
MO TORRES

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APPOINTMENTS

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Public Policy	2023 - Pres
Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows	2023 - Pres

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Harvard University, Sociology	<i>exp.</i> 2023
	Thesis: <i>Race, Place, and the Politics of Urban Austerity in Michigan, 1970s-2010s</i>	
	Committee: Mario Small (Columbia University, <i>chair</i>), Robert Sampson, Thomas Sugrue (NYU)	
A.M.	Harvard University, Sociology	2018
	Exams: Stratification (<i>distinction</i>); Organizations; Political Sociology; Race, Ethnicity, Migration	
M.P.P.	University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy	2015
A.B.	University of California, Davis, History (<i>honors</i>) & Chicana/o Studies (<i>honors</i>)	2010

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

inequality, political economy, race and class, cities, schools, sociological theory, historical and mixed methods

PUBLICATIONS

Small, Mario L., Armin Akhavan, Mo Torres, and Qi Wang. 2021. "[Banks, Alternative Institutions, and the Spatial-Temporal Ecology of Racial Inequality](#)." *Nature Human Behavior* 5, 1622-1628.

Torres, Mo. "Race as Resource Proxy: Race, Class, and School Quality Perceptions in a Video Experiment." (Revise and resubmit, *Social Problems*)

Submitted

Torres, Mo. "‘They Ran that City Down’: Urban Austerity and the Production of Jurisdictional Stigma in Michigan, 1978-2018."

In progress

Torres, Mo. "We’re Doing What Has to Be Done: Financial Emergency, Policy Abstraction, and the Politics of Inevitable Austerity."

Torres, Mo. "Who Governs the Crisis City? Expertise, Race, and Representation in Michigan’s Municipal Receivership Regime."

Clemons, Jared, and Mo Torres. "Racism without Races: Social Science beyond the Social Construction of Race."

Small, Mario L., Mo Torres, and Lauren Taylor. "Explaining Racial Differences in Banking Preferences and Financial Behavior: A Mixed Methods Study."

Essays and other writing

Kornberg, Dana, and Mo Torres. Forthcoming. "Detroit." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Urban Studies*, edited by R. Dilworth. New York: Oxford University Press.

Torres, Mo. 2023. "[Against Race, Toward the Abolition of Racism](#)." Review of *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in America*, by Karen E. Fields and Barbara J. Fields. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 9(1), 124-127.

Torres, Mo. 2009. "Another Way: When I Chose to Be Queer," in UC Davis Prized Writing, 2008-2009.

- Reprinted in (2020) UC Davis Prized Writing, Freedom of Expression: LGBT+ Collection.

FELLOWSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Stone Fellow, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School	2016 - 2023
President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan	<i>declined</i>
Provost's Fellow, Race, Inclusion and Social Equity (RAISE) Initiative, Ohio State University	<i>declined</i>
Participant, Consortium on the American Political Economy Summer Academy, MIT	2022
Fellow, New Political Economy Summer Institute, University of California, Berkeley	2022
Doctoral Fellow, Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, Harvard University	2021 - 2022
Doctoral Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance, Harvard Kennedy School	2020 - 2021
Doctoral Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University (2020 - 2021)	<i>declined</i>
Merit Graduate Society Research Fellow, Harvard University (2020 - 2021)	<i>declined</i>
Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)	2019
Fulbright Scholar, U.S. Student Research Program, Fulbright Commission (Brazil)	2019
Graduate Fellow, History of American Democracy Workshop, Tobin Project (Cambridge, MA)	2018
Urban Policy Fellow, Taubman Center for State & Local Government, Harvard Kennedy School	2017 - 2018
Associate Fellow, Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy (Andover, MA)	2014 - 2015
Rackham Merit Fellow, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan	2013 - 2015
Graduate Fellow, Education Pioneers (Washington, D.C.)	2014
Public Policy Fellow, Inter-University Program for Latino Research (Washington, D.C.)	2009

