




GERARD TORRATS-ESPINOSA

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Columbia University

(Last updated: December 2020)

Department of Sociology
Columbia University
606 West 122nd Street
New York, NY 10027

<https://gerardtorratsespinoso.com> 
gerard.torrats@columbia.edu 
[@GerardTorrats](https://twitter.com/GerardTorrats) 

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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-
Columbia Experimental Laboratory for Social Science, Board Member 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) 2007-2012
Spanish Army, Spain
Special Operations Group 2005-2007

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 **Torrats-Espinoza, Gerard.** Forthcoming. "Using Machine Learning to Estimate the Effect of Racial Segregation on COVID-19 Mortality." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
- 2020 **Torrats-Espinoza, 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-Espinoza.** 2020. "Do Vouchers Protect Low-Income Households from Rising Rents?" *Eastern Economic Journal* 46: 260-281
- 2019 Ellen, Ingrid G. and **Gerard Torrats-Espinoza.** 2019. "Gentrification and Fair Housing: Does Gentrification Further Integration?" *Housing Policy Debate* 29(5): 835-851
Ellen, Ingrid G., Michael Suher, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinoza.** 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-Espinoza.** 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

WORKING PAPERS

- Mark, Nicholas, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. "Exposure to Violent Crime and Birth Outcomes: Evidence from US Birth Certificate Data"
- Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard**. "The Growth in Between-City Income Segregation"
- Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard** and Patrick Sharkey. "The Fall of Violence and the Reconfiguration of Urban Neighborhoods"
- Camilla Fabbri, Elizabeth Allen, Baptiste Laurent, Mary Qiu, Martin Zwakulu, Dennis Nombo, Michael Kaemingk, Alexandra De Filippo, **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**, Elizabeth Shayo, Vivien Barongo, Giulia Greco, Wietse Tol, Katherine Rodrigues, Karen M Devries. "Preventing Violence Against Children in Schools in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp: a cluster-randomised controlled trial of the EmpaTeach intervention to reduce physical violence from teachers to students"

GRANTS

- 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)

- 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

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 (3)
American Political Science Review
American Sociological Review (2)
Journal of Politics
Journal of Public Economics
Journal of Urban Health

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Review of Economics and Statistics
Sociological Forum
Sociological Methods and Research
Sociology of Education (2)

Grant Review Service

William T. Grant Foundation

STUDENT ADVISING

Master's Thesis Advisor

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

PERSONAL

Born in Barcelona, Spain

Languages: Spanish and Catalan (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate)

Running PBs: Marathon: 2:48:19 (New York City, 2019); Half: 1:19:30 (Brooklyn, 2019); 10k: 34:40 (Barcelona, 2019)