

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Lara Greta Merling



 Bucharest, Romania

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Sex Female | Date of birth 14/04/1992 | Nationality Romanian, USA

WORK EXPERIENCE

Since July 2023 **Independent Researcher**
Self-employed

Clients include United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as think tanks and other research organizations. Prepare reports and support the development of policy positions and advocacy strategies on issues at the intersection of climate and development, global macroeconomics, and governance of international financial institutions. Present findings and participate in outreach, advocacy events and training sessions for government officials, climate negotiators, and other stakeholders.

Feb 2022 – June 2023 **Senior Policy Advisor**
Boston University Global Development Policy Center

Monitored and tracked developments on issues that relate to global economic governance and climate policy with a development-oriented lens, closely following developments at International Financial Institutions.

Conducted research and economic analysis independently and as part of a team and wrote prepared and published reports and articles tailored to various audiences.

Engaged with policymakers and advocates working on issues around global economic governance, climate, and development and provided them with technical advice through background notes, memos, and support for drafting statements and official letters.

Collaborated on research initiatives with intergovernmental organizations, academic institutes, and civil society groups from Global South and supported their advocacy efforts with US-based policymakers, officials, and organizations.

Identified opportunities for policy engagement and advanced the organization’s policy agenda through public speaking engagements, organizing expert meetings, panels, and other outreach efforts in coordination with communications and administrative staff.

Supervised and coordinated inputs from research fellows, pre-doctoral candidates, and junior staff.

Jan 2019 - Jan 2022 **Economic Research Officer, Policy Advisor**
International Trade Union Confederation

Replace with main activities and responsibilities Monitored developments in the global economy with a particular focus on financing issues in the context of sustainable development and designed, coordinated, and conducted research studies that reflected timely developments around these issues, incorporating a climate and gender focus.

Synthesized research for policy statements, briefs, and speeches for trade union leadership, incorporating a gender and sustainable development lens, and effectively tailoring messaging to diverse audiences.

Represented the organization externally with technical and non-technical audiences in the US and abroad, as part of external advocacy coalitions, as well as in meetings with policymakers, intergovernmental agencies, and advisory committees including at the ILO, UNCTAD, and OECD.

Coordinated the L20 process in 2021, organized the Labour20 summit, and drafted statements on behalf of the L20 that carefully balanced the priorities of diverse stakeholders to reflect a consensus position

August 2016 - Jan 2019

Research Associate

Center for Economic and Policy Research, Washington DC

Applied theoretical economics concepts toward conducting timely and policy-oriented macroeconomic analyses for countries in Latin America and Europe, and Puerto Rico with a focus on assessing fiscal policies, issues around sovereign debt, and sustainable development prospects

Designed and managed research projects, developing strong expertise in interpreting and evaluating macroeconomic data, including the application of statistical analysis concepts to real-world policy issues.

Produced a series of policy reports, issue briefs, and articles that were featured in a variety of media outlets and cited by members of the US Congress.

Represented the organization at meetings with congressional staff, government agencies, policy experts, and coalitions and prepared inputs to support US policymakers covering issues related to international financial institutions, particularly the International Monetary Fund.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

10/2020-09/2024

expected

PhD Finance

Bucharest University of Economic Studies, School of Finance

08/2014-05/2016

Thesis: Post-Crisis Policies in the EU

M.S. in Economic Theory and Policy

Levy Economics Institute, Annandale on Hudson, NY

08/2010-05/2016

Thesis: It's not just the Euro, it's the EU

B.A. in Mathematics

Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, NY

Thesis: *Fighting Fires on Semi-Regular Tessellations*

Awards: *Distinguished Scientist Scholar, Community Action Award*

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s)

Romanian

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
German	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Spanish	C1	C1	C1	C1	B2
French	B1	B1	B1	B1	B2

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Computer skills

Microsoft Office Suite, proficient use of Microsoft Excel; Data wrapper, Stata, Eviews, Latex, Tableau

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

Montenegro and the Euro: Implications for Policy Space, (book chapter), forthcoming, 2024, Political Economy of Dollarization, Edward Elgar.

Climate Policy at the IMF: No Voice for the Vulnerable? (with T. Forster), 2024, Global Policy.

The Growing Debt Burdens of Global South Countries: Standing in the Way of Climate and Development Goals, (with I. Vasic-Lalovic, a. vladoi, A. Wu), 2023, Cogito.

Special Drawing Rights: The Right Tool to Use to Respond to the Pandemic and Other Challenges, (with with K. Cashman, A. Arauz), 2022, Challenge.

Digitalization and the World of Work: Implications for International Labor Standards, (with K. Cashman, A. Vladoi), 2022, Proceedings of the 16th International Management Conference.

Fiscal Consolidation and Public Debt in the European Union: Reevaluating the Relationship, (with A. Vladoi), 2022, Theoretical and Applied Economics.

Similarities between Stock Market Reactions During the 2007 Financial Crisis and the 2020-2021 Coronavirus Pandemic. Correlation and Cointegration Analyses, (with A. Vladoi), 2022, European Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Puerto Rico's Peculiar Case: Bankruptcy of an Unincorporated Territory, 2018, UNCTAD Summer School Conference Paper.

Argentina's Deal With the IMF: Will "Expansionary Austerity" work? (with M Weisbrot), 2018, Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Puerto Rico's Peculiar Case: Bankruptcy of an Unincorporated Territory, 2017, UNCTAD Summer School Conference Paper.

Puerto Rico's New Fiscal Plan: Certain Pain, Uncertain Gain, (with J. Johnston), 2018, Center for Economic and Policy Research.

The UK Economy at the Crossroads, (with M Weisbrot), Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Debunking the Theoretical Assumptions Behind Austerity, 2017, Festival For New Economic Thinking Conference Paper.

More Trouble Ahead: Puerto Rico's Impending Medicaid Crisis, (with J. Johnston), 2018, Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Life After Debt in Puerto Rico: How Many More Lost Decades? (with K, Cashman, J. Johnston, and M. Weisbrot), 2018, Center for Economic and Policy Research.

The French Economy, European Authorities, and the IMF: 'Structural Reform' or Increasing Employment? (with M. Weisbrot, A. Main, and D. Rosnick), 2017, Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Update After 23 Years, 2017, (with M. Weisbrot, V Mello, S Lefebvre, and J. Sammut), Mexican Law Review.

Decade of Reform: Ecuador's Macroeconomic Policies, Institutional Changes, and Results, (with M Weisbrot, and J. Johnston), 2017, Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Selected Presentations

[Sovereign Debt and Climate Finance Conference](#), May 2024, University of Massachusetts Amherst

[Reimagining the IMF Quota System for Africa](#), April 2024, Oxfam America

[INET-YSI Conference on Debt Sustainability](#), May 2023, Boston University

[IMF and World Bank Civil Society Forum: Uses and Impacts of SDRs in Developing Countries: Advancing Climate Action and the 2030 Agenda](#), April 2023, International Monetary Fund

[IMF and the Legacy of Bretton Woods](#), July 2023, Phenomenal World

[UN Internet Governance Forum: Digital policy making from below](#), December 2021, UN Internet Governance Forum

[Integrating Trade and Decent Work: Assessing the impact of trade on labour markets](#), October 2021, International Labour Organization

What you need to know about "austerity", December 2020, Marketplace Radio

Projects

Economic Questions, founding member and editor of heterodox economics blog.

Selected Conferences

2024, Debt and Climate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

2023, New Directions in Money, Finance, and Public Policy, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

DATE: 10.07.2024

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