

## 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 Mark, Nicholas and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2021. "Declining Violence and Improving Birth Outcomes in the US: Evidence from Birth Certificate Data" *Social Science and Medicine* 294: 114595
- 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

- Columbia University's Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Grant (PI, \$11,100), 2022
- Columbia University Provost's Grants Program for Junior Faculty (PI, \$20,060), 2021
- 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 (PI, \$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)

2022 Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), Criminology Program, 2022  
 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*

2022 Methods for Social Research (UN3010), Sociology, Undergraduate, Spring 2022  
 Crime and Policing (UN3983), Sociology, Undergraduate, Spring 2022  
 2021 Social Data Analysis II (GR6001), Sociology, Graduate, Spring 2021  
 Methods for Social Research (UN3010), Sociology, Undergraduate, Spring 2021  
 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 polítics del terrorisme" ("The Political Consequences of Terrorism"). *Ara*. August 22, 2017 (with Laia Balcells)  
 "La violencia policial y la división 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  
Social Forces  
Sociological Methods and Research  
Sociology of Education

*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)