Research Interest: Andrés Barrera

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I'm looking for an internship opportunity where I can practice data-driven discovery in the field: **understanding the network of people and infrastructure behind social problems that limit access to opportunity in order to inform development and innovation initiatives, especially where official data is thin**. I bring an engineering background to build the data tools as well as analyze what they collect.

Research Internship, Spring 2027

I'm searching for a Research Internship for **Spring 2027 (April 5 - June 11) with additional availability through August 2027, as part of my Master's curriculum.** My goal is to complete this internship with an organization outside of Austria - **preferably in Latin America**.

My interest areas include:

- **Settlement and access:** What shapes where people move and settle? How do infrastructure, networks, and access to resources turn individual choices into communities?
- **Income and opportunity:** What determines who gets access to income and work? How do individuals, organizations, and local economies connect outside of their networks and borders?
- **Spending and social organization:** How do households, organizations, and networks decide what to spend on? How do their relationships shape who gets resources and influence?
- **Digital collection at scale:** How can data be gathered reliably across contexts, languages, and dynamic sources, and stay consistent over time - especially where official data is thin?
- **Social innovation:** How is network science used to inform innovation? How is technology used for social data collection?
- **Usable data products:** How can complex data become maps, dashboards, and tools that decision makers can explore and trust?

What I Bring to the Team

I'm a first year Social Data Science Master's student at Central European University with a BSE in computer engineering from Purdue University. **I develop technical solutions and translate them for non-technical stakeholders.**

- Four years of professional end-to-end system development - digital system architecture, visualization design, sensor and hardware telemetry, and technical documentation.
- Field work experience at industrial sites across the US, while studying digital data collection and hardware modernization in 1980s-era devices.
- Experience working with globally distributed organizations as a remote employee based in the US, Latin America, and Asia.
- Experience teaching and leading students, founders, engineers, clients, and volunteers through sales, consulting, education, and non-profit work.
- Year 1 MSc coursework in Scientific Python, Databases, Data Mining, Network Science, Machine Learning, Data and Network Visualization, Applied Statistics, and Demography.
- Bilingual in English and Spanish, currently learning Arabic and German.

An internship for Spring 2027 must be confirmed by January in order to meet program deadlines.