

Lucas Sempé

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Brazilian-Argentine researcher with over two decades of experience spanning grassroots programme delivery, government leadership, and academic research. Managed £2 billion in education budgets as Director at Peru's Ministry of Education, led results-based reforms, and built 215 community centres for indigenous populations. Current work focuses on impact evaluation, evidence synthesis, and the application and ethics of AI/LLMs on policy.

Education

- 2022 **University of East Anglia, UK**
Ph.D. International Development
Research thesis: Measurement and effects of wealth inequality and schools: evidence from PISA
- 2014 **University of London (SOAS), UK**
MSc. Poverty reduction: Policy and Practice
Research thesis: Appraisal of a learning coaching strategy in Peru in a results-based rationality

Professional experience

- 2024-Present **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)**
Senior Evaluation Specialist
- Research manager of multiple Research Commissioning Centre (RCC) projects: Artificial Intelligence and agriculture; the impact of climate change on railways.
 - Project lead of rapid synthesis project: leveraging the use of AI in evidence synthesis.
 - Technical lead of RCC Impact and Open Access Fund.
 - Research lead in RCC in developing a theory of change of evidence use in policy in LMICs.
 - Grants reviewer (methodological expertise).
 - Lead a mapping review studying alternative approaches to addressing impact evaluation and causality in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
 - Creation of an innovation lab for schools in rural areas in Peru.
- 2023 – present **University of Oxford**
Department of Psychiatry, Honorary Visiting Fellow
- Oxwell Student research group: quasi-experimental analysis of wellbeing and mental health of school-aged children and young people. Focusing on self-harm and online exposure.
- 2022-2024 **Queen Margaret University - UK**
Institute of Global Health and Development, Research Fellow
- REDRESS Project: systematic review of economic evaluations on skin NTDS; evaluation design, sampling strategy, data collection and analysis of health financing system and health workers costs; epidemiological analysis, quantitative evaluation of intervention to increase access of people with skin neglected tropical diseases to the health system in Liberia.
 - UNHCR Project: quantitative analysis of secondary data (quasi experimental) on access to health for refugees and vulnerable migrant communities across six countries.

- Health financing: role of diaspora strengthening health systems; financial autonomy of primary health providers (for WHO); performance based budgeting (for WHO).
- Design and teaching MSc module on Epidemiology and biostatistics.

2017-2021 **University of East Anglia - UK**

School of International Development, Research Assistant / Associate

- Quasi-experimental analysis of interventions in Brazil, Peru and Argentina integrating health and social protection for older and disabled people
- Data analysis on excess mortality and vaccination rollout for COVID-19 for Low- and Middle-Income Countries
- Evaluation of a programme for the prevention of young offenders in Norfolk, UK.

2014-2015 **Centro de Investigación del desarrollo educativo y liderazgo - Peru**

Executive director

- Design and development of consultancy to provide training to 1050 school principals in the Peruvian Amazon Forest (funded by World Bank).
- Overall leadership over non-profit schools in Peru (5), Chile (1) and Colombia (2) including pedagogical, planning, financial and human resources

2013-2014 **Ministry of Education - Peru**

Responsible for performance-based budgetary programme

- The program comprises 55% of the national budget for education (£2,0 billion in 2014) including teachers' salaries, recruitment and in-service training, educational resources production, assessments for students and teachers, schools' maintenance, and building of new schools in rural areas.
- Implementation of results-based costs analysis for educational resources
- Implementation of World Bank-SWAP for educational assessments and principals' training
- Political representative of the Minister of Education for the Regional Government of Huánuco

2012-2013 **Ministry of Housing - Peru**

Rural housing programme director

The program focuses on dispersed and remote areas, improving rural housing and developing community centres (Tambos) to provide public services to Indigenous communities.

- Building of 215 community centres (Tambos) in fifteen different regions of the country
- Member of National Commission for the mitigation of the effects of low temperatures in highland areas and amazon basin
- Political agreement with fifteen governmental entities to provide services: health, education, social protection, emergency relief, justice, among others.

