisp-CTD Program was funded, in part, by a grant from IDRC in 2012 (Territories of Wellbeing; Territorial Dynamics in Latin America -- #107091) with follow-up funding in 2013 (Addendum to the same grant proposal). In all, approximately $5m was provided by IDRC, with substantial additional funding being provided by IFAD (~$2.2m) and the Ford Foundation (~$350k). Rimisp-CTD also generated a very substantial amount of additional co- and parallel-funding for the program.

This program of research associated with Rimisp-CTD continues from the groundwork established by the Rimisp-RTD program by addressing rural development by integrating and synthesizing policy, practice and intellectual debate at a *flexible*, sub-national geographic scale (i.e., the territory) in a way that links and cuts across different disciplines. Rimisp-CTD distinguishes itself from earlier programmatic work by its very substantial focus on policy engagement and policy influence.

The *general objective* of this research-based policy advisory, capacity-building and policy engagement program is to contribute to the design and implementation of more comprehensive, cross-cutting and effective public policies that will stimulate and support rural territorial dynamics. Specific objectives to strengthen rural territorial development are to: (1) actively inform policies with strategic, research-based analysis of the dynamics of rural territories and of the determinants of change; (2) strengthen the capacity of strategically selected public and private development agents to engage in policy-making and program-implementation processes; (3) facilitate and make concrete dialogue and interaction among rural development practitioners, policy-makers and researchers from Latin America; and (4) to support the continued consolidation of Rimisp as a leading rural development knowledge center.

The program ends in January of 2016 (with an agreed-upon six-month extension), with a significant number of ongoing operations that involve IDRC grant and additional (non-IDRC) resources; hence, this evaluation captures the Program at approximately mid-stream, especially as regards final published product and policy impact.

The scope of the review is the overall program, consisting of the IDRC grant, along with several other large grants from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Ford Foundation, and several important grants from national governments in support of policy engagement activities.

1.2. Intended Users & Uses of the External Review

The primary users of this external review are Rimisp Board and management, IDRC management and other donors and national governments interested in investing in a Rimisp follow-up program.

The key general uses of the overall external review are to:

- account for the ~$5m investment by IDRC;
- better understand how the funding affected scientific and organizational performance and development;
- better understand how funding affected policy engagement and influence; and
- provide guidance for future programming.

This document reports the findings of the evaluation that focused on *scientific contributions.* More specifically, the quantity and quality of contributions made to the state of knowledge about rural development.

1.3. Values and Principles Guiding the Evaluation Process

Several very important factors influenced the data available for this study, and hence the interpretation and use of the study's results.

First, the Rimisp-CTD project is ongoing and may just now be entering its most productive phase regarding the policy influence. Therefore, this review is in some ways premature; another few years, at least, may be required to more concretely judge the effectiveness and the cost-effectiveness of the Rimisp-CTD project. Therefore, this review makes an effort to identify scientific contributions and policy influence *to date*, and also attempts to *look forward* and assess likely future scientific contributions and policy impacts.

Second, as is always the case, time constraints precluded reviewing all of the documents or contacting all of the individuals that the evaluators would have liked to have included in the data used for this assessment. This is especially true for the assessments of policy engagement and policy influence, hence, most of the examples pertain to data collected during and insights gleaned from site visits in Chile, Mexico and Colombia. With that said, we believe the documents reviewed and the individuals contacted provided an information base that is adequate to support this evaluation, and the conclusions/suggestions it contains.[1]

[1] It is worth noting that Vosti and Weyrauch undertook an external evaluation (commissioned by IDRC and covering the period 2011-2015) of the Rimisp-RTD program; this evaluation serves as a 'baseline' for the current evaluation.

Third, views differed among stakeholders regarding some of the issues dealt with in this review. Whenever a consensus view was possible to determine, it is reported. Whenever stakeholders' views were sharply divided on an issue, multiple views are reported.

Fourth, this review takes as given the results of earlier internal and external reviews of the Rimisp-CTD project.

Finally, Rimisp is one of many organizations in LAC doing research on or seeking to promote sustainable, inclusive growth, so attribution issues loom large regarding contributions to science and (especially) to changes in policies, policymaking processes, and policy dialog.

1.4. Description of Methodology

The following data collection methods were employed in this evaluation:

- initial orientation meeting at Rimisp offices in Santiago, Chile;
- review of documentation relevant to the Rimisp-CTD program, including the initial proposal, annual progress reports, documents available on the Rimisp web site, evaluations conducted by the Rimisp-CTD M&E system, and key publications resulting from the program;[2]
- review of the recent international literature on rural development theory and practice;
- interviews with selected Rimisp staff, authors of important Rimisp-CTD reports, and a selection of key Rimisp-CTD collaborators;
- interviews with staff from selected key organizations active within and outside the region; and
- interviews with representatives of selected governments and agencies that provided co-funding or parallel funding to the Rimisp-CTD program.[3]

1.5. Acknowledgements

Rimisp-CTD research and support staff worked tirelessly and cheerfully to prepare and deliver the large volume of information upon which this study heavily relies, to present and discuss issues related to the program's scientific contributions and policy influence, and to help to arrange meetings with stakeholders. Special thanks go to Juan Fernández for the truly excellent supporting documentation and logistical assistance he provided prior to and during the evaluation process. Julio Berdegué, as always, was our ever-accessible, ever-helpful point of contact for all issues – without his guidance and input, would have been much more challenging to undertake, and probably of much less value to its intended users.

[2] See Annex 2 of this report for a list of documents consulted.
[3] See Annex 1 to this report for a list of individuals contacted.

A long list of stakeholders[4] graciously agreed to provide input into this study; the time and effort they dedicated to preparing for and participating in interviews was considerable.

Laura Dick provided excellent research support in reviewing the global and Latin America-focused English-language literature related to rural development.

The efforts of these groups are very much appreciated.

All errors are ours.

