

Robert Vargas
 University of Chicago
 Department of Sociology
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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago	2020-Present
Deputy Dean of the Social Sciences	2021-Present
Director, UChicago Justice Project	2017-Present
Affiliate – Population Research Center	2017-Present
Affiliate – Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization	2017-Present
Affiliate – Center for the Study of Race Politics and Culture	2017-Present
Neubauer Family Assistant Professor, University of Chicago	2017-2020
Visiting Scholar, American Bar Foundation	2016-2017
Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Notre Dame	2016-2017
Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2014-2016
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy, Harvard University	2012-2014

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology Northwestern University	2012
B.A. in Public Policy Studies (with High Honors) DePaul University	2007

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Studies; Law; Race; Mixed Methods; Health

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Vargas, Robert. 2022. *Uninsured in Chicago: How the Social Safety Net Leaves Latinos Behind*. New York: New York University Press.

Vargas, Robert. 2016. *Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Awards

- Winner - 2016 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Outstanding Book Prize
- Winner – 2017 Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award, Association for Humanist Sociology
- Co-Winner - 2017 Outstanding Book Prize, ASA Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict
- Co-Winner – 2017 Best Book Award, ASA Section on Political Sociology
- Finalist – 2016 Society for the Study of Social Problems C. Wright Mills Book Award

Author Meets Critic

- American Society of Criminology, 2017
- American Sociological Association, 2017

Reviewed in:

- Journal of Urban Affairs
- Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books

Featured in:

- CNN
- Chicago Magazine
- Chicago Tribune
- WBEZ Chicago Public Radio
- WNUR Northwestern University Radio

Journal Articles

Vargas, Robert. 2022 “Four Ways Race and Capitalism can Advance Urban Sociology.” *City and Community*. [Forthcoming].

Huq, Aziz, Robert Vargas, and Caitlin Loftus. 2022. “Governing Through Gun Crime: How Chicago Funded Police After the 2020 Protests.” *Harvard Law Review Forum*. [Forthcoming June 2022] Available at SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4046125

Vargas, Robert, Chris Williams, Philip O’Sullivan, and Christina Cano. 2022 “Capitalizing on Crisis: Chicago Responses to Homicide Waves 1920-2020.” *University of Chicago Law Review*. 89: 405-439.

Vargas, Robert, Christina Cano, Paola Del Toro, and Brian Fenaughty. 2021. “The Racial and Economic Foundations of Municipal Redistricting.” *Social Problems*. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spab076>.

Vargas, Robert, and Lee Scrivener. 2021. “Why Latino Youth (Don’t) Call Police.” *Race and Justice*. 11(1): 47-64.

Vargas, Robert, Kayla Prieto-Hodge, and Jeremy Christofferson. 2019. “Digital Vulnerability: The Unequal Risk of E-Contact with the Criminal Justice System.” *RSF: Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 5(1):71-88.

Vargas, Robert. 2019 “Gangstering Grants: Bringing Power to Collective Efficacy Theory.” *City and Community*. 18(1):369-91.

Camacho-Thompson, Daisy, and Robert Vargas. 2018 “Organized Community Participation and the Dynamics of Gendered Neighborhood Violence” *American Journal of Community Psychology* 62(1-2):87-100

*Flores, Rene, and Robert Vargas. 2017. “Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage: What has Changed After the Affordable Care Act?” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 43(1):2055-71

Vargas, Robert and Phil McHarris. 2016. “Race and State in City Police Spending Growth: 1980-2010.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 3(1):96-112.

Vargas, Robert. 2016. "How Health Navigators Legitimize the Affordable Care Act to the Uninsured Poor." *Social Science and Medicine* Vol 165:263-270.

Vargas, Robert. 2014. "Criminal Group Embeddedness and the Adverse Effects of Arresting a Gang's Leader." *Criminology* 52(2):143-168. [Lead Article]

- Winner of the 2011 Alfred R. Lindesmith Award, Law and Society Division Student Paper Competition, Society for the Study of Social Problems

Vargas, Robert. 2011. "Being in "Bad" Company: Power Dependency and Status in Adolescent Susceptibility to Peer Influence." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 74(3): 310-332.

