

Johanna Catalina Escudero Pino

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PROFILE

Public health analyst with distinction-level postgraduate training in policy analysis, biostatistics, health promotion, regulatory impact assessment, and comparative health systems analysis. I also bring ten years of frontline clinical experience in New Zealand's oral health sector. My main interests are oral health policy, health equity and underserved populations, Indigenous health, Te Tiriti-grounded analysis, comparative international health systems, and the use of quantitative methods to support population health decisions. Fluent in English and Spanish, based in Wellington.

EDUCATION

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health | University of Otago, Wellington 2025

Awarded with distinction. Papers included Public Health Policy, Applied Biostatistics (Regression Methods), Epidemiology, Hauora Māori, Health Protection, Health Promotion, and Global Health and International Health Systems. I came out of the programme with practical skills in policy analysis, regulatory impact assessment, quantitative analysis, evidence synthesis, health impact assessment, comparative health systems analysis, upstream health promotion, health equity work, and Te Tiriti-informed analysis.

Diploma in Cosmetic Dentistry | Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina 2012

Bachelor of Dentistry (incomplete) | Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia 2007–2011

Completed four years of dental training, including oral anatomy, clinical practice, restorative dentistry, and prosthetics. Programme interrupted by extended industrial action; subsequently relocated to New Zealand.

POLICY & ANALYTICAL WORK

Parliamentary Submission, Restoring Smokefree Legislation in Aotearoa | *PUBH 714, University of Otago*

2025

- Wrote a mock parliamentary submission to the Health Committee recommending restoration of the three tobacco control measures repealed in 2025 (retail outlet reduction, denicotinisation, smokefree generation).
- Applied regulatory impact assessment principles including cost-benefit analysis, distributional analysis across population groups, and assessment of implementation trade-offs.
- Critically analysed tobacco industry counter-arguments using peer-reviewed evidence; produced an implementation pathway with phased rollout, cross-party engagement strategy, and accountability mechanisms.

Health Impact Assessment, Community Water Fluoridation, Wellington & Taranaki | *PUBH734 Health Protection, University of Otago*

2025

- Conducted a full Health Impact Assessment (HIA) following the Ministry of Health Guide to HIA, in support of an iwi-led submission on the proposed Fluoridation Referendum Bill.
- Included a complete Environmental Health Risk Assessment (EHRA) appendix covering hazard identification, dose-response, exposure assessment, risk characterisation, and risk management.
- Modelled likely impacts on dental caries prevalence, health equity for Māori and Pasifika communities, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations under active protection and equity principles.

Quantitative Analysis, Predictors of Adolescent Stress | *PUBH 726 Applied Biostatistics 2: Regression Methods*

2025

- Built and validated a multivariable linear regression model in a cohort of 1,332 adolescents to estimate the effect of exercise time on stress, adjusting for age, sex, BMI, and sleep duration.

- Conducted full diagnostic assessment: data cleaning, multicollinearity (VIF), linearity, homoscedasticity, normality of residuals (histogram and Q-Q), and influential point assessment using DFBETA.
- Performed backwards elimination with confounder testing (10% change rule); assessed interaction between sleep and centred age; produced a lay summary translating findings for non-technical audiences.

Policy Essay, Institutional Racism in Housing & Hauora Māori | *PUBH712 Hauora Māori, University of Otago*

2025

- Examined how institutional racism within Aotearoa's housing system produces inequities in hauora Māori, with comparative analysis of indigenous housing outcomes in Canada and Australia.
- Applied Te Whare Tapa Whā as an analytical framework, linking land alienation and housing conditions to wairua, hinengaro, tinana, and whānau wellbeing.
- Evaluated papakāinga housing and the Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga programme as anti-racist housing policy responses, including barriers to delivery and recommendations for structural reform.

Comparative Health Systems Analysis, Healthcare in the United States and Singapore | *PUBH 742 Global Health and International Health Systems, University of Otago*

2025

- Structured comparative analysis of two high-income health systems, one market-driven and fragmented, one state-coordinated and universal, drawing on WHO, World Bank, Commonwealth Fund, and Lancet datasets.
- Analysed each system across four domains (geography and demographics, socio-economic context, socio-political structure, and health status), produced a comparative indicator table, and synthesised the relationship between governance, values, and outcomes.
- Demonstrated comparative policy analysis, international health data fluency, and politically grounded systems thinking applicable to health-tech market entry, international consulting, and global health programme work.

Health Promotion Analysis, Education as a Determinant of Health for Māori | *PUBH 713 Health Promotion, University of Otago*

2025

- Four-part critical analysis of how colonisation and neoliberal education reform produced enduring health inequities for Māori, combining historical-structural analysis, equity-focused policy critique, and Indigenous health promotion framework analysis.
- Evaluated Ka Hikitia (government strategy) and Kura Kaupapa Māori (community-led schooling) as upstream health promotion interventions through Mason Durie's Te Pae Mahutonga framework.
- Demonstrated capability in social determinants of health analysis, Indigenous health frameworks, equity-focused policy critique, and historically grounded health promotion analysis.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dental Assistant | Various practices, Wellington

2015–Current

Sustained frontline clinical experience across multiple Wellington dental practices, with direct exposure to New Zealand's oral health workforce capacity issues, patient access barriers, and the cost-of-care drivers that shape current oral health policy debates.

- Supported clinical care across restorative, periodontal, surgical, and prosthetic procedures, including infection control, instrument processing, four-handed assisting, and patient communication.
- Managed patient documentation and clinical records to a high standard of accuracy, in line with New Zealand privacy legislation and Dental Council standards.
- Coordinated daily clinical workflows, patient scheduling, and supplier liaison in fast-paced practice environments.

- Worked across socioeconomically and culturally diverse patient populations, including patients with limited English.
- Supported induction and training of new clinical and administrative team members.

University Programme Monitor | Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia

2013–2015

Provided coordination, advisory, and analytical support for a university-wide programme supporting 300 students from vulnerable backgrounds, the majority of whom were single mothers re-entering education.

- Analysed student progress data, monitored cohort performance against milestones, and reported findings to programme leadership.
- Developed and communicated advice to senior academic staff, identifying programme delivery issues and recommending practical solutions.
- Served as the central point of contact between academic staff and students; mentored students from non-traditional backgrounds through course selection and academic challenges.
- Managed programme documentation, tracking systems, and confidential records.

SKILLS

- **Policy analysis:** assessing regulatory interventions, evaluating trade-offs, and developing evidence-based recommendations
- **Policy analysis and writing:** regulatory impact assessment, health impact assessment, submission drafting, briefings.
- **Quantitative methods:** applied biostatistics, multivariable linear regression, model diagnostics, interaction testing, lay translation of statistical findings.
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Indigenous health analysis:** applied use of partnership, protection, and participation principles in policy work; Te Whare Tapa Whā and Te Pae Mahutonga frameworks; comparative work on Indigenous housing and health outcomes across Aotearoa, Colombia, Canada, and Australia.
- **Subject expertise:** oral health policy, tobacco control, health equity and underserved populations, comparative health systems, health promotion, environmental and occupational health, clinical compliance and risk documentation.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** communicating technical information clearly across clinical, academic, and policy audiences.
- **Software:** Microsoft Office (advanced); statistical software (Stata, used through PGDipPH)
- **Languages:** English (fluent), Spanish (native).

REFERENCES

Available upon request.