2. EVALUATION FINDINGS

2.1. Rimisp-CTD Scientific Research Program

2.1.1. Point of Departure for the Rimisp-CTD Research Program

The seminal contribution of Schejtman and Berdegué[4] was the Rimisp-CTD program's intellectual point of departure. This paper is recognized and appreciated by all Rimisp collaborators (and many others) as a fundamental contribution to the stock of knowledge, and one that has immediate resonance with a very broad array of stakeholders throughout LAC. In short, this paper, and others[5], argue that a new socioeconomic and geographic 'lens' is required to identify options for and ways to promote sustainable, inclusive growth in rural areas in LAC – the proposed geographic lens is the *territory*, which is generally larger than a município (or county) and smaller than a state (or region), and is comprised of a set of stakeholders sharing common histories and purposes that are called upon to promote sustainable, inclusive growth.[6]

The 'jewel in the crown' from the point of international access to the collection of ideas and studies associated with rural territorial development is Rimisp's Special Issue of *World Development*[7]. While considerable effort went into producing that volume, it elevated Rimisp to a new (and deserved) standing in the international scientific community. Among its many contributions, that volume identified a collection of what could be referred to as necessary conditions for inclusive, sustainable rural development, namely:

- structures of resource access and control that are clear, equitable and enforced;

[4] Schejtman and Berdegue (2007), which takes as background, among others, Acemoglu et al. (2002), Krugman (1991, 1998) and Bagnasco (1977 and 1998).

[5] Especially the work on rural non-farm employment, see Escobar, Reardon and Berdegué (2001).

[6] Reducing poverty, and making the ownership of and access to assets and services more equitable, are key objectives of sustainable, inclusive growth.

[7] Berdegué, Escobal and Bebbington. 2015. World Development Vol. 73, pp. 129–137, 2015

- economic structures that are inclusive, efficient, and flexible, and that are linkages with dynamic markets;
- strong, bi-directional rural–urban linkages, particularly with intermediate-sized cities;
- the key role of strategic public investments to promote 1-3; and
- the key roles of harmonized and inclusive-growth-focused collective action to promote 1-4.

The research program of Rimisp-CTD has been driven, in large part, by this collection of conditions, both in terms of the research undertaken and in the efforts to distill policy messages from research results that are related to these conditions. In what follows, we summarize what we feel are the significant contributions to the scientific body of knowledge made by Rimisp-CTD, identify methodological and other shortcomings where appropriate, and suggest next steps that may be useful to the research program, with particular focus on merging the future Rimisp-CTD research with the current (and likely increasing) focus on policy engagement.

2.1.2. The Scientific Productivity of the Rimisp-CTD Program

To date, approximately 75 Rimisp-CTD working papers[8] have been produced and many of these have either already been published, or are destined for publication as book chapters, journal papers, or both (see below).

Two papers reporting the results of Rimisp-CTD-supported research are under review by international journals.

It is likely that the flow of peer-reviewed scientific products will increase over the next several years as data analyses come to an end, and as the publishable elements of those analyses emerge. Indeed, this is what one would expect from research projects of this size and complexity.

More specifically, the following edited volumes (some titles are provisional) have either been produced or are currently under review.

> **Book 1 – Trampas Territoriales de Pobreza y Desigualdad: Los casos de Chile, México y Perú.** This book contains three pairs of country-level and territorial case studies for Chile, Mexico and Peru, and one introductory/synthesis chapter. It is currently under review.

[8] Available at: http://rimisp.org/proyectos/publicaciones-y-documentos/?p=programa-cohesion-territorial-para-el-desarrollo&c=documentos-de-trabajo

Book 2 – Informe Latinoamericano sobre Pobreza y Desigualdad (2013). This widely distributed/cited tome in Latin America contains three parts: Part 1 focuses on gaps in income-based poverty and other indicators of social welfare; Part 2 focuses on spatial differences on employment in Brazil and Mexico, with special emphasis on high- and low-quality jobs; and Part 3 presents a series of territorial case studies that focus on private-sector investments (often made jointly with public-sector investments) and their potential to generate employment, especially high-quality jobs. The 2015 edition will be published in December, 2015, and will highlight gender inequality.

Book 3 - **Agricultura Familiar en América Latina (2014*).*** This was an IFAD-sponsored research project and volume. The publication, and the series of jointly published country-specific working papers, provide detailed and useful overviews of family farm enterprises in the most important agricultural economies of Latin America.

Book 4 – Rural-Urban Linkages (2014*).* This work, one the few efforts looking beyond LAC that Rimisp-CTD has engaged in, was supported primarily by the Ford Foundation. The Final Report remains an in-house document to guide internal Foundation policy and has had substantial influence on internal discussions and funding decisions.[9] Berdegué and Proctor[10] provide a useful overview.

2.1.3. Theme-Specific Assessments

What follows is an assessment of the scientific contributions of selected Rimisp-CTD research themes, and suggestions for enhancing productivity, publishability, and policy influence.

2.1.4. Data Bases for Territorial Cohesion

This highly disaggregated, region-wide data base was originally established under the Rimisp-RTD program and used to develop a seminal collection of poverty maps. The data base has been expanded and updated to provide longer time series to support the study of an array of dynamic processes, poverty and equity chief among them. The data base remains regionally unique and publically available; while we cannot determine precisely who used these data[11], it is quite likely that the academic community within LAC has been the primary user. Rimisp-CTD has continued to exploit these data to explore new definitions

[9] Ford Foundation representative; personal communication, July 2015.
[10] Berdegué J. A. and Proctor F. J. (2014) Cities in the Rural Transformation. Working Paper Series N° 122.
[11] Recent upgrades to the data monitoring system will allow future evaluations to probe these issues more deeply.

of territories (e.g., functional territories[12]) and to examine new indicators of human welfare[13] and links among them.