- Winner of the 2009 Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Second Year Paper Northwestern University Department of Sociology

Policy Reports

Vargas, Robert, Caitlin Loftus, Angela Zorro-Medina, and Kiran Misra. 2022. "Chicago Police Recover Less than 20% of Carjacked Vehicles." UChicago Justice Project Report.

Featured in:

- Fox News
- NBC News
- Univision
- Telemundo
- WBEZ

RESEARCH GRANTS

"The Evolution of Urban Homicide Dynamics: 1870-2003" CAREER Grant \$400,377 National Science Foundation (Award #1653099)	2017-2022
"Violence, Space, and Educational Opportunity in a Chicago Barrio" Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant \$10,000 National Science Foundation (Award #1446148)	2010
"Violence, Space, and Educational Opportunity in a Chicago Barrio" Graduate Research Grant \$3000 Dissertation Research Grant Northwestern University	2010
"Violence, Space, and Educational Opportunity in a Chicago Barrio" Institute of Educational Sciences \$3000 Dissertation Research Grant Northwestern University	2010
Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate \$1500 Tuition for attending the University of Michigan Survey Research Center Course On Combining Quantitative and Qualitative Methods	2009

Spencer Research Grant \$39,565 Co-PI (with PI: Lincoln Quillian) Spencer Foundation	2009
Frisen Grant \$1000 Northwestern University, Department of Sociology	2008
MacArthur Foundation Summer Research Grant \$1000 Northwestern University, Department of Sociology	2008

EDITORIALS AND ESSAYS

2021. "Redistricting's Threat to Progressive City Politics." *Jacobin Magazine*.
2021. Book Review in the *American Journal of Sociology*. "South Central is Home: Race and the Power of Community Investment in Los Angeles."
2021. "Applying Social Science to the Carjacking Spike." *Chicago Sun-Times*. Jan 27th
2020. "It's Time to Think Critically About the UChicago Crime Lab." *Chicago Maroon*. June 11th
2020. "Flatten Whose Curve? COVID-19 Response Overlooks Built-In Racial Inequities" (with Aresha Martinez-Cardoso) *The Chicago Reporter*. April 30, 2020
2016. "It's on Us to Stop the Mini Civil Wars Being Waged On Our Streets." (With Rashawn Ray) *Public Radio International*. July 12, 2016.
2016. Book Review in *Sociological Forum*. "The Insane Chicago Way: The Daring Plan by Chicago Gangs to Create a Spanish Mafia." By John Hagedorn
2016. "Engaging Uninsured Cynics of the ACA." *Illinois Health Matters Blog*. January 13th, 2016.
2015. "How to End Chicago's Cycle of Violence" *CNN Opinions*. November 6th, 2015.
2014. Book Review in *City and Community*. "Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress Toward Racial Inequality." By Patrick Sharkey.

HONORS AND AWARDS

David Hoeft Award for Newly Tenured Faculty	2020
New Scholar Award, Division on People of Color, American Society of Criminology	2016
Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Summer Research Fellow - Rutgers University	2016
Honorable Mention - Art Stinchcombe Dissertation Prize in Organization Studies	2012
University of Chicago Provost Post-Doc (Turned Down)	2012
National Science Foundation Minority Post-Doctoral Fellowship (Turned Down)	2012
Karpf Prize, Northwestern University Department of Sociology	2011
Institute for Educational Sciences (IES) Pre-Doctoral Fellow	2008-2011
Ronald E. McNair Scholar	2005-2007

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“How Police Stifle Public Safety Innovation Through Regulatory Capture”

- Obama Foundation Scholars Program (2022)
- Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, Trauma Working Group (2022)
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Presidential Panel (2022)
- The Annual Neubauer Lecture, UChicago (2022)

“The Racial and Economic Foundations of Municipal Redistricting”

- Northwestern University, Law and Society Workshop (2020)

“What Redistricting tell us about Urbanization and Vice Versa”

