

MARIÓN BRIANCESCO ARIAS

(506) 84806902 | mbriancesco.a@gmail.com | www.marionbriancesco.com

International Affairs and Journalism professional based in Costa Rica, with a strong interest in digital rights, technology policy, and data-driven policymaking. Six years of experience working with non-profit organizations on research, data analysis, public policy, project coordination, communications, and advocacy in international and multi-stakeholder environments.

EDUCATION

2018-2024

Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication with concentration in Journalism | Universidad de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica | GPA 9.75

2017-2021

Bachelor's degree in International Affairs | Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica | GPA 9.36

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

2023

Advanced Program in Data Analytics | Universidad Cenfotec, San José, Costa Rica | 192 hours

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SubOptic Foundation, Florida, United States – London, United Kingdom

Educational Program Assistant – 2026 – present

- Support the implementation of the Strategic Network Resilience Project in the Caribbean (Phase II), an initiative focused on strengthening digital infrastructure resilience in the region, led by the SubOptic Foundation in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley.
- Assist in the coordination of the Certificate in Global Digital Infrastructure (GDI) program at UC Berkeley, supporting outreach, partner engagement, and program logistics.
- Support the organization's engagement in international industry events related to digital infrastructure, including the Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) Conference, Hawaii 2026.

Observatorio Digital ProBox, Washington D.C., United States

Chief Program Officer – 2025 – present

- Coordinate the logistical and operational implementation of cross-regional research and advocacy projects on disinformation and digital rights in authoritarian contexts, supporting strategic planning and collaboration with partner organizations.
- Contribute to organizational strategy and impact evaluation, supporting program development and decision-making.
- Represent the organization in international forums, workshops, and multi-stakeholder events on digital rights and Internet governance.
- Support fundraising efforts and donor engagement, including proposal development and donor reporting.

Fundación Iguales, Panama City, Panama

Research and Data Analyst – 2024

- Led the research team and coordinated the design and implementation of a study on digital hate speech against the LGBTIQ+ community during the elections in Panama.
- Conducted social media monitoring, data processing, and analysis of online discourse across digital platforms.

Latin American Center for Investigative Journalism (CLIP), Guanacaste, Costa Rica

Junior Producer – 2024

- Supported the conceptualization, coordination, and production of multimedia and data-driven outputs for cross-border investigative journalism projects.
- Liaised with suppliers and coordinated production processes for multimedia content, including data visualization and digital storytelling products.
- Contributed to investigative collaborations such as *Tráileres: trampa para migrantes*, *Las grietas del litio*, *Países Minados*, *Los Ilusionistas*, *Carbono Opaco*, and *NarcoFiles*.

Lead University, San José, Costa Rica

AI Ethics Lecturer – 2023

- Designed a course on AI Ethics for students in a Machine Learning diploma program.
- Taught the course using participatory methodologies, covering ethical and responsible AI, AI risks, sector-specific implications, and AI governance.

Instituto Panamericano de Derecho y Tecnología, Panama City, Panama

Projects Manager – 2021 – 2022

- Led the regional project *Segur@s en línea* from its conceptualization, resulting in the creation of the first open data platform on digital violence in Central America, as well as workshops, socio-legal counseling, and advocacy initiatives.
- Conducted research on video surveillance in Central America for the project *Centroamérica Videovigilada*, including interviews, focus groups, and consultations with public authorities.
- Represented the organization before donors, public institutions, and civil society in national and international forums, interviews, and policy discussions.
- Monitored legislation and public policy on technology and digital rights across Central America and the Dominican Republic, contributing to advocacy and regional analysis.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Latin American Center for Investigative Journalism (CLIP)

Journalism Intern | 5 months (2023)

- Contributed to the investigation *From Chiapas to Tamaulipas: New database maps thousands of migrants' dangerous journeys through Mexico in trailer trucks*, supporting data collection, dataset construction, and data visualization for the project.
- Participated in different phases of investigative, collaborative, and cross-border journalism projects, including *Tráileres: trampa para migrantes* and *NarcoFiles*.
- Conducted interviews with partners and contributors for the organization's annual impact report.

Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Telecommunications of Costa Rica

International Affairs Intern | 5 months (2020)

- Supported the work of the International Cooperation Unit, assisting in the coordination and organization of international cooperation agreements and projects related to science and technology policy.
- Maintained and systematized databases on international cooperation initiatives within the Integrated Management and Internal Control System (SIGECI) of Costa Rica's Ministry of National Planning.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Global Shining Light Award (GSLA) – 2025

Awarded to the investigative project *Tráileres: trampa para migrantes* (CLIP) in the Large Media Organizations category.

Tom Renner Award - Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) – 2025

Awarded to the investigative project *Tráileres: trampa para migrantes*.

National Journalism Prize of Mexico – 2025

Honorable mention in the reporting category for the investigation *Tráileres: trampa para migrantes*.