2.1.5. Territorial Poverty, Opportunity and Inequality Traps

This research builds on earlier Rimisp-RTD work, especially the poverty maps and poverty dynamics analyses, and confirms what was originally posited at that time – if you're poor, you're likely to remain so. The results of this work have been broadly distributed and well-received, especially in selected Latin American countries. The research program nudges the scientific frontier forward a bit by identifying some of the factors that may help explain why the set of (somewhat arbitrarily determined) persistently poor spatial units (often not territories, but smaller administrative units) are so[14], but some of the factors suggested (e.g.) lack of social cohesion, are hard to define, hard to measure, and even harder to craft policy to deal with. In-depth work comparing territories with similar histories but different economic development paths[15] points up the potential for public-private partnerships to help lift territories out of poverty, but the broad-based replicability of some of these investments may be in doubt. This work would benefit from making more clear distinctions between 'opportunities' and amenities (e.g., access to water), and from a clearer articulation of specific policy recommendations for addressing poverty traps, and a clearer justification for why authors feel they would be successful, in a timely way – even the best empirical papers[16] end 'flat' in this regard. All of this work would benefit from an 'economic overlay,' i.e., some assessment of the cost-effectiveness of alternative strategies for escaping poverty. Finally, this set of research activities is also somewhat inconveniently labeled. From the title, some readers may expect, a la Michael Carter[17], an assessment of the effects of exogenous shocks on the assets of actors or collections them, some of whom manage to overcome these shocks while others do not. Indeed, that sort of analysis, if doable, would dovetail nicely with the part of the definition of territorial dynamics that relies on site-specific history, including economic shocks.

[12] See, for example, Rodriguez et al. 2013. Territorios funcionales de Nicaragua.
[13] See, for example, Soloaga and Yunez Naude. 2013. Dinámicas del bienestar territorial en México basadas en los territorios funcionales: 2005- 2010
[14] See, for example, Tomaselli in Trampas Territoriales de Pobreza y Desigualdad: Los casos de Chile, México y Perú, under review.
[15] See, for example, Fernandez Labbé et al. in Trampas Territoriales de Pobreza y Desigualdad: Los casos de Chile, México y Perú, under review.
[16] See Escobal, in Trampas Territoriales de Pobreza y Desigualdad: Los casos de Chile, México y Perú, under review.
[17] See Carter and Barrett (2006) and Fafchamps *et al.* (1998).

2.1.6. Territorial Cohesion for Development – Definitions, Research Methods and Policy Relevance[18]

Rimisp-CTD has begun to map out new conceptual space by suggesting that regional and perhaps national economic growth can be hindered by large differences growth and/or poverty reduction among territories. If this potentially important co-benefit of rural territorial development (higher-scale economic growth) turns out to be large and addressable via concrete policy actions, then RTD should be easier to sell. However, there may be some up-hill battles to fight along the way. The first deals with terminologies. We, as a discipline, have been grappling with how to define territories for some time; Rimisp-CTD is wrestling now with this issue in very practical and (hopefully) policy-relevant ways in the context of its field-based policy engagement activities. Coupling *that* nebulous term with the word 'cohesion' – perhaps even more challenging to define, measure and wrap concrete policy dialog around – increases the uncertainty regarding objectives and the means to achieve them. The second relates to data. There are distinct limits to which secondary data can support the proposed analyses. For example, it is difficult for cross-sectional data to support examinations of the effects of (say) population concentrations on regional or national economic growth[19] – endogeneity issues loom large. More complete structural macroeconomic models may be the more appropriate tool[20]. The third is a set of conceptual/theoretical/methodological issues that will have to be dealt with before credible policy messages can likely be distilled from research: a) the world may be a highly non-linear one when it comes to economic development and territorial cohesion – extreme lack of cohesion (e.g., warfare) may be catastrophic for development, while very low (but not extreme) levels of cohesion may pose few limitations to growth; b) many other factors aside from territorial cohesion can affect higher-scale growth – proper tools/approaches should be selected to consider these other factors, and their interactions, c) policies for enhancing cohesion need to be spelled out, and d) to help shape policy dialog, the costs associated with enhancing cohesion need to be set alongside their benefits in terms of economic growth. Rimisp-CTD has begun to wrestle with these issues, but new sets of collaborators with more appropriate tools (e.g., groups with existing spatially explicit regional development models) might speed this process and also generate co-benefits for new collaborators who are seeking to understand how best to sub-divide (spatially and sectorally) national economies.

[18] We deal very specifically here with the scientific and measurement issues associated with territorial cohesion. Policy-makers can and do march forward for political and other reasons with investments in territorial cohesion (e.g., http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/) before all of the theory and evidence is 'ready.' Placing political 'carts' before the scientific 'horses' may be a political imperative at times, but this does not reduce the value of the 'horses'; Rimisp-CTD should show prudence and provide guidance in this domain.

[19] See Tomaselli, 2015, under review.

[20] E.g., Verburg *et al*., 2006. A multi-scale, multi-model approach for analyzing the future dynamics of European land use. Ann Reg Sci (2008) 12:57-77. Or, Cattaneo, A. 2008. Regional Comparative Advantage, Location of Agriculture, and Deforestation in Brazil. Journal of Sustainable Forestry, 27:1-2, 25-42.

2.1.7. Social Safety Nets

Work on social protection programs21 is new for Rimisp-CTD, and dovetails nicely with the program's focus on addressing poverty at the bottom of the pyramid using public policy instruments. Identifying subsets of social programs that are by design 'spatially blind' but may have spatially and socially heterogeneous effects[22] will contribute to fine-tuning social safety nets. The distinction between providing cash, food, and services to reduce poverty gaps at household level, and making the supra-household-level investments to help the less-poor (thanks to social protection programs) to leverage their resources to escape poverty over the long term is a point very well made. Again, research undertaken alongside ongoing and future Rimisp-CTD policy engagement work have the potential to help policy-makers fine-tune and balance their social safety net and social promotion investment portfolios.

2.1.8. Agroindustry and Poverty Reduction

Rimisp-CTD empirical work on the potential for the expansion of relatively labor-intense agroindustry to reduce poverty locally is well-done and compelling[23]. Next steps in this research might address the extent to which, and via which specific policy actions/investments, policy-makers can 'steer' specific sub-sectors of the agroindustrial complex towards areas with higher levels of poverty, and whether such investments are wise (i.e., are such actions/investments, which may be expensive and impose important local opportunity costs, the most cost-effective strategies promoting job-creating rural development and reducing rural poverty). Finally, rapid mechanization and increasing concerns regarding food quality and especially food safety may influence the spatial location of (e.g.) processing plants, and do so in ways that reduce policy-makers abilities to influence location choices.

