

GERARD TORRATS-ESPINOSA

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Columbia University

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Causal Inference; Crime; Data Science; Demography; Inequality; Public Health

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology, New York University	2014-2019
Dissertation: "Inequality and Opportunity in the Crime Decline Era"	
Committee: Ingrid Ellen, Jennifer Hill, Mike Hout, Patrick Sharkey (Chair), and Florencia Torche	
Master in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School	2012-2014
B.S. Building Engineering, Polytechnic University of Catalonia	2001-2004

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Columbia University	
Department of Sociology, Assistant Professor (tenure track)	2020-
Population Research Center, Affiliate	2019-
Data Science Institute, Member	2019-
Department of Sociology, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Data Science	2019-2020
Behavioral Insights Team North America	
Research Fellow	2017-2019
New York University	
Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, Doctoral Fellow	2014-2019

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICE

Barcelona Fire Department, Spain	
Fire-Fighter (full-time, civil servant)	2007-2011
Spanish Army, Spain	
Special Operations Group	2005-2007

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Fabbri, Camilla, Katherine Rodrigues, Baptiste Leurent, Elizabeth Allen, Mary Qiu, Martin Zuakulu, Dennis Nombo, Michael Kaemingk, Alexandra De Filippo, **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**, Elizabeth Shayo, Vivien Barongo, Giulia Greco, Wietse Tol, and Karen M. Devries. 2021. "The EmpaTeach Intervention for Reducing Physical Violence from Teachers to Students in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp: A Cluster-Randomised Controlled Trial." *PLoS Medicine* 18(10): e1003808
- Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard.** 2021. "Using Machine Learning to Estimate the Effect of Racial Segregation on COVID-19 Mortality." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118(7): e2015577118
- 2020 **Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard.** 2020. "Crime and Inequality in Academic Achievement across School Districts in the United States." *Demography* 57: 123-145
- Ellen, Ingrid G. and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa.** 2020. "Do Vouchers Protect Low-Income Households from Rising Rents?" *Eastern Economic Journal* 46: 260-281
- 2019 Ellen, Ingrid G. and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa.** 2019. "Gentrification and Fair Housing: Does Gentrification Further Integration?" *Housing Policy Debate* 29(5): 835-851
- Ellen, Ingrid G., Michael Suher, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa.** 2019. "Neighbors and Networks: The Role of Social Interactions on the Residential Choices of Housing Choice Voucher Holders." *Journal of Housing Economics* 43: 56-71

- 2018 Balcells, Laia and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2018. "Using a Natural Experiment to Estimate the Electoral Consequences of Terrorist Attacks." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115(42): 10624-10629
Outstanding Paper Award from the Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration Section of ISA
- Heissel, Jennifer A., Patrick T. Sharkey, **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**, Kathryn Grant, and Emma K. Adam. 2018. "Violence and Vigilance: The Acute Effects of Community Violent Crime on Sleep and Cortisol." *Child Development* 89(4): 323-331
- 2017 Sharkey, Patrick, **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**, and Delaram Takyar. 2017. "Community and the Crime Decline: The Causal Effect of Local Nonprofits on Violent Crime." *American Sociological Review* 82(6): 1214-1240
- Sharkey, Patrick and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2017. "The Effect of Violent Crime on Economic Mobility." *Journal of Urban Economics* 102: 22-33

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Ellen, Ingrid G., Brian J. McCabe, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2020. "How Can Historic Preservation Be More Inclusive?" in *Preservation and Social Inclusion*. Columbia University Press
- Weiss, Christopher, Emma Garcia, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2015. "A Comparative Analysis of the Relationship between Learning Environments and Educational Performance in Japan and the United States." Pp. 211-240 in *Japan Viewed from Interdisciplinary Perspectives* edited by Yoneyuki Sugita. Lexington Books

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (co-PI, \$29,467), "The Relationship between Incarceration and COVID-19," 2021
- Hettelman Junior Faculty Summer Research Grant (\$6,000), 2021
- Russell Sage Foundation & William T. Grant Foundation (PI, \$7,000), "Crime and Inequality in Academic Achievement across School Districts in the United States," 2016

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, New York University, 2019-2020 (Declined)
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, New York University, 2018
- Urban Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2018-2019
- Outstanding Paper Award from the Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration Section of ISA, 2017
- Predocotrinal Interdisciplinary Research Training Fellowship (PIRT), New York University, 2014-2017
- Henry M. MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2014-2019
- "La Caixa" Graduate Fellowship, Spain, 2012-2014

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(Includes scheduled conferences)