GRANTS

Research Grant, Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy, HKS (\$650)	2022
Research Grant, Division of Social Sciences, Harvard University (\$500)	2022
Urban Research Grant, Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, Harvard University (\$2500)	2021
Research Grant, Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, Harvard University (\$1000)	2021
Research Grant Extension (with A. Siliunas & A. J. Williams), Radcliffe Institute, Harvard Univ. (\$1500)	2020
Engaged Research Grant (with A. Siliunas & A. J. Williams), Radcliffe Institute, Harvard Univ. (\$1500)	2020
Research Grant, Division of Social Sciences, Harvard University (\$1000)	2020
Bordin-Gillette Researcher Travel Fellowship, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan (\$2000)	2019
Lemann Research Grant, Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University (\$4500)	2019
Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University (\$1000)	2018
Undergraduate Research Support Grant, Division of Social Sciences, Harvard University (\$1800)	2018
Research Grant, History of American Democracy Workshop, The Tobin Project (\$1000)	2018

Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University (\$500)	2017
Research Grant, Taubman Center for State & Local Government, Harvard Kennedy School (\$2500)	2017
Research Grant, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy S. (\$5000)	2016

AWARDS & HONORS

Honorable Mention, Dissertation Fellowship, Center for Engaged Scholarship	2020
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning, Harvard University	2018
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning, Harvard University	2017
Special Recognition, General Examination in Social Stratification, Department of Sociology, Harvard U.	2016
Chancellor's Award of Merit, University of California, Davis	2010
Departmental Citation, Department of Chicana/o Studies, University of California, Davis	2010
Community Service Award (to two graduating seniors), Chicana/o Latina/o Graduation, UC Davis	2010
University Prized Writing Award, University of California, Davis	2009

RESEARCH ASSISTANCESHIPS

Project on Racial Inequality and Financial Access (Mario Small, Columbia University)	2016 - Pres
Resilience in the Survivors of Katrina (RISK) Project (Mary Waters, Harvard University)	2017 - 2018
Global Poverty, Property and the City (Matthew Desmond, Harvard University)	2015 - 2018
Contexts of Academic & Social Adjustment Lab (Deborah Rivas-Drake, University of Michigan)	2013 - 2014
Relationships & Dyadic Interactions Study (Diane Felmlee, University of California, Davis)	2008 - 2009

TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Resident Tutor, Currier House, Harvard College <i>Special Roles:</i> Diversity Committee, Race & Ethnicity Tutor, LGBTQ Tutor, First Gen/ Low Income Student Support Tutor, Public Service Tutor, Sophomore Advisor	2020 - Pres
Writing Fellow in Sociology, Bok Center for Teaching & Learning, Harvard University	2021 - 2022
Concentration Advisor, Department of Sociology, Harvard University	2021 - 2022
Teaching Assistant, American Society & Public Policy (Prof. Mary Waters), Harvard University	Summer 2021
Head Teaching Fellow, Sociology of Immigration (Prof. Mary Waters), Harvard University <i>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching</i> (Student Evaluations: 4.8 / 5.0)	Spring 2018
Teaching Fellow, Reimagining Boston (Profs. Robert Sampson & David Luberoff), Harvard Univ. <i>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching</i> (Student Evaluations: 4.8 / 5.0)	Fall 2017
Tutor, Petey Greene Program, Massachusetts Correctional Institution - Norfolk, MA	Fall 2017
High School Teacher, Ben Carson High School of Science & Medicine, Detroit Public Schools	2011 - 2013
Middle School Teacher, Palmer Park Preparatory Academy, Detroit Public Schools	2010 - 2011
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, AIDS & Society (Kathryn Radke, UC Davis)	Winter 2008