2.1.9. Rural-Urban Linkages

Through the territorial lens, the Rimisp-RTD project helped to recast the institutional setting needed to effectively promote sustainable, inclusive growth. The importance and the roles of medium-sized cities in defining territories and in understanding rural development processes are now better understood thanks to that research effort.[24] Incorporating cities, some of which are located outside the boundaries of territories,[25] generated some new insights into urban-rural linkages. Research undertaken by Rimisp-CTD has taken the analyses of rural-urban linkages a few steps further. "Rural" and "urban" are now defined

[21] See, e.g., Scott. 2014. Coordinación Territorial de las Políticas de Protección Social en México. Serie Documentos de Trabajo N° 140.

[22] See, e.g., Fernández et al. 2013. Políticas de protección social y superación de la pobreza para la inclusión social: una lectura crítica desde el enfoque de cohesión territorial". Documento de Trabajo N°23

[23] See, e.g., Cazzuffi et al. 2015. Localización de la industria agroalimentaria en Chile y sus cambios en el tiempo, 1995-2009

[24] See, e.g., Berdegué and Proctor. 2014. Cities in the Rural Transformation. Working Paper Series N° 122.

[25] See, for example, Hernandez and Trivelli (2011).

in non-traditional and more policy-relevant ways, which highlight the potentially mutually beneficial effects (for the poor, especially) of promoting rural-urban linkages and making them more efficient. The roles of food systems and labor markets in determining the types and volumes of bi-directional, rural-urban flows of goods and services are now more deeply appreciated. Questions remain regarding how best to manage this new, larger, and more complex rural-urban interface, and how to prioritize and to geographically target them. What seems to be emerging from this work is an interesting (and healthy, coming from Rimisp-CTD) blend of spatially blind and place-based policy suggestions; research on these issues undertaken alongside ongoing policy engagement work, especially in Mexico and Colombia, may help sort this out.

2.1.10. The Political Economy of Water Policy

This is a welcome return (but a limited one) by Rimisp-CTD to the realm of environment and natural resource management, an area highlighted by Rimisp-RTD as one with great potential for defining/demarcating territories, and for providing clearer (although challenging) sets of policy instruments for use in managing ecosystem service flows, with implications for poverty and wealth. The underlying aim for equity in water access/distribution[26] perhaps could be 'stretched' to make water policies more progressive. Spatial trade-offs among alternative water-use beneficiaries can be predicted (several tools exist and some can be quickly deployed), and these trade-off vary over time (wet versus dry years), so policies need to be crafted conditional on climate and weather. Injecting this sort of flexibility into water policy discussions may be fundamental to sustainable and poverty-sensitive water policies.

2.1.11. How Others Think About and Deal with 'Space' – Practicality, Overlaps, and Opportunities for Increased Relevance

Thinking about the spatial distribution of humans, human needs, human activities, natural resources, ecosystem service flows, etc. is not new, and every sub-discipline has its own 'lens' for demarcating space and for 'viewing' the biophysical and socioeconomic actors/processes/interactions/structures/etc. within and across these demarcated areas. Those working on climate change issues[27] use one lens, those working on water management use others[28, 29], those worrying about land use/land cover change use another,

[26] Ravnborg et al. 2015. "Water Governance Reform in the context of Inequality. Securing rights or legitimising dispossession?" Presentation at the World Water Congress, Mayo 27, 2015.
[27] IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.
[28] Torres *et a*l. 2011. Economic Impacts of Regional Water Scarcity in the São Francisco River Basin, Brazil: An Application of a Linked Hydro-Economic Model. Environment and Development Economics 17:227-248.
[29] Maneta et al. 2009. A Spatially Distributed Hydro-Economic Model to Assess the Effects of Drought on Land Use, Farm Profits, and Agricultural Employment. *Water Resources Research*. 45: 1-19.

and those grappling with global markets for food/fiber/biofuels use yet another[30]. For practical reasons, some related to the desire to influence policy dialog and decisions, all sub-disciplines have had to become concrete in their demarcations and to select and justify specific actors/actions/interactions/structures/etc. for study and for policy engagement. Overlaps among sub-disciplinary lenses can be very useful in understanding and predicting the effects of policy and other changes[31], and enhancing policy influence[32]. As Rimisp-CTD focuses more attention and effort on policy engagement, it is being forced craft its own lenses, i.e., to become concrete about the spatial delineation of territories and more selective regarding the actors/etc. that it focuses on. This is a challenging but necessary process. Rimisp can learn from other sub-disciplines about the costs/benefits associated with 'carving up space' in particular ways using particular guiding principles. More important, spatial overlaps between Rimisp-CTD territories and the spatial units created by others may emerge (perhaps by design); if/where they do, these overlapping spatial units may offer Rimisp-CTD some (perhaps unexpected) collaborators and enhanced policy relevance.

2.1.12 .Where Do/Can the Rimisp-CTD Scientific Contributions Fit? A Brief Review of the International Regional Science Literature

Finally, in the context of this scientific review of Rimisp-CTD's activities and outputs, we undertook a review of the regional science literature over the past (approximately) ten years.[33] We did so in order to identify broad trends in the literature and to assess overlaps with core Rimisp-CTD research themes, and also to look forward a bit regarding how Rimisp-CTD might position its future scientific output. Papers were reviewed for content and classified by broad research themes. Figure 1 presents the results of this literature review (vertical axis reports the number of papers focusing on particular themes; the right-hand-side legend identifies these themes).