2000-2012 **Asociación Civil Solidaridad en Marcha - (Peru and Latin America)**

Regional director

NGO with presence in different countries of Latin America as Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Ecuador. It develops programs and projects focused on health, education, emergency relief and community-development.

2007-2010 *Responsible for post-earthquake relief campaign*

- Coordination of five thousand volunteers to deliver 1250 tons of foods and other assets
- Creation of two campaign hospitals
- Organization of census after the earthquake
- Fundraising and building primary care clinics, primary schools, and rural houses.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed

Witter, S., Bertone, M.P., **Sempé, L.** et al. Financial autonomy of facilities providing primary care services in low- and middle-income countries: assessing the evidence to inform the development of a typology and conceptual framework. *BMC Health Services Research* 26, 92 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-025-13863-7>

Sempé, L. & Esposito, L. (2025). Within-School Wealth Inequality and Learning Achievement: Evidence From PISA. *Review of Income and Wealth*, 71(4), e70040. <https://doi-org/10.1111/roiw.70040>

Olabi, A., Palmer, N., Bertone, M., Loffreda, G., Bou-Orm, I., **Sempé, L.**, Vera-Espinoza, M., Dakessian, A., Kadetz, P., Ager, A., & Witter, S. (2025). Refugee integration in national health systems of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs): evidence synthesis and future research agenda. *Social Science & Medicine*, 118546. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2025.118546>

Seekles, M.L., Barrett, C., **Sempé, L.**, et al. (2025). Peace of mind: A quasi-experimental evaluation of community-based mental health intervention for NTDs. *PLOS Mental Health*, 2(9).

McCollum, R.; Barrett, C.; Zawolo, G.; Johnstone, R.; Godwin-Akpan, T.G.; Berrian, H.; Chowdhury, S.; Kollie, J.; Kollie, K.; Rogers, E.; **Sempé, L.** et al. (2024). 'The Lost Peace': Evidencing the Syndemic Relationship between Neglected Tropical Diseases and Mental Distress in Liberia. *Trop. Med. Infect. Dis.* 2024, 9, 183.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Giacomini, K. C., Carvalho, P. F. d., & **Sempé, L.** (2024). Programa Maior Cuidado: An Integrated Community-Based Intervention on Care for Older People. *Inter-American Development Bank*.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Fialho de Carvalho, P., Giacomini, K. & **Sempé, L.** (2023). Addressing pressures on health services in Belo Horizonte, Brazil through community-based care for poor older people: a qualitative study. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas* 27(100619).

Smith, J. S., Diaconu, K., Witter, S., Weiland, S., Zaizay, F. Z., Theobald, S., ... **Sempé, L.** & Dean, L. (2022). Financing care for Severe Stigmatizing Skin Diseases (SSSDs) in Liberia: challenges and opportunities. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 21(1), 1-15.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., **Sempé, L.**, & Guntupalli, A. (2022) Ageism, the right to life and health policy. COVID-19 vaccination in low and middle-income countries. *Journal of Social Issues*. DOI: 10.1111/josi.12561

Seiffe, A., Ramírez, M.F., **Sempé, L.** et al. Juvenile handling rescues autism-related effects of prenatal exposure to valproic acid. *Scientific Reports* 12, 7174 (2022)

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Giacomini, K., **Sempé, L.** (2022). The effects of an innovative integrated care intervention in Brazil on local health service use by dependent older people: a quasi-experiment. *BMC Health Services* 22, 176.

Bastos, J., Lorna, G., Aredes, J., Giacomini, K., Ponte, L., **Sempé, L.**, Lloyd-Sherlock, P. (2021). Building the capacity of community health workers to support health and social care for dependent older people in Latin America: a pilot study in Fortaleza, Brazil. *BMC Geriatr* 21, 526.

***Sempé, L.**, Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Martínez, R., Ebrahim, S., McKee, M., & Acosta, E. (2021). Estimation of all-cause excess mortality by age-specific mortality patterns for countries with incomplete vital statistics: a population-based study of the case of Peru during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, 100039.

