

Rafael A. Grillo Avila

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Profile

Lateral Thinking Proficiency working in multidisciplinary teams across **government, industry, and civil society**. Can communicate clearly across a wide variety of audiences on topics intersecting law, politics, economics, environmental science, and technology. **Publications available on LinkedIn.**

Global Exposure Experience living in five countries, presenting to and engaging with international audiences in a multilingual setting. Fluent in **English** and **Spanish**, with conversational proficiency in **Mandarin Chinese** and basic proficiency in **French**.

Analytical Approach Training in **statistics, econometrics, and programming**, with proficiency in **Excel** and **R** (including **Shiny** web application framework) and experience using **Stata, ArcGIS, CSS/HTML, Java, and JavaScript** (Ext.js, jQuery).

Education

PhD in Jurisprudence and Social Policy (Law & Economics Specialization), University of California, Berkeley

August 2017 – June 2022 (expected)

- **Awards:** Data Science for the 21st Century NSF Grant Recipient, 2017 (traineeship combining work in data science, environmental science, and public policy)

Arts Bachelor (AB) in Politics, Princeton University

September 2010 – June 2014

- **Concentrations:** Comparative Politics and Research Methods
- **Minors:** Chinese Language & Culture, Environmental Studies, Finance, Political Economy, Statistics & Machine Learning
- **Independent Research:** Thesis on the role political systems play in renewable energy policy design and deployment. Additional projects on how climate change drives conflict, the interaction of trade and environment, and the role of mismatched educational attainment and labor outcomes in fomenting the Arab Spring.
- **Awards:** Fred Fox Fund Grant Recipient, 2012 (studying post-conflict reconciliation in former Yugoslav)
- **Extracurricular and Volunteer Activities:** Law & Public Affairs Program, Undergraduate Associate; Princeton Against Sex Trafficking, Co-Founder & President; Princeton Tory, Writer; Breakout Princeton Alternative Spring Break Program, Trip Leader and Program Coordinator; Community-Based Learning Initiative, Participant and Program Coordinator.

Hertog Global Strategy Initiative Fellow, Columbia University

June – August 2013

- Selective interdisciplinary graduate research fellowship focused on environmental history and global governance.

Princeton in Beijing Participant, Beijing Normal University

June – August 2011

- Selective eight-week immersive language program equivalent to two semesters of Mandarin Chinese study.

Work Experience

Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Costa Rica – Intern

July – August 2017 (San Jose, Costa Rica)

- Coordinating across government institutions to prioritize and find linkages among projects meant to promote the economic development of the country.

JRI America, Inc. – Software Developer (Assistant Vice President)

July 2016 – June 2017 (New York, NY)

- Work across business and technical teams, developing and enhancing enterprise-level payment applications used by corporate clients of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC).

Environmental Defense Fund – International Aviation Environmental Policy Fellow

June 2014 – July 2016 (Washington, DC)

- Member of team leading development of global market-based carbon-limiting measures for the international aviation sector, involving research on international law, carbon markets, biofuels, and reducing emissions from deforestation.
- Designed complex analytical models to assess the effect of alternative proposals for the market-based measure, which have been incorporated into the discussions and decision-making of governments, international organizations, and airlines. Deployed modeling as an interactive web application for non-technical audiences.
- Developed policy-setting proposals, legal memoranda, position papers, and public comments on behalf of EDF. Actively advanced these positions in international fora and negotiations with governmental and corporate entities.
- Served as liaison for the team, organizing, coordinating, participating in, and recording outcomes and action plans coming out of various multi-stakeholder meetings.

Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights – Guggenheim Criminal Justice Fellow

June – August 2012 (New York, NY)

- Assessed immigration policy affecting local communities. Coordinated a unified response across local organizations.
- Provided direct services to community members and organization in all aspects of the immigration process.

WPRB Radio News and Culture – Reporter & Producer

October 2010 – June 2011 (Princeton, NJ)

- Developed, wrote, produced and broadcast original feature reports on immigration, environmentalism, the Arab Spring, and sex trafficking. Work included primary and secondary research, including interview of key figures.

Publications and Conferences

Grillo Avila, R., Wolosin, M., Roth, A., Lubowski, R., Piris-Cabezas, P., and Russo, G. (2016) “Design of a Global Market Based Measure - REDD+ in ICAO: Ready for Takeoff.” *Carbon and Climate Law Review*, 10(2), 134-143.

Vaishnav, P., Petsonk, A., Grillo Avila, R., Granger Morgan, M., Fischbeck, P.S. (2016) “Analysis of a proposed mechanism for carbon-neutral growth in international aviation.” *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 45, 126-138.

Panel speaker at United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean event, the “Latin American and Caribbean Carbon Forum 2015 (LACCF 2015),” in Santiago, Chile, 9-11 September, 2015, “Buying Low, Flying High? Aviation, Climate Action, and Markets.”