Figure 1: Broad Trends in the Regional Science Literature (# of papers, by key research theme)

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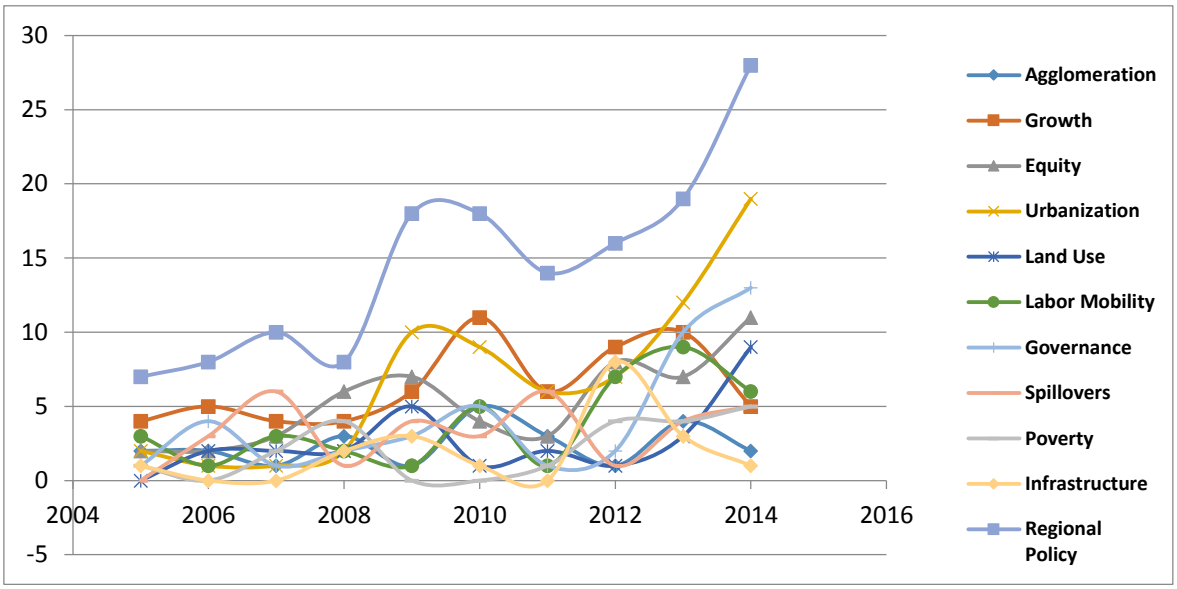
[30] Nelson *et al*. 2010. Food security, farming, and climate change to 2050. Washington, D.C. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
http://www.ifpri.org/publication/food-security-farming-and-climate-change-2050

[31] Rosegrant *et al.* 2012. International Model for Policy Analysis of Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT): Model Description International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.

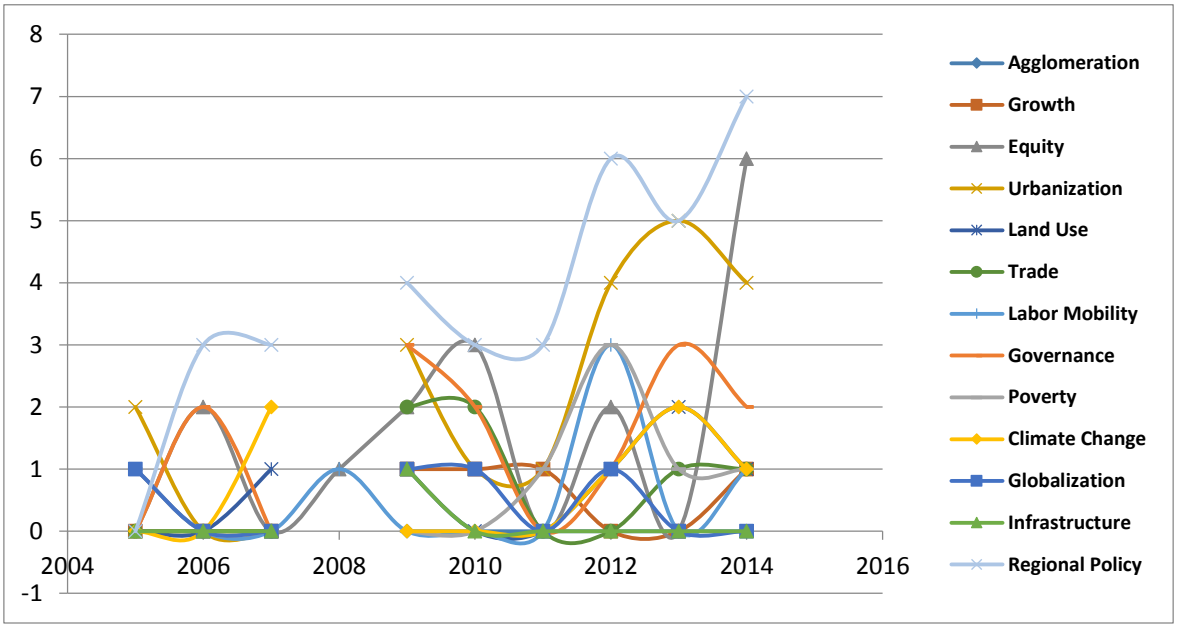
[32] Vosti and Brown, 2015, Use of Optimization Modeling to Select Interventions for the Control of Micronutrient Deficiencies. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, Volume 36, Supplement3, September 2015.

[33] The following journals were included in this review: Papers in Regional Science, Journal of Regional Science, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Growth and Change, Review of Urban and Regional Development Studies, Regional Science Policy and Practice, Frontiers in Resource and Regional Economics, Journal of Regional and Socioeconomic Issues, Annals of Regional Science, Canadian Journal of Regional Science, International Regional Science Review, Regional Science and Urban Economics, European Journal of Spatial Development, International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, Journal of New Frontiers in Spatial Concepts, Journal of Spatial Science, Spatial Economic Analysis, OECD Regional Development Working Papers, Papers in Local and Regional Development, and Regional Analysis and Policy.



Several trends quickly emerge from this review. First, regional policy (examined in greater detail below) remains the dominant theme in this literature, increasing its share of published papers over the past decade. Second, increasing attention is being paid to urbanization (its causes, its consequences, and how to manage it), and, related, labor mobility. Third, there has been a recent up-tick in interest in and publications focusing on governance (what it means, how to make it more effective and efficient, etc.). Internationally, poverty remains a relatively low-profile issue in this literature, but papers on equity have increased in number over the past five years or so.