Online Journalism Award (OJA) – 2024

Winner in the category *Excellence in Collaboration and Partnerships* for the investigation *Tráileres: trampa para migrantes*.

Shaufler Prize for Investigative Reporting – 2024

Third place for the investigation *Tráileres: trampa para migrantes*.

Selected project leader, 8th Citizen Innovation Lab – Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) – 2022, Panama City

Project: Segur@s en línea, digital violence in Central America.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Thematic Hearings Competition – 2021

CIPDH UNESCO (Argentina). Recognized as Best Representative of Civil Society in a simulation on Human Rights Defenders.

FELLOWSHIPS

Capacity Development Programme for CSOs (AI Policy Track) – DiploFoundation, present

Capacity development program on digital policy for civil society organizations, focused on the Global South.

WAVE Symposium International Scholar – SubOptic Foundation, 2025 (Montevideo, Uruguay).

International scholarship to attend the WAVE Symposium on subsea cable infrastructure, data centers, and resilient digital infrastructure.

Leveraging AI for Sustainable Development in Latin America – DCN Global, 2025 (Argentina)

Participant in a regional forum supported by the U.S. Department of State focused on the role of AI in sustainable development and digital innovation in Latin America.

AI Apprenticeship in Governance, Diplomacy and International Relations – DiploFoundation, 2024.

Professional training program focused on AI governance, digital policy, and international relations.

360/Digital Sherlocks OSINT Fellowship – Digital Forensic Research Lab (Atlantic Council), 2024

Fellowship program focused on open-source investigations and digital research methodologies.

Latin American Network for Digital Rights Journalism Program – Access Now, 2024

Regional training and networking program for journalists covering digital rights and technology policy.

Emerging Voices Fellowship – Global Network Initiative, 2022 (Washington, DC.)

Program on freedom of expression and privacy online, supported by U.S. Department of State

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

LATAM Network of Young Journalists – Factual/Distintas Latitudes, 2023–Present
Legal Hackers Costa Rica – Core Team Member, 2021–2024

CONFERENCES

Latin American and Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF) - Speaker, 2025
Lightning Talk: And Investigative Journalism? An Ally and Oversight Actor in Internet Governance

Youth Latin American and Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (Youth LACIGF) - Speaker
2025 - Reporting on Internet Governance: Journalistic Perspectives from Latin America; Youth Perspectives on Technology: Emerging Media Narratives on Internet Governance

2024 - Latin American Perspectives: Autonomous Weapons, Artificial Intelligence, and Post-Conflict Societies

2023 - Data Protection in Central America; Youth Participation in Internet Governance

Internet Governance Forum Costa Rica (IGF Costa Rica) - Speaker, 2025

Panel: Digital Trust for Safeguarded Sovereignty

RightsCon (hosted by Access Now) - Speaker

2023 - Hacking Online Gender-Based Violence in Central America

2022 - Online Gender-Based Violence in Latin America during COVID-19

Summit for Democracy - Speaker, 2023

Panel: Digital Rights of Nicaraguan Youth

Opportunities with Innovation and Emerging Technologies – Legal Hackers Costa Rica and Colegio de Abogados de Costa Rica - Speaker, 2023

Panel: Generative Art: Intellectual Property and Copyright

Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Ethiopia - Speaker, 2022

Lightning Talk: Hacking Online Gender-Based Violence

Additional conferences (2021–2022): Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection Conference Latin America; MESO Congress, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas (Universidad Veracruzana).

POLICY PAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Briancesco, M., and Garay, A. *“Monitoreo del discurso LGBTIQ+ en el entorno digital en Panamá”* [Monitoring LGBTIQ+ Discourse in the Digital Environment in Panama]. Fundación Iguales, 2024.

Briancesco, M. *“Monitoreo de violencia política digital contra las mujeres: Honduras y Costa Rica (2021–2022)”* [Monitoring Digital Political Violence Against Women: Honduras and Costa Rica]. In *Communication Policy Research in Latin America*. 2023.

Briancesco, M., Suazo, N., and Ureña, J. *“China en el Ártico: el dragón de hielo como potencial generador de amenazas híbridas”* [China in the Arctic: The Ice Dragon as a Potential Generator of Hybrid Threats]. In *Geopolítica y amenazas híbridas en el siglo XXI: casos de estudio*. Editorial Nueva Época, 2022.

Briancesco, M. *“Violencia de género en línea durante la COVID-19: una mirada a Centroamérica”* [Online Gender-Based Violence During COVID-19: A Look at Central America]. IPANDETEC and Centro Latam Digital, 2021.

“Nicaragua,” in Shahbaz, Funk, Slipowitz, Vesteinsson, Baker, Grothe, Vepa, Weal eds. *Freedom on the Net 2021*, Freedom House, 2021.

SKILLS

Data analysis and visualization: Excel, Tableau, Power BI, Flourish, Datawrapper

Languages: Spanish (native), English (B2+), German (B1), Portuguese (currently studying A1)