Sempé, L. (2021). School-level inequality measurement based on categorical data: a novel approach applied to PISA. *Large-scale Assessments in Education*, 9, 1–31.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Lasco, G., McKee, M., Perianayagam, A., & **Sempé, L.** (2021). Does vaccine ageism amount to gerontocide? *The Lancet*, 398, 952–953.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., **Sempé, L.**, McKee, M., & Guntupalli, A. (2021). Problems of data availability and quality for COVID-19 and older people in low-and middle-income countries. *The Gerontologist*, 61, 141–144.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Billings, J., Aredes, J. d., Freire, J. B., Camarano, A. A., Macedo Coelho, J., . . . **Sempé, L.** (2020). Meeting the complex challenge of health and social care provision for rapidly-ageing populations: introducing the concept of “avoidable displacement from home”. *Cadernos de saude publica*, 36.

***Sempé, L.**, Billings, J., & Lloyd-Sherlock, P. (2019). Multidisciplinary interventions for reducing the avoidable displacement from home of frail older people: a systematic review. *BMJ open*, 9, e030687.

Sempé, L.N. (2015). Appraisal of a learning coaching strategy in rural areas of Peru in a results-based budgeting rationality. REICE. *Revista Iberoamericana sobre Calidad, Eficacia y Cambio en Educación*, 13(4), 35-60.

Manuscripts under review

Bertone, M. P., Barroy, H., Sparkes, S., **Sempé, L.**, Yuan, M., Earle, A., & Witter, S. Political economy of budgeting reforms: A comparative analysis of the adoption and implementation of programme-based budgeting for health across seven LMIC countries. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*.

Gonzalez Parrao, C., Floridi, A., Khan, L., Mohandas, S., **Sempé, L.**, Anda, D., Premji, Z., Shisler, S., & Snilstveit, B. A new look into aquaculture interventions for improving productivity, income, nutrition and women's empowerment in low & middle-income countries: A systematic review update. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*.

Working papers

Sempé, L., Pande, S., Yavuz, C., Lwamba, E., Finnerty Mutlu, A. N., and Premji, Z. 2025. Evidence Mapping of Social Sciences Methods Used in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings (FCAS) (2015–2025).

Sempé, L., Pande, S., Kelly, C., Anwar, H.B., Echt, L., and Jessani, N. 2025. Evidence-informed Policy making: A Conceptual Framework.

Manuscripts under preparation

Sempé, L., Lloyd-Sherlock, P. Temperature-attributable mortality in Elderly Brazilians: A 15-Year National Time-Series Analysis

Marion, P., Strhaug, I., Lee, S., **Sempé, L.**, Romero, C., Gonzalez Parrao, C., & Snilstveit, B. The effects of land management policies on the environment and people in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review.

Sempé, L., & Fazel, M. Social media's influence on self-harm behaviours: quasi-experimental findings from a UK student survey.

Dean, L., Barrett, C., Seekles, M., **Sempé, L.**, McCollum, R., Rogers, E., Kollie, J., & Theobald, S. Evaluation of the REDRESS intervention for neglected tropical diseases using the ReAIM framework: A mixed-methods assessment in Liberia.

Hotopf, I., **Sempé, L.**, McCollum, R., Rogers, E., Kollie, K. K., Konwloh, P., Wickenden, A., Phillip, M., Godwin-Akpan, T. G., Kollie, J., Smith, J. S., Theobald, S., & Dean, L. Evaluating the contribution of case management of skin Neglected Tropical Diseases for health data systems in Liberia using the WHO DQR framework.

Barrett, C., Seekles, M., **Sempé, L.**, Dean, L., McCollum, R., Rogers, E., Kollie, J., & Theobald, S. Impact of REDRESS intervention on mental health outcomes among people with neglected tropical diseases: A longitudinal cohort study in Liberia

McCollum, R., Seekles, M., Seekey, W., Rogers, E., **Sempé, L.**, Kollie, K., Berrian, H., Kollie, J., Smith, J. S., Parker, C., Hotopf, I., Chowdhury, S., Ding, Y., Philip, M., Akpan, T. G., Raven, J., & Dean, L. Participatory action research evaluation of a human resource management bundle to improve performance of health workers caring for people affected by skin neglected tropical diseases.