Figure 2: Trends in the Regional Science Literature Focusing on Latin America (# of papers, by key research theme)

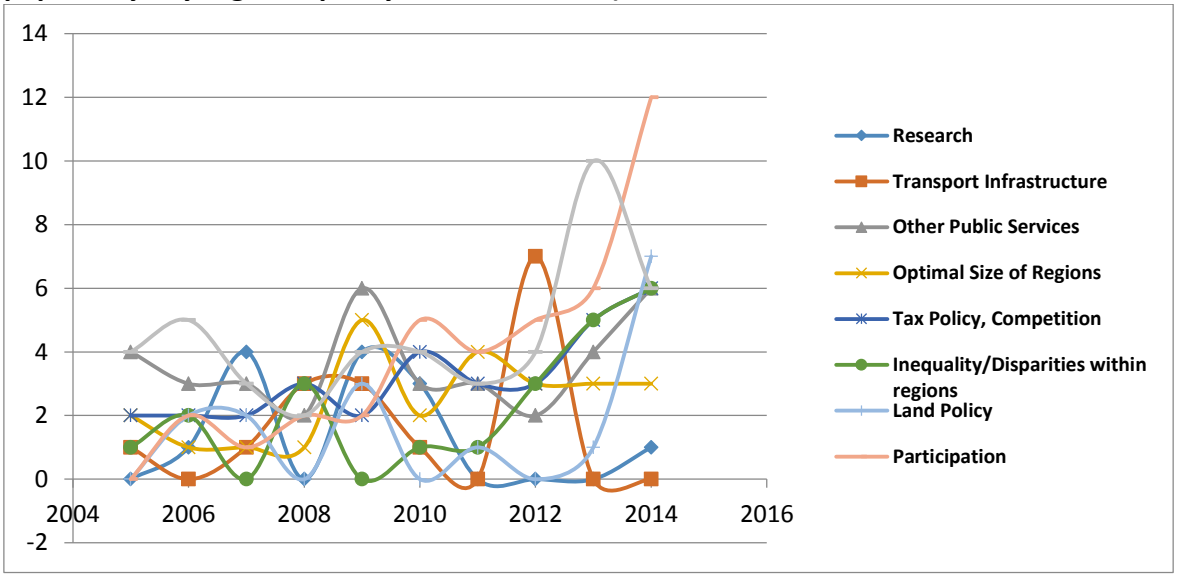


Using the same metrics and research theme categories, the numbers of papers appearing in these same journals but focusing on Latin America are reported in Figure 2. Several factors emerge from reviewing this subset of the literature. First, unsurprisingly, the majority of the international literature is not focused on Latin America. Second, there is a large, recent increase in publications that focus on equity. Third, publications on regional policy have continued to increase in number (essentially) over the entire review period.

Finally, when one looks at the international literature (including that focused on Latin America) *within* the category of 'regional policy' (Figure 3), a few interesting trends emerge.

First, participation and development policies top the list of regional policy issues. Second, over the past five years or so, there has been a marked increase in attention being paid to inequality/disparity among regions. Third, land policy (and land use in the non-LAC literature) has experienced a recent increase in attention. Fourth, the optimal size of regions continue to occupy a mid-level position. Finally, and perhaps invitingly (see below), very little attention has being paid recently to research on policy issues.

Figure 3: Trends within the Regional Science Literature Focusing on Policy Issues (# of papers, by key regional policy research theme)



This brief (and admittedly somewhat superficial) review and write-up of it begs two questions: a) what role has Rimisp had in 'steering' this literature, and perhaps more important b) how might the emerging and future research output of Rimisp-CTD be conducted and 'packaged' in order to dovetail with trends in this literature?

Regarding the first question, given publication lags, etc., Rimisp-CTD is too 'young' to have had much influence. While not the focus of this evaluation, Rimisp-RTD, has influenced several veins of the international literature, especially those relating to poverty and inequality.

Regarding the second question, one of the wonderful things about being 'young' is that there is time to grow and react to opportunities; Rimisp-CTD is in a position to do both. Several such opportunities are eye-catching. First, as noted above, relatively few publications focus on research – how to go about learning how to design policies that cost-effectively promote sustainable and equitable growth – Rimisp-CTD is, in part, in the business of doing just that and others can learn from their examples (successes and failures). Second, the urbanization literature (growth of cities, how to manage them, etc.) has tended to under-invest in exploring/exploiting rural-urban linkages – this has become one of Rimisp-CTDs core research themes and hence may offer an opportunity for broad influence. Third, interest in equity is on the up-swing; Rimisp-RTD has made very important empirical and other contributions to this literature and Rimisp-CTD may be able to follow that 'lead' by discovering how to address equity issues (especially in rural areas) and publishing those findings. Finally, but certainly not exhaustively (one could continue to speculate *ad infinitum*), the literature on the optimal size of regions seems (to our eye) is

disconnected from the notion of and the literature on territories, territorial dynamics and territorial cohesion – Rimisp-CTD may be able to 'fix' this.

Finally, there are language issues associated with exposure and impact. Echoing concerns noted in an earlier evaluation, most of the scientific products produced to date are in Spanish, thereby limiting the access of non-Spanish-speaking research and outreach communities. LAC is arguably Rimisp-CTD's target audience, but publishing selected key products in English-language journals would enhance Rimisp-CTD's reach and influence.

Annex 1: List of Individuals Contacted (listed in no particular order)

Name	Country (office)	Institutional Affiliation	When Contacted	How Contacted
Rubén Echeverria	Colombia	President of Rimisp Board of Directors	June-July	Skype and in person
Carolina Trivelli	Perú	Partner and member of Rimisp´s Board	July 10th	Skype
Ignacia Fernández	Chile	Rimisp	July 7th and August 18th	Skype
Angela Penagos	Colombia	Dirección Nacional de Planificación	July 14th	Skype
Jaime Gatica	Chile	Rimisp	June 23rd and June 24th	In person
Caroline Stevens	Chile	Rimisp	June 23rd	In person
Egon Montecinos	Chile	Governor of Los Ríos	June 24th	Skype
Claudia Serrano	France	Former Executive Director of Rimisp	June 24th	Skype
Jorge Rodríguez	Chile	Secretary at DIPRES	June 25th	In person
Ricardo Fuentealba and Mario Alburquerque	Chile	Consultants	June 25th	In person
Martine Dirven	Chile	Consultant, former Chief of the Rrual Development office at CEPAL)	June 24th	In person
Edelmira Pérez	Colombia	Founder and former Director of the Master for Rural development of the Universidad Javeriana	July 22nd	In person

