

MICHELLE LEZANA

Communications, Culture & Research Management

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Cross-sector professional bridging academia, culture, and public policy, specialized in strategic R&D&I (Research, Development & Innovation) management, grant writing, and science communication. Recognized for advancing sustainable territorial development through art–science collaboration, knowledge-system modernization, and institutional capacity-building. Adept at translating vision into operational structures, securing multi-source funding, and steering organizations toward research excellence and public accountability.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Head of Communications and Institutional Relations – INDAP Aysén, Chile (2024–present)

Directs institutional communications and stakeholder engagement for Chile’s Institute for Agricultural Development. Designs and implements interdisciplinary programs linking culture, identity, and sustainability to strengthen local innovation and climate resilience.

Head of Research Outreach, Scientific Dissemination and Artistic Creation – Universidad de Aysén, Chile (2019–2023)

Played a decisive role in establishing the Research Directorate from the ground up. Built institutional scaffolding while managing a portfolio of strategic projects funded by national ministries, regional governments, and international programs. Spearheaded the creation of research centers, defined research lines, and developed a management model integrating research into the academic and educational structure. Implemented Isotope UAysén (CRIS system) with Digital Science; founded Residencia Remota, Chile’s first art–science residency; and secured CLP \$5 billion in competitive funding. Served five years on the Academic Development and Gender Equity Commissions.

Chief of Staff and Institutional Relations – Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, Chile (2018–2019)

Oversaw CLP \$350 million budgets and coordinated heritage, Indigenous, and library initiatives with regional and national visibility.

Research, Communication and Funding Coordinator | Professional internship – (CETAPS) University of Porto, Portugal (2017–2018)

Managed EU-funded strategic projects (Horizon 2020, Erasmus+), and coordinated partnerships in cultural and educational innovation.

Assistant Lecturer – Freie Universität Berlin, Germany (2014–2016)

Taught undergraduate courses in English Literature, Academic Writing, and Research Methods at one of Germany's top research universities.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- OEI Scholarship (current): Training Programme in R&D&I Management — Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)
- Master in University Management — Universidad de Alcalá (Spain)
- MA in English Studies: Literature, Language & Culture — Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)
BA in Linguistics & English Philology — Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile)
- Minor in Arts — Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile)
Diplomas in Gender and University Management — Universidad de Chile (Chile)

CORE COMPETENCIES

Research Governance (CRIS, RIM, STI Policy) • Grant Writing & Funding Strategy • Institution Building • Science Communication • Public Policy Management • International Cooperation • Gender Equity

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Native) | English (C2) | Portuguese (C1) | German (B2)

I build bridges between knowledge, communities, culture, and sustainability — turning ideas into systems that endure.