Sempé, L., Witter, S., & Diaconu, K. Identifying necessary and sufficient conditions for complex interventions to achieve impacts: Applying Qualitative Comparative Analysis to performance-based financing.

Grants

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| 2025 | Evaluation of GenAI-powered short-session therapy intervention for young people in South Africa. Funded by Girl Effect (co-PI, £ 500,000, with 3ie and Oxford Department of Psychiatry) |
| 2025 | Mapping conceptual frameworks and indicators on Evidence-informed Policy making. Funded by FCSO (co-PI, £ 125,000) |
| 2025 | AI-based mapping methods used in social research in conflict-affected settings. Funded by FCDO (PI, £ 55,000) |
| 2023 | Social harm and online exposure to harm. Funded by the University of Oxford (co-PI, £ 10,000) |
| 2021 | Evaluation of the support network of the Peruvian non-contributory pension system during COVID-19. Funded by CIES-Peru (PI, £ 20,000) |
| 2020 | Evaluation of the support network for older people during COVID-19 in Peru. Funded by European Union and the Ministry of Social Development-Peru (PI, € 20,000) |
| 2017-20 | Evaluation of the Learning communities programme in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru - Funded by Instituto Natura-Argentina (PI, £ 400,000) |

Teaching

2018 **The Higher Education Academy**

Associate Fellow

Modules taught at the postgraduate level:

Impact Evaluation in R (Abu Dhabi Government), Quantitative Evidence for Development (University of East Anglia), Econometric Methods for Development (University of East Anglia), Educational assessment (University of East Anglia), Rural policies and politics (University of East Anglia), Programme evaluation (Queen Margaret University), Impact evaluation (University of East Anglia), Performance-based public budgeting (Universidad Católica San Pablo), Monitoring and evaluation in public policy (Universidad Católica San Pablo), Principles of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (Queen Margaret University)

Modules taught at the undergraduate level:

Research Techniques and Analysis (University of East Anglia), Latin American Development (University of East Anglia), Introduction to Human Geography (University of East Anglia), Human Geography Field Trip (University of East Anglia)

Methods training

2020 **University of Ghent**

Multilevel Structural Equation Analysis (by Ives Rossell)

2019 **University of Antwerp**

Intermediate Qualitative Comparative Analysis (by Carsten Q. Schneider and Ioana-Elena Oana)

University of East Anglia

Advanced Doctoral Training on Quantitative Methods and Analysis (by Roberta Fida)

2017 **IPSA-HSE Summer School for Methods of Political & Social Research**

Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (by Markus B. Siewert)

Presentations

2024 **IX Seminario Nacional de Investigación Educativa (Peru)**

- Presentation: "Deserción escolar en educación secundaria en Amazonía: Estudio en base a SIAGIE y ENAHO"; "Estrategia de observación de tutores en instituciones educativas de secundaria en Cusco, Amazonas y Puno del Programa de Educación Secundaria Rural "Horizontes" de la oficina de Unesco en Perú"

2023 **VIII Seminario Nacional de Investigación Educativa (Peru)**

- Presentation: "Potenciales factores de riesgo a la intención o decisión de interrumpir los estudios en la secundaria. Análisis de los resultados de un cuestionario aplicado a adolescentes"

2021 **IV Congreso Latinoamericano de Medición y Evaluación Educacional (Chile)**

- Presentation: "Mixing methods to assess validity of International Large-Scale Assessments"

VII Seminario Nacional de Investigación Educativa (Peru)

- Presentation: "Medición de desigualdad en escuelas a partir de datos categóricos"

2020 **16th World Congress on Public Health (Italy)**

- Presentation: "Integrating health and social care in Brazil"

2018 **VI Seminario de Sociedad de Investigación Educativa Peruana (Peru)**

- Presentation: "Evaluación del uso de los informes de resultados de la ECE en la escuela"