Name	Country (office)	Institutional Affiliation	When Contacted	How Contacted
Natalia Gómez	Colombia	Consultant, former rural development specialist of World Bank	July 22nd	In person
Mario Villamil	Colombia	Coordinator at the Direction for National Planning	July 23rd	In person
Luz Fonseca	Colombia	Representative of CONALGODON	July 22nd	In person
Luis Fernando Forero	Colombia	General Secretary of the Agricultural Society of Colombia)	July 22nd	In person
Santiago Perry	Colombia	Member of Misión Rural and General Secretary of the Rural Development Dialogue Group	July	In person
Absalon Machado	Colombia	Member of Misión Rural and rural development expert	July 23rd	In person
Álvaro Balcázar	Colombia	Principal Advisor for the Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz	July 23rd	In person
Alejandro Reyes	Colombia	Member of Misión Rural and advisor for the Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz	July 23rd	In person
Tomás Rosada	Italy	IFAD	August 12th	Skype
Merle Faminow	Uruguay	IDRC	August	Skype
Julio Berdegué	Chile	Rimisp	June, July, August	Skype and in person
Gerardo Franco Parrillat	Mexico	Rimisp	August 3rd	Skype
Claudia Ranaboldo	Bolivia	Rimisp	August 4th	Skype

Name	Country (office)	Institutional Affiliation	When Contacted	How Contacted
Andres Tomasselli	Chile	Rimisp	June	In person
Juan Fernandez	Chile	Rimisp	June	In person
Chiara Cazzzuffi	Chile and Italy	Rimisp	June, July	In person
Alejandro Schejtman	Chile	Rimisp	June	In person
Feliz Modrego	Chile	Univ. Catolica del Norte	June 22	Skype
Leonardo Cespedes	Chile	Rimisp	June	In person
Eduardo Ramirez	Chile	ODEPA	June	In person
Octavio Sotomayor	Chile	INDAP	June 24	In person
Ximena Quezada	Chile	INDAP	June 24	In person
Veronica Pinilla	Chile		June 23	In person
Juan Calos Feres	Chile	FUNASUPO (NAR)	June 24	In person
Heinrich von Baer	Chile	Comision de la Descentralizacion	June 25	Skype
Geraldo Franco	Mexico	Rimisp	June, July	In person
Claudia Rodriguez	Mexico	Rimisp	June, July	In person
Ernesto Lopez Cordova	Mexico	SHCP	June 30	In person
Ivana Fertzinger	Mexico	Ford Foundation	June 30	In person
Paula Hernández Olmos	Mexico	PROSPERA	July 1	In person
John Scott	Mexico	CIDE		In person

Name	Country (office)	Institutional Affiliation	When Contacted	How Contacted
Antonio Yunez	Mexico	COLMEX		In person
Gustavo Gordillo	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July	In person
Enrique Gonzales Tiburcio	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Andres de la Garza	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Octavio Jurado	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Alfonso Cebreros Murillo	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Marco Antonio Galindo Olguin	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Jose Cacho Ribeiro	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Enrique Merigo Orellana	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Ismael Valverde	Mexico	Rural Dialogue Group	July 2	In person
Implementation team (many)	Mexico	Members of Territorios Productivos	June 29	In person
Target Beneficiaries (many)	Mexico	Members of Territorios Productivos	June 29	In person

Annex 2: Documents Consulted

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Annex 3: Evaluation Workplan

What follows is an approved plan of work (version April 28, 2015) for the focused external scientific, policy impact and organizational review the Core Support for Rural Development Research Phase 2 (Rimisp-CTD) provided to Rimisp by IDRC (Project Number: 107091-001).

This Review takes the External Review conducted in 2011as its point of departure. The timeframe for this Review covers the period 2011 to present, during which IDRC provided approximately $5m of core support, and other donors provided additional core support totaling approximately $3.9m.

The document is divided into five brief sections: key issues to be address; objectives of and key tasks/methods associated with the *scientific* review; objectives of and key tasks/methods associated with the *policy impact* review; objectives of and key tasks/methods associated with the *organizational* review; and a matrix containing a time-bound set of review activities, and the intermediate and final deliverables that will be produced.

Section 1 – The key issues to be addressed in this External Review are:

- accountability for the IDRC investment in Rimisp-CTD core funding
- a better understanding of the scientific contributions and policy impacts of the Rimisp-CTD program
- provide guidance for future Rimisp-CTD investments and activities

Section 2 – Objectives, tasks and methods for the *scientific* review

- Identify and assess the importance of the scientific contributions that Rimisp-CTD research has contributed to rural development thinking, practice and policy in Latin America and globally.
    - Task 1: Assess the scientific productivity of the Rimisp-CTD program.
    - Task 2: Assess the quantity and quality of contributions made by the Rimisp-CTD program to the state of knowledge regarding territorial inequalities and rural territorial development.
    - Task 3: Identify the gaps in knowledge that Rimisp-CTD may be well-positioned to fill in the future, and the current institutional and other impediments to making these contributions.

Methodology for scientific review

- Review documentation relevant to the Rimisp program including (but not necessarily limited to): the initial proposal, annual progress reports, the Rimisp web site, evaluations conducted by the program's M & E system, key publications resulting from the program.
- Review the recent international literature on rural development theory and practice.
- Interview selected Rimisp staff, authors of important Rimisp reports, and a selection of key stakeholders within the research networks developed for the program.
- Interview staff from selected key organizations active in the region (e.g., universities, large NGOs, agencies of national governments, multilateral organizations such as IFAD, WB, IICA).
- Interview representatives of selected organizations provided co-funding or parallel funding to the Rimisp-CTD program (e.g., Ford Foundation, IFAD, governments of Mexico and Chile).

<u>Section 3</u> – Objectives, tasks and methods for the *policy impact* review

- Identify and document Rimisp-CTD contributions changes in policy objectives, policy instruments, and policy implementation in areas in Latin America where the program is active.
    - Task 1: For selected Rimisp-CTD research sites/partners, identify policy changes, policies that were considered for change/adoption, and any modifications to policy change mechanisms that occurred at least in part as a result of the Rimisp program.
    - Task 2: Identify the strengths and weaknesses of Rimisp-CTD in formulating and bringing about policy change.
    - Task 3: Identify strategic investments/activities that Rimisp-CTD could make/undertake to enhance the effectiveness of its future policy impact work.

