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Science maps for information retrieval

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About the author

Juan Pablo Bascur Cifuentes (1987) was born in Providencia, Chile. He graduated from Colegio Cumbres high school in 2005 and went on to study Biochemistry at the Andrés Bello National University in Santiago between 2008 and 2016, where he obtained his BSc and MSc degree cum laude. During this period, he also worked as a private tutor for high school and bachelor students. His master's dissertation, supervised by Daniel Eduardo Almonacid, focused on the identification of enzyme superfamilies significantly mutated in cancer and the characterization of their analogous mutations. Between 2013 and 2016, he also worked as a researcher on a Fondecyt project, where he developed network-based methods to predict the biological function of genes. After completing his studies, he worked as a machine learning researcher at the company WriteWise (2017–2018), where he developed and implemented functionalities for academic writing assistance software.

In 2018, he moved to Leiden in the Netherlands to pursue a PhD in Scientometrics at Leiden University, which he will defend in January 2026. He was supervised by Ludo Waltman and Nees Jan van Eck from the Centre for Science and Technology Studies and Suzan Verberne from the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science. During his doctorate, his publications and conference presentations have focused on the science of science, information retrieval, machine learning, and computational social science.

Alongside his doctoral research, he has been actively engaged in teaching, research, and academic service. Since 2021 he has worked as a teaching assistant at the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science, contributing to courses in information retrieval, text mining, data science, and artificial intelligence. He has also served as a social media analyst for two research projects with Delft University of Technology and Fondazione Bruno Kessler, as a scientometrics analyst for three CWTS B.V. projects, and as a Python workshop lecturer. In addition, he has been an editor for the Leiden Madtrics blog, an organizer of a workshop at the International School and Conference on Network Science, and provided extensive peer review for multiple journals.