2017 Conference Comparative and International Education Society (Atlanta, US)

- Presentation: "Is rurality forgotten in Latin America? Some insights from learning outcomes in four different countries"

2016 V Seminario Nacional de Investigación Educativa (Peru)

- Presentation: "Balance del acompañamiento pedagógico en el marco del Programa Logros de Aprendizaje de Estudiantes de Educación Básica Regular y su impacto en los aprendizajes"

2015 II Congreso Latinoamericano de Medición y Evaluación Educativa (Mexico)

- Presentation: "Balance de estrategia pública de acompañamiento pedagógico en áreas rurales en Perú y la medición en los aprendizajes"

2014 IV Seminario Nacional de Investigación Educativa (Peru)

- Presentation: "Balance del acompañamiento pedagógico en el marco del Programa Logros de Aprendizaje de Estudiantes de Educación Básica Regular y su impacto en los aprendizajes"

Professional membership

Comparative Educational Society; Peruvian Educational Research Society; European Association of Development Research

Co-Director of the Global Platform for Coronavirus and Older People (www.corona-older.org)

OECD Evidence Web for Education: Expert Group member (2025-present)

Professional services

Associations

Sociedad Peruana de Investigación Educativa: Board member (2021-2024)

Journals

Revista Peruana de Investigación Educativa: co-editor (2020-2021;2025-present); editor (2022-2024)

Educationis momentum: Board member (2017-present)

Reviewer

Journal of Development Effectiveness; BMJ Global Health; International Health; JMIR Public Health and Surveillance; PLOS Global Health; Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical; BJPsych Open; International health; Journal of Refugee Studies; International Centre for Tax and Development; British Journal of Sociology; Revista Peruana de Investigación Educativa (Peru); Anthropologica (Peru)

Selected consultancies and policy work

- Promoting gender justice in care for older people in Brazil (funded by IDRC)
- Machine learning analysis of school dropouts in Peru (funded by UNESCO)
- Evaluation of intervention to reduce xenophobia in schools - Peru (funded by IOM)
- Political economy of Results budget programming (funded by WHO)
- Synthesis of evidence about financial autonomy of primary health care providers (funded by WHO through AEDES)
- Evaluation of the support network "Amachay" for older and disabled people in Peru during COVID-19 (funded by European Union)
- World Bank Evaluating Results-Based Financing in the Education Sector in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Nepal (funded by World Bank Mokoro – UK)
- Design of Impact evaluation and baseline data collection for Rural Secondary Education project (UNESCO – PERU)

- Design of budgetary programs for the Ministry of Education, the Institute of childhood and the National Council for childhood of the Republic of El Salvador (funded by GIZ - German cooperation)
- Diagnosis and proposal of budgetary program for rural and native education in Peru for the Ministry of Education (funded by GRADE/Canadian Agency of International Cooperation)
- Evaluation of Fondo de Estímulo al Desempeño y Logros de Resultados Sociales of Ministry of Social Development (funded by Ministry of Economy of Peru – World Bank project)
- Evaluation of RESULTA - Performance Indicators system of Ministry of Economy of Peru (funded by GIZ - German Cooperation)
- Design of policy for rural teachers for Ministry of Education of Peru (Canadian cooperation project GRADE – Ministry of Education)
- Design and evaluation of different educational policies, such as: Jornada Escolar Completa, Soporte Pedagógico, Compromisos de Desempeño (funded by Canadian cooperation project GRADE – Asamblea Nacional de Gobiernos Regionales)

Skills & expertise

Languages: Portuguese (native), Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (reading, beginner) and Italian (reading, intermediate).

Statistical software: R (RMarkdown, Shiny, Quarto), Stata, Python, SQL, SPSS, Mplus, Nvivo, MAXQDA, QGIS, ArcGIS.

AI & web development: LLM engineering (prompt design, fine-tuning, RAG systems), vector databases, JavaScript/React, Git & GitHub, cloud deployment.

Country expertise: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, DRC, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru and UAE.

(Last update: February 2026)