Methodology for policy impact review

- Review documentation relevant to the program including: the initial proposal, annual progress reports, the Rimisp web site, the documents and other products delivered to the governments, and evaluations conducted by the program's M & E system.

- Review selected project-specific publications related to policy objectives, policy instruments for achieving those objectives, policy implementation and project M&E.

- Interview key stakeholders/collaborators at selected Rimisp-CTD research/action sites.

- Interview selected key Rimisp-CTD staff.

- Interview representatives of organizations that provided co-funding or parallel funding to the Rimisp-CTD program (NZAID, Ford Foundation, IFAD).

<u>Section 4</u> -- Objectives, tasks and methods for the *organizational* review

- Assess the enhanced capacity of Rimisp-CTD to undertake scientific research leading to policy impact in rural areas of Latin America, which is attributable to the core funding provided by IDRC.

    - Task 1: Assess the extent to which the organizational issues/recommendations raised in the 2011 External Evaluation have been addressed by Rimisp-CTD.

    - Task 2: Identify Rimisp-level organizational development issues that have implications for the scientific productivity and policy impacts of the Rimisp-CTD program, and analyze their effects.

    - Task 3: Identify strategic personnel/organizational investments that Rimisp-CTD could make to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of its scientific and policy impact activities.

This includes a general assessment of Rimisp's advantages as a regional organization, and the extent to which such advantages help explain the research and policy results and outcomes observed.

Methodology for organizational review

- Review documentation relevant to the Rimisp-CTD program including: the initial proposal, annual progress reports, the Rimisp web site, and evaluations conducted by the Rimisp M & E system.

- Interview selected Rimisp-CTD staff.

- Interview selected external stakeholders relevant for the critical organizational development issues identified in Task 2.

- Interview representatives of other organizations that provided co-funding or parallel funding to the program (e.g., NZAID, Ford Foundation, IFAD).

Section 5 – Timeline for Review Activities and Deliverables

The following table summarizes the evaluation activities to be undertaken, their timing, the intermediate and final documents to be produced, and when we expect to deliver them.

Activities	Dates (2015)
Develop agreed-upon work plan	Late-April
Interact with Rimisp-CTD to Compile Needed Data/Documents	Early-May
Conference Call with Rimisp to Initiate Review Activities	Mid-May
Visit to Rimisp and to Chile Research Site (SV, VW)	June 22-26
Visit to Rimisp-CTD Partners/Site in Mexico (SV)	June 28-July 3
Visit to Rimisp-CTD Partners/Site in Colombia (VW)	July 20-22
Phone/Skype Interviews with Key Stakeholders (SV, VW)	Mid-June-Late-July
Interviews with Rimisp-CTD Staff/Collaborators (LE)	Mid-June-Mid-July
Preliminary Report of Findings Delivered to Rimisp	August 21*
Draft Final Report of Findings Delivered to Rimisp	September 15*
Rimisp Responses to Draft Report Delivered to Evaluators	September 30*
Final Report Delivered to Rimisp	October 15*

* Earlier, if possible

Annex 4: Evaluators' Biographies

Leandro Echt

Leandro is an independent consultant working on research and policy, focusing on think tanks and civil society organizations and on developing their capacities to influence policy (influence planning, research communications, M&E of policy influence, fund raising and governance, among other issues). He is a member of Politics & Ideas, a think net focused on creating collective knowledge about the links between research and policy. He is also member of On Think Tanks, the main source of information, advice and ideas for think tanks. He works with different public agencies both at national and subnational level, designing and assessing policies, and conducting capacity building activities in the public policy fields. He has worked for more than five years at the Center for the Implementation of Public Policies promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), being the Coordinator of the Influence, Monitoring and Evaluation Program. Leandro has an MA in Public Policies and Development Management (Georgetown University and Universidad de San Martín, thesis in preparation), Diploma on Evaluation of Public Policies, and BA in Political Science and Professorship of Political Science (Universidad de Buenos Aires).

Stephen A. Vosti

Vosti is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis. He received his PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and was a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Rockefeller Foundation in Brazil where he taught economic demography and did field research on the socioeconomic determinants and consequences of malaria. He was a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, where he managed international research projects aimed at identifying and measuring the effects of changes in land use and land cover on poverty, economic growth and environmental sustainability, and identifying the roles of public policy in managing these trade-offs/synergies. He has worked closely with an array of biophysical scientists to develop bioeconomic models to predict the effects of changes in policies, technologies and institutional arrangements on the environment, poverty and economic growth. Vosti and his collaborators have examined the links between agricultural policy and obesity in the U.S., and contributed to the literature on the consequences of alternative water management strategies on agriculture and on the rural poor. Vosti's current research focuses on the potential for small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements (SQ-LNS) to prevent early childhood undernutrition, and on the policy issues associated with promoting such products. Vosti also leads a team comprised of nutritionists, geographers and economists in developing tools to enhance the cost-effectiveness of micronutrient intervention policies in developing countries, with special focus on Cameroon. Vosti has substantial field-based research experience in Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon,

Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Pakistan. He holds an adjunct positions at Tufts University.

Vanesa Weyrauch

Vanesa is co-founder of Politics & Ideas and Associate Researcher at CIPPEC, Argentina. She has worked in the policy and research field for the past 12 years, especially with think tanks in Latin America. She has created several online courses on topics like policy influence planning, funding models, research communications and monitoring & evaluating policy influence addressed to think tanks in Latin America, Africa and Asia. She also works as mentor with several think tanks in developing countries, particularly in communications, policy influence, funding and monitoring and evaluation. She has evaluated different policy influence projects/programs/organizations. She has worked as Institutional Development Director at CIPPEC (a leading think tank in Argentina) from 2002-2006 and has created and implemented new fundraising strategies to diversify funding and enhance sustainability. She holds a BA in Social Communications from Universidad Austral (Argentina) and a Certificate of Special Studies in Management and Administration from Harvard University.