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He is an Associate Fellow with the United Nations University (UNU-IIGH) in Kuala Lumpur and the MIT Joint Program on Science and Policy for Global Change.

He was Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director of the Advanced Studies Sustainability Studies Institute at the UN University (UNU-IAS) in Japan (2009–2015), where he coordinated the Sustainable Urban Futures Research Program and the MSc in Environmental Governance Program.

With over twenty years' experience at universities, companies, think tanks, government entities and international research entities, his activities involve research, teaching, training and academic management. Multi- and interdisciplinary, his work encompasses the applied social sciences and their links to the natural and health sciences and engineering, cutting across many different fields of knowledge, including urban studies, planning, business and public administration, management, environmental policy, development studies and governance.

His current interests focus mainly on the political economy of sustainable development, particularly aspects related to governance, institution building and development, together with policy implementation at different levels, examining how global institutions are interlinked to local governance, and vice-versa.

He is engaged mainly in policy-oriented empirical research, undertaking quantitative and qualitative analyses of governance involving diverse groups of actors (governments, international organizations, NGOs and companies), economic sectors (industrial segments) and scales (international, national, regional and local).

His experience comprises research, consultancy and policy work in more than twenty countries on all continents.

He was a Teaching Fellow at MIT, a Professor at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV/EBAPE), a Research Professor at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) as a European Commission's Marie Curie Fellow and a Lecturer at University College London (UK), where he was Co-Director of the Master's in Environment and Sustainable Development.