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Federalism and Municipal Stigma in the Austerity Age”	2022
Will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL.	
“Federalism and Municipal Stigma in the Austerity Age”	2022
Presented at Class and Race Online Seminar Series (CROSS), Virtual.	
Discussant, “Economic Sociology Meets Race/Class/Gender,” ASA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA	2022
“What ‘Emergency’ Does: Policy Abstraction and Inevitable Austerity”	2022
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, “Theorizing Inequity and Crisis,” Regular Session in Social Theory, Los Angeles, CA.	
“What ‘Emergency’ Does: Policy Abstraction and Inevitable Austerity”	2022
Presented at the Consortium on the American Political Economy, MIT, Cambridge, MA.	
“Racism without Races: Sociology beyond the ‘Social Construction of Race’” (with Jared Clemons)	2022
Presented at the Junior Theorists Symposium, ASA, Los Angeles, CA.	
“Race, Place, and the Politics of Urban Austerity in Michigan, 1978-2018”	2022
Presented at the New Political Economy Summer Institute, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.	
“Race, Place, and the Politics of Austerity in Urban Michigan, 1978-2018”	2022
Presented at the Urban Data Lab, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.	
“What ‘Emergency’ Does: Democratic Decline and the Politics of Inevitability in Michigan, 1978-2018”	2021
Presented at the Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, Cambridge, MA.	
“What ‘Emergency’ Does: Democratic Decline and the Politics of Inevitability in Michigan, 1978-2018”	2021
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, “From the Top: Elites and Fiscal Policy Making” Panel. Philadelphia, PA and Virtual (Covid-19).	
“The Undeserving City: How Political Elites Assign Moral Worth to Place”	2021
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Virtual (Covid-19).	
“Building the City of Prisons: Ribeirão das Neves and the Urban Economy of Incarceration”	2020
Accepted to present at 15 th Congress of Brazilian Studies Association, University of Texas, Austin, TX; Conference cancelled due to Covid-19.	
“The Undeserving City: Policy Elites, Race-Class Subjugation, and the Moral Worthiness of Place”	2020
Presented at the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy Graduate Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.	
“Managing Economic ‘Emergency’ in the Post-Industrial United States”	2018
Presented at <i>States of Exception and the Politics of Anger</i> Conference, EDDA Research Center in Critical Contemporary Research, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland.	
“‘Emergency Financial Management’ and the Moralization of Economic Decline”	2018
Presented at <i>History of American Democracy</i> Workshop, The Tobin Project, Cambridge, MA.	
“Economic Decline and ‘Democratic Displacement’”	2018
Presented at <i>(Re)conceptualizing Displacement</i> Conference, Program in Race, Immigration & Citizenship, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.	

INVITED GUEST LECTURES & CLASS VISITS

“Qualitative Research Methods” (graduate), Prof. Shobita Parthasarathy, University of Michigan	2020, 2022
“Political Economy of Chicana/o Communities” (undergraduate), Prof. Gloria Rodriguez, UC Davis	2021
“Introduction to Sociology” (undergraduate), Prof. Sarah Mayorga, Brandeis University	2020

SERVICE

Student Representative, Theory Section Council, American Sociological Association	2022 - Pres
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Assistant Book Review Editor, <i>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i>	2022 - Pres
Associate Editor, <i>Humanity and Society</i>	2022 - Pres
Program Co-Chair, W. E. B. Du Bois Sesquicentennial Symposium, Harvard University	2017 - 2018
Co-Coordinator, Contemporary Studies of Race and Ethnicity Workshop, Harvard University	2017 - 2018
Co-Coordinator, Public Policy Connects Youth Conference, University of Michigan	2013 - 2015
Coordinator, The Pipeline Diversity Initiative, University of Michigan	2013 - 2014
Occasional reviewer for <i>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i> , <i>Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race</i>	

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

School Director, Teach for America (Camden, NJ; Philadelphia, PA)	2015
Research Analyst & Education Pioneers Fellow, The New Teacher Project (Washington, DC)	2014
Curriculum Specialist, Teach for America (Chicago, IL)	2013
Recruitment Specialist, Lighthouse Charter Academy (Detroit, MI)	2012 - 2013
Corps Member Advisor, Teach for America (Philadelphia, PA)	2012

ADVISING

Aisha Abdelhamid, Senior Thesis in Sociology, Harvard College	2022 - 2023
Britney Vongdara, Senior Thesis in Sociology, Harvard College	2020 - 2021
Stephanie Wu, Senior Thesis in Sociology, Harvard College	2018 - 2019
<i>Thomas T. Hoopes Prize</i> for best thesis among graduating seniors, Harvard College	
<i>Fulton Prize for Best Thesis in Sociology</i> , Department of Sociology, Harvard University	
<i>Hutchins Thesis Prize in Latino Studies</i> , Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies	

GLOBAL STUDY & RESEARCH

Brazil (2007, 2015, 2016, 2019)