- 2020 American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, 2020 (Cancelled)
- 2019 SREE Spring Conference, Washington, DC, 2019
- 2018 APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2018
American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2018
Population Association of America, Denver, CO, 2018
- 2017 APPAM Fall Research Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017
Population Association of America, Chicago, IL, 2017
International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, 2017
- 2016 Urban Economics Association, Minneapolis, MN, 2016
American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA, 2016
APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2016
American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, 2016
American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, Washington, DC, 2016
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia: Conference in Gentrification, Philadelphia, PA, 2016
Education and Inequality in 21st Century America, Stanford University, CA, 2016
Population Association of America, Washington, DC, 2016

2015 Russell Sage Foundation: Intergenerational Mobility in the United States, New York, NY, 2015

INVITED TALKS

(Includes scheduled talks)

- 2021 Berkeley University, Computational Social Science Forum, 2021
Columbia University, Injury Center, 2021
Paris School of Economics, 2021
- 2020 Columbia University, Data Science Institute, 2020
Columbia University, Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Workshop, 2020 (Cancelled)
Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), Criminology Program, 2020 (Cancelled)
- 2019 Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), DemoSoc Research Group Workshop, 2019
Columbia University, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences Research Seminar, 2019
Northwestern University, School of Education and Social Policy, 2019
Columbia University, Department of Sociology, 2019
- 2018 Columbia University, Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, 2018
- 2017 New York University, Furman Center Speaker Series, 2017

TEACHING

Columbia University

- 2020 Social Data Analysis II (GR6001), Sociology, Graduate, Spring 2020
Methods for Social Research (UN3010), Sociology, Undergraduate, Spring 2020
- 2019 Sociological Methods (GR5052), Sociology, Graduate, Fall 2019

New York University

- 2017 Introduction to Quantitative Methodology, Sociology, Graduate, Fall 2017 (TA and Lab Instructor)
Math, Probability and Statistics Refresher, Sociology, Graduate, Summer 2017 (TA and Lab Instructor)
- 2016 Statistical Inference & Regression Analysis, Stern, Undergraduate, Spring 2016 (TA)

Harvard Kennedy School

- 2012 Markets and Market Failure (API-101), MPP Program, Graduate, Fall 2012 (TA)

MEDIA WRITING

- “Do terrorist attacks make people more politically engaged?” *Washington Post*. August 28, 2017 (with Laia Balcells)
- “Els efectes politics del terrorisme” (“The Political Consequences of Terrorism”). *Ara*. August 22, 2017 (with Laia Balcells)
- “La violencia policial y la division racial en los Estados Unidos” (“Police Brutality and the Racial Divide in the United States”). *La Vanguardia*. July 12, 2016

SERVICE

University Service

- Columbia Population Research Center, Steering Committee, 2021-
- Columbia Experimental Laboratory for Social Science, Board Member, 2020-

Department Service

- Faculty Search Committee, Columbia University, 2021

Conference Service

- 2019 Organizer, “Inequalities and Social Justice in the 21st Century City,” ASA Pre-Conference, New York, NY, 2019
- 2018 Session organizer, “Fair Housing Research 50 Years after the Fair Housing Act,” APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2018

- 2017 Session organizer, "Understanding the Locational Decisions and Outcomes of Assisted Housing Recipients," APPAM Fall Research Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017
Session organizer, "Reforming the Housing Choice Voucher Program," APPAM Fall Research Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017
- 2016 Discussant, "Gentrification and Urban Policies," Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 2016
Session organizer, "Gentrification in the 21st Century," APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2016

Journal Review Service

American Journal of Sociology
American Political Science Review
American Sociological Review
Journal of Politics
Journal of Public Economics

PLOS ONE
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Review of Economics and Statistics
Sociological Methods and Research

Grant Review Service

William T. Grant Foundation

STUDENT ADVISING

PhD Dissertation Committees

Joanna Chae, Sociology, Columbia University, Exp. 2023
Sang Won Han, Sociology, Columbia University, Exp. 2022

Master's Thesis Advisor

Yumo Wang, Sociology, Columbia University, 2021-2022
Jane Mills, QMSS, Columbia University, 2020-2021
Anika Lanser, Sociology, Columbia University, 2020-2021

PERSONAL

Born in Barcelona, Spain (US Permanent Resident)
Languages: Spanish and Catalan (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate)
Running PBs: Marathon: 2:41:55 (Boston, 2021); Half: 1:15:42 (Banyoles, 2021); 10k: 34:40 (Barcelona, 2019)