

# Paola Medrano

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## Profile

Cybersecurity Engineer focused on AI Security, Human-Centered Security, Cyber Resilience, and Emerging Technologies. Experienced in security operations, AI-assisted defense workflows, threat detection, malware analysis, and cybersecurity automation across enterprise environments.

Currently researching multimodal scam detection and conversational explainability to improve digital protection for Spanish-speaking users. Focused on the intersection of cybersecurity, emerging technologies, digital trust, and strategic resilience in rapidly evolving security environments.

## Research Interests

AI Security • Human-Centered Security • Cyber Resilience • Social Engineering Defense • Digital Trust • Emerging Technologies • Security Leadership

## NAWI -- AI-Powered Scam Detection App

### Founder

2025 -- Present

- Developed an AI-powered initiative focused on detecting phishing, fraud, and social engineering campaigns targeting Spanish-speaking users.
- Designed multimodal scam detection workflows combining behavioral analysis, contextual signals, and conversational explainability.
- Built datasets of real-world scam campaigns to support AI-assisted threat detection and user protection mechanisms.
- Applied human-centered cybersecurity principles to improve digital awareness, usability, and resilience against online fraud.
- Selected as an ITU–Huawei Generation Connect Fellow among 7000+ global applicants, receiving international funding support for the initiative.

## Leadership, Community & International Engagement

- **INCIBE Cybercooperator** 2026
- **Women Techmakers Ambassador (Google)** 2022–2025
- **IBM zSystems Student Ambassador** 2021–2024
- **Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador** 2021–2023
- Led cybersecurity awareness and technical training initiatives for more than 1000 students and professionals across Latin America as a Cisco Instructor. 2020–2024

## Areas of Expertise

- AI Security Human-Centered Security
- Cyber Resilience Threat Detection
- Security Operations Incident Response
- Security Automation Log Analysis
- Emerging Technologies Digital Trust
- Enterprise Security Monitoring (SIEM/EDR)
- Strategic Security Frameworks (NIST CSF, ISO/IEC 27001, ENS, MAGERIT)

## Certifications



## Professional Experience

### Cybersecurity and Asset Management Consultant

May 2025 -- Aug 2025

Tigo Bolivia (via Rocaz Solutions)

- Investigated SIEM alerts and vulnerability findings using Rapid7 InsightIDR, contributing to threat detection and remediation workflows.
- Detected anomalous connections and unauthorized assets across enterprise environments, supporting containment and escalation activities.

- Automated Active Directory authentication log validation across three AD forests using Bash, improving visibility into authentication events and account activity.
- Contributed to IT/OT asset visibility initiatives to strengthen monitoring coverage and operational resilience.
- Developed incident response playbooks for malware infections, unauthorized access attempts, and anomalous network activity.
- Collaborated across operational and leadership teams to support organizational security objectives and process improvements.

### Junior Cybersecurity Engineer

Feb 2024 -- Dec 2024

CIEM Ingeniería – Lambda Tech Cybersecurity Division, Bolivia

- Deployed and managed Sangfor EDR agents across enterprise environments, strengthening threat detection and containment capabilities.
- Investigated and triaged 50+ SIEM alerts weekly, contributing to incident response and security investigation workflows.
- Automated log analysis and alert reporting processes, improving operational efficiency and reducing manual workloads.
- Led cybersecurity awareness initiatives for more than 1000 employees, promoting resilience against phishing and social engineering threats.

### Telecommunications Engineer

May 2023 -- Dec 2023

CIEM Ingeniería, Bolivia

- Designed and documented secure network architectures for GPON and data center environments.
- Supported 5G quality assurance and security compliance assessments with ZTE for Telefónica Chile.
- Integrated data protection and business continuity considerations into critical infrastructure projects.

## Education

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### MSc in Cybersecurity

Sep 2025 -- Jul 2026

Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain

Thesis: Multimodal detection of digital scams in Spanish with citizen-oriented conversational explainability.

### Summer School in AI, Security and Privacy

Feb 2026

CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security & University of Cape Town

Selected participant; presented research on AI-based scam detection and privacy in messaging ecosystems.

### BSc in Telecommunications and Network Engineering

2019 -- 2024

Universidad Privada Domingo Savio, Cochabamba, Bolivia

GPA: 9.0/10

Thesis: Deployment and evaluation of an AI-driven EDR platform in SMEs, performing behavioral threat analysis and IOC-based malware profiling to strengthen organizational resilience.

## Honors, Awards Scholarships

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- **Third Place** – CISPA AI Security Hackathon, Barcelona, Spain (2026)
- **Fundación Carolina Scholar** – Fully funded international postgraduate scholarship in Spain (2025–2026)
- **ITU–Huawei Generation Connect Fellow** – Selected among 7000+ global applicants; awarded international funding for the NAWI initiative (2025)
- **Linux Foundation LiFT Scholar** (2025)
- **Huawei Seeds for the Future** – Top 3 participant in Bolivia (2023)
- **Fundación Botín Leadership Program**, Spain (2022)