ISMAEL SANZ LABRADOR

Associate Professor of Applied Economics, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Madrid, Spain)
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PROFILE

Economist specializing in the economics of education, public finance, and education policy evaluation. PhD in Applied Economics (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2007; European Doctorate; Extraordinary Doctoral Thesis Prize 2007). Former Director of Spain's National Institute for Educational Evaluation (INEE) and Chair of the OECD PISA Strategic Development Group. Three six-year research periods (sexenios) recognized by CNEAI; h-index of 11 in Web of Science with over 390 citations. Chen Yidan Visiting Global Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education (September 2026).

SELECTED LEADERSHIP & POLICY POSITIONS

- Director General of Innovation, Scholarships and Grants, Ministry of Education, Community of Madrid (2015–2019).
- Director, National Institute for Educational Evaluation (INEE), Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (2012–2015).
- Chair, OECD PISA Strategic Development Group (2014–2015).
- Deputy Director General for Evaluation and Analysis, Regional Ministry of Education and Employment, Community of Madrid (2011–2012).
- Alternate Member, State School Council, Spanish Ministry of Education (1996–2000).

EDUCATION

- PhD in Applied Economics (European Doctorate), Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2007. Thesis: "Globalization and the Functional Composition of Public Expenditure in the OECD" (supervisors: Norman Gemmell, University of Nottingham; Francisco Javier Velázquez, UCM). Extraordinary Doctoral Thesis Prize.
- Degree in Business Administration and Management, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 1997.
- Graduate coursework at Harvard University (Kennedy School of Government), University of California Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, and the London School of Economics.

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Sevilla, A., Cuevas-Ruiz, P., Rello, L. & Sanz, I. (2026). "Artificial Intelligence in Education: Computer-Assisted Learning and AI-guided Tutors." *Italian Economic Journal*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40797-025-00354-1
- Shahin, T., Ballestar de las Heras, M.T. & Sanz, I. (2025). "Enhancing Stock Market Prediction Using Gradient Boosting Neural Network: A Hybrid Approach." *Computational Economics*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10614-024-10671-9
- van Grieken, R., Tena, J.D., Pires, L., Sanz, I. & Avendaño-Miranda, L.L. (2024). "The importance of test order in external and standardized test results: The case of PISA 2018." *PLOS ONE*, 19(9).
- Shahin, T., Ballestar de las Heras, M.T. & Sanz, I. (2024). "Robots in action." *The World Economy*, 47(6). https://doi.org/10.1111/twec.13562
- Sanz, I. & Tena, J.D. (2023). "Do 2 weeks of instruction time matter? Using a natural experiment to estimate the effect of a calendar change on students' performance." *Kyklos*, 76(4), 778–808.
- Cuevas-Ruiz, P., Sanz, I. & Sevilla, A. (2023). "Explaining the Mathematics Gender Gap: The Role of Stereotypes." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.892
- Sanz-Labrador, I., Cuerdo-Mir, M. & Doncel-Pedrera, L.M. (2021). "The Use of Digital Educational Resources in Times of COVID-19." *Social Media + Society*, 7(3).
- Romero-Jordán, D., Sanz-Labrador, I. & Sanz-Sanz, J.F. (2020). "Is the corporation tax a barrier to productivity growth?" *Small Business Economics*, 55(1), 23–38.

- Gemmell, N., Kneller, R., McGowan, D., Sanz, I. & Sanz-Sanz, J.F. (2018). "Corporate Taxation and Productivity Catch-Up: Evidence from European Firms." *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 120(2), 372–399.
- Gemmell, N., Kneller, R. & Sanz, I. (2015). "Does the Composition of Government Expenditure Matter for Long-Run GDP Levels?" *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 78(4), 522–547.
- Gemmell, N., Kneller, R. & Sanz, I. (2013). "Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Growth: Spending Versus Revenue Decentralization." *Economic Inquiry*, 51(4), 1915–1931.
- Doncel, L.M., Sainz, J. & Sanz, I. (2012). "An Estimation of the Advantage of Charter over Public Schools." *Kyklos*, 65(4), 442–463.
- Gemmell, N., Kneller, R. & Sanz, I. (2011). "The Timing and Persistence of Fiscal Policy Impacts on Growth: Evidence from OECD Countries." *Economic Journal*, 121(550), 33–58.
- Forrest, D., Sanz, I. & Tena, J.D. (2010). "Forecasting national team medal totals at the Summer Olympic Games." *International Journal of Forecasting*, 26(3), 576–588.
- Sanz, I. & Velázquez, F.J. (2004). "The Evolution and Convergence of the Government Expenditure Composition in the OECD Countries." *Public Choice*, 119(1–2), 61–72.

BOOKS & EDITED VOLUMES

- Cabrales, A. & Sanz, I. (Eds.) (2025). *Economics of Education: An Introductory Textbook*. Springer Nature. Author of the chapters "Educational System Indicators in OECD and EU Countries" (pp. 3–59) and "The Impact of Class Size on Academic Performance".
- Sainz, J. & Sanz, I. (Eds.) (2023). *Addressing Inequities in Modern Educational Assessment: Bridging the Gap*. Springer. Co-author of the chapter "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Education Learning" (with J.D. Tena).

RESEARCH PROJECTS & CONTRACTS (SELECTED)

- Co-Principal Investigator, "Productivity of Higher Education in Ibero-America," Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), 2020–2022.
- Principal Investigator, "Consequences of EU Enlargement for European Regional Policy: The Spanish Perspective," European Academy of Sciences and Arts, 2005–2006.
- Researcher, "The Quality of Public Finance and Economic Growth," European Commission (DG ECFIN), 2008; "The Composition of Public Expenditure and Economic Growth," World Bank, 2006–2007; "Taxes and Growth," New Zealand Treasury, 2006.
- Team member, EU-funded MICRODYN project (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies consortium), 2006–2010, and several competitive national projects (CICYT, Ministry of Education and Science).

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH VISITS

- London School of Economics and Political Science — Visiting Scholar / Visiting Senior Fellow (2022–2025).
- University of Liverpool (2023); University of Bath, Institute for Policy Research (2022).
- New Zealand Treasury — postdoctoral stay (2011–2012).
- Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government — Visiting Fellow (2004).
- University of Nottingham, School of Economics (2002, 2004, 2007–2008); University of California, Santa Barbara (2003); University of Otago, New Zealand (2001).

EDITORIAL WORK, AWARDS & OTHER MERITS

- Editor-in-Chief, Revista de Educación (JCR-indexed), 2012–2015; guest coordinator, Papeles de Economía Española (issue 166).
- Three six-year research periods (sexenios) recognized by CNEAI (most recent: 2020 call).
- Extraordinary Doctoral Thesis Prize (UCM); ANPE Prize for Research and Analysis of the Education System.
- Círculo de Empresarios Prize for the book Human Capital and Economic Wellbeing (co-author, 2000).
- Extensive experience supervising doctoral theses and graduate research; member of examination boards, including the Spanish Diplomatic Corps entrance examination board (2022).