

# SULEYMA VERGARA-TAPIA

New York, NY | (951) 464-2359 | svergaratapia@gradcenter.cuny.edu

## EDUCATION

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### Ph.D. Sociology

*The Graduate Center, CUNY*

New York, NY

2021 - Present

### Master of Public Policy

*University of California, Riverside – School of Public Policy*

Concentration: Inequality and Poverty

Riverside, CA

June 2019

### Bachelor of Arts Economics & Political Science

*University of California, Riverside*

Riverside, CA

August 2017

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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*The Graduate Center, CUNY*

### Projects as a Graduate Student

New York, NY

Fall 2022- present

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)

Fall 2022- Spring 2023

- Redefining Merit: Race, Class, and Diversity in College Admissions - Assisted Dr. Van Tran in the writing of a TESS proposal in which we employ a series of conjoined survey experiments to identify how perceptions of merit are linked to students' demographic and contextual characteristics and how these characteristics, in turn, shape the perceptions of the student's likelihood to thrive once admitted. I was responsible for securing the IRB approval and compiling the literature review for this project.

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center

Fall 2023- Spring 2024

- As a Research Associate for the 2023-2024 Latino Data Project Fellowship, a colleague and I were free to develop a report on Poverty among Latinos in NYC. We focused on society's most vulnerable members: Women, children, and the elderly.

NYC Attitudes Toward Migrants Project

Fall 2024- present

- This project uses both survey data and interviews. I am assisting Dr. Liza G. Steele and Dr. Philip Kasinitz's team on data analysis, cleaning, and identifying further areas of interest to follow up on in the interview portion of the data collection.

College Assistant for the Sociology Department

Spring 2024- Present

- Assist the Sociology program manager with day-to-day administrative tasks, paperwork, and event planning for the Sociology department.
- Manage department social media accounts, website, and overall online presence.
- Maintain and manage department databases.

RA for Ruth Milkman

Fall 2025

- Transcribe, translate, and prepare interviews done with Spanish-speaking care workers for a project while at the Russel Sage Foundation, 2025-2026.

*The University of the Pacific, Center for Business and Policy Research*

Stockton, CA

### Research Assistant

October 2020 – August 2021

- Collaborated with the Center for Business and Policy Research, California Department of Transportation, and county governments to conduct community outreach meetings, develop surveys, and prepare transportation reports for ten rural counties in California. Contributed to the 2021 Statewide Rural Executive Summary for the California Department of Transportation. Utilized Survey Monkey to generate survey instruments and R for data cleaning and analysis.
- Generated opportunity maps using Census Data to inform the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plans of San Joaquin and Bakersfield counties. The data aided in projecting additional housing units needed for households of

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all income levels and identifying high-resource areas for low and middle-income housing development.

Conducted mapping, data cleaning, and manipulation using R.

- Assessed impact fees for low- and moderate-income housing in the three largest cities of the Northern San Joaquin Valley. Generated multiple housing fee models for middle- and low-income housing in California and evaluated the impact of proposed policy recommendations on development costs. This project was funded by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative as part of the CZI Community Fund, using publicly available data on impact fees from completed housing developments.
- Assisted in the preparation and writing of various reports.

*UC Riverside School of Public Policy Blum Initiative &  
The Community Action Partnership of Riverside County*

Riverside, CA

## Capstone Research Project

September 2018 – June 2019

In coordination with the UC Riverside Blum Initiative on Global and Regional Poverty and the Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Riverside County, redesigned and analyzed CAP's needs assessment survey of the low-income community in Riverside County over a period of ten months. CAP used this report to inform their 2019-2020 Community Action Plan their goals for the following year and reapply for federal funding. Designed survey, analyzed data using logistic regression in STATA, and created materials in English and Spanish.

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

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### University of California, Riverside

*Public Policy- Introduction to Politics and Public Policy- Instructor*

Spring 2020

*Public Policy- Case Studies in Public Policy- Instructor*

Summer Session A 2019

*Public Policy- Introduction to Public Policy-Teaching Assistant*

Summer Session A 2018 – Fall 2018

*Economics- Public Economics- Grader*

Fall 2020

*Economics- History of Economic Thought- Grader*

Spring 2020

*Economics- Introduction to Game Theory- Grader*

Spring 2021

*Economics- Land and Resource Economics- Grader*

Spring 2021

*Economics- Economics of Education- Grader*

Fall 2020- Winter 2021

*Economics- Global Poverty- Grader*

Spring 2019, 2020, 2021

### New York University

*Introduction to Sociology- Teaching Assistant*

Fall 2022

### Barnard College

*Transnationalism, Citizenship, and Belonging- Teaching Assistant*

Spring 2023, Spring 2025

*Sociology of African American Life- Teaching Assistant*

Spring 2024

*Surveillance*

Fall 2025

### The Graduate Center, CUNY

Graduate student mentor for the CUNY Pipeline Fellowship Program

Fall 2022-Present

## CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

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Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, CA Regional Student Conference

April 2019

*"The Experience of Poverty in Riverside County, As a High-Poverty, High-Growth Affordability Mecca of Southern California"*

Eastern Sociological Society Conference 2024- The Social Side of the Climate Crisis

March 2024

*"Exploring the Relationship between the American Dream, Race, Class, and Attitudes towards Affirmative Action: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach"*

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Eastern Sociological Society Conference 2025- Building Solidarity to break Cycles of Repression

March 2025

*“Unraveling Poverty Dynamics: A Comparative Shapely Decomposition of Income Sources in Middle-Income Latin American and Anglophone Countries”*

## Publications:

Cerna, Juan Dolores and Suleyma Vergara-Tapia (2025). [\*Poverty Among New York City's Most Vulnerable: 2000-2022\*](#). Edited by Marco Castillo. New York: Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Pogue, T., Michael, J., Huang, M., Vergara-Tapia, S., & Balinbin, J. (2021). [\*Needs and gap analysis of San Joaquin County's health and behavioral health care system for the unhoused\*](#) [Report prepared for Kaiser Permanente; Jacie Touart, Asst. Clinical Prof. UOP Physician Assistant Program; Kristin Woodworth, Graduate Research Intern]. Center for Business and Policy Research.

## SKILLS

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**Computer:** Microsoft Office Suite, Publisher, Google Drive applications, STATA, R, Otter.ai

**Languages:** Spanish (Fluent/heritage speaker; speaking, reading, writing), English (Fluent; speaking, reading, writing), French (Basic: speaking and reading)

**Relevant Coursework:** Sociological Statistics I & II, Quantitative Research Methods, Structural Equation Modeling, Global Social Stratification, Hierarchical Linear Modeling, Experimental Methods in Social Science

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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Western Riverside Council of Governments- Public Service Fellow	2017-2018
Provost Enhancement Fellowship	2021-Present
Reducing Inequality Network Scholar	2021-Present
Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality- LIS Summer Workshop Scholarship	Summer 2022 & 2023
CIDR Supplemental Fellowship	Fall 2024