- Northwestern University, Comparative Historical Sociology Workshop (2022)
- University of Chicago Law School (2021)
- University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg Public Policy Center (2021)
- University of California-Los Angeles, Urban Planning (2020)
- New York University, Department of Sociology (2019)
- Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government (2019)
- Hamburg University, Institute for Criminological Research (2019)
- University of Chicago, Politics, History, and Society Workshop (2019)
- Duke University, Department of Sociology (2019)
- Tufts University, Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group (2019)
- Yale University, Department of Sociology (2019)
- University of Illinois-Chicago, Center for Race and Public Policy (2019)
- University of Chicago, Spatial Study Group (2019)

“Digital Vulnerability: Risks of E-Contact with the Criminal Justice System.”

- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2018)
- Russell Sage Foundation, New York NY (2017)

“Uninsured in Chicago: How the Social Safety Net Leaves Latinos Behind.”

- University of Illinois-Chicago, Department of Sociology (2022)
- University of California-Santa Barbara, Ethnography Workshop (2021)
- University of Arizona, BiNational Migration Institute (2021)
- University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration (2019)
- University of Michigan, National Poverty Center (2018)
- University of Chicago, Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies Workshop (2018)
- Northwestern University, Department of Sociology (2018)
- Neubauer Family Assistant Professor Seminar, University of Chicago (2018)
- CommunityHealth Chicago, Chicago, IL (2016)
- Schweitzer Fellows Conference, Chicago, IL (2016)
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2015)
- University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology (2015)
- Annual Meeting of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2014)
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Sociology Dept, Race and Ethnicity Workshop (2014)

- University of Michigan, CIRLI Workshop (2014)
- Harvard University, RWJ Scholars in Health Policy Seminar Series (2014)
- International Conference on Urban Health, University of Manchester, UK (2014)

“Race and State in the Growth of City Police Spending 1980-2010.”

- Boston College, Department of Sociology (2014)
- Harvard University, Quantitative Methods Workshop (2014)
- Harvard University, Immigration Workshop (2014)

“Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio.”

- Spencer Foundation, Chicago IL (2018)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science, Austin TX (2018)
- Chicago Community Trust, Nuestro Futuro (2017)
- University of Chicago, Department of Sociology (2017)
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal (2017)
- University of Notre Dame, Latino Studies Seminar (2017)
- Northern Illinois University, Department of Sociology (2017)
- American Bar Foundation, Fellows Research Advisory Committee (2016)
- University of California-Berkeley, Department of Sociology (2016)
- Chicago Latino Writers Initiative, Annual Meeting (2016)
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Sociology (2016)
- University of Illinois-Chicago, Department of Sociology (2016)
- American Bar Foundation, Research Seminar Series (2016)
- Rutgers University, Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Conference (2016)
- University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium (2016)
- DePaul University, Department of Public Policy (2016)
- Purdue University, Department of Sociology (2016)
- University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Critical Criminology Conference (2016)
- Association of American Geographers, Annual Meeting, (2016)
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Social Psychology and Microsociology Workshop (2015)
- University of Texas-Austin, Department of Sociology (2015)
- University of Notre Dame, Department of Sociology (2015)
- University of Michigan, Department of Sociology (2014)
- University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration (2014)
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Politics Culture and Society Workshop (2013)
- Harvard University, Urban Social Processes Workshop (2012)
- Northwestern University, Urban/Community Workshop (2012)
- Northwestern University Ethnography Workshop (2012)

“Organized Community Participation and the Dynamics of Gendered Neighborhood Violence”

- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York (2013)

“Subversion and Fear of Gang Crime.”

- Brown University Department of Sociology (2011)
- University of Chicago Department of Sociology (2011)

- University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Sociology (2011)
- Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems Las Vegas (2011)
- Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, San Francisco (2011)
- The Northwestern University Organizations Working Group (2011)
- Multi-Disciplinary Program in Educational Sciences Workshop (2011)
- The Chicago Ethnography Conference, South Bend, IN (2011)
- Northwestern University Culture Workshop (2011)
- Northwestern University, SION (2011)

“Criminal Group Embeddedness and the Consequences of Arresting a Gang’s Leader.”

- Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, (2013)
- Northwestern University Applied Quantitative Methods Workshop (2011)
- Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA (2011)

“Being in “Bad” Company: Power Dependency and Status in Adolescent Susceptibility to Peer Influence.”

- Institute for Policy Research and Sciences Po Joint-Conference, Paris, France (2010)
- Annual Meeting of the Mid-West Sociological Society, Chicago, IL (2010)
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2009)
- Northwestern University, Ethnography Workshop (2008)

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Invited Panelist, Civic Engagement in Chicago, The Chicago Community Trust, August 2022

Invited Panelist, Abolition and Criminology, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 2021.

Invited Panelist, The Science of Violence Prevention, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 2021.

Invited Panelist, Lawyering and Race in the 21st Century, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Northwestern University Law School, September 2021.

Invited Panelist, The Science of Violence Prevention in Chicago, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2021.

Invited Panelist, Reducing Racial Inequalities in the Criminal Justice System, National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Jan 2021

Invited Panelist, Reimagining/Rethinking Policing Conference, University of Chicago, July 2020

Invited Keynote, Chicago Ethnography Conference, DePaul University, April 2020

Invited Panelist, Panel on the Sociology of Surveillance, Eastern Sociological Society, March 2019

Invited Discussant, Eighth Annual Chicago Gender/Sexualities Conference, April 2018

Invited Panelist, Professional Development Panel, American Society of Criminology, November 2017

Invited Panelist, Interrogating Ethnography Conference, Northwestern University, October 2017

Invited Keynote Speaker, "TRIO Alumni Celebration," DePaul University October 2017

Invited Speaker, "First Generation Student Celebration," Annual Conference of the Council for Education. Washington D.C. September 2017.

Invited Panelist, "Latin@ Criminology: Setting a New Agenda for Research, Policy, and Justice." American Society of Criminology Meeting. November 2016.

Invited Participant, "The Future of Latinos in the United States Conference." The American Bar Foundation. June 2016

Invited Discussant, "Schools as Urban Governance Institutions." Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, March 2016

Invited Panelist on Graduate School Diversity, McNair Academy, DePaul University, August 2015

Invited Panelist, Author Meets Critic for Patrick Sharkey's *Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress Toward Racial Inequality*, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2014

Invited Organizer, Thematic Session on the Alignment of Policing and Social Services in the City, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2014.

Invited Panelist on Summer Research Opportunity Program Preparation, McNair Academy, DePaul University, May 2013.

Invited Keynote Address, DePaul University, McNair Scholars Program Banquet, June 2012

Invited Keynote Address, DePaul University, Public Policy Department Graduation Ceremony, June 2012

Invited Panelist on the Graduate School Application Process, McNair Scholars Program, DePaul University, November 2011.

Invited Panelist on the Northwestern Graduate School Experience, Multicultural Affairs, Northwestern University, May 2011.

Invited Panelist on Professionalism and The Graduate School Application Process. McNair Scholars Program, DePaul University, March 2011.

Invited Panelist on the Graduate School Admissions Process, DePaul University, July 2010.

Invited Speaker, "The Consequences of Neighborhood Violence." Little Village Youth Forum, Chicago, IL, March 2010.

Invited Panelist, Alumni Success, DePaul University, January 2010.

Invited Panelist, Graduate School Admissions Process, Northwestern University, Summer Research Opportunities Program, June 2009.

Invited Panelist, Symposium on Latinos in Graduate School, DePaul University, October 2008.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Session Organizer, Latina/o Criminology, American Society of Criminology	2017
Session Organizer, Political Sociology, American Sociological Association	2018
Session Organizer, Urban Sociology, American Sociological Association	2017-2018
Editorial Board Member, American Sociological Review	2016-2018
Reviewer for ASA Latina/o Studies Student Paper and Best Article Competition	2011
McNair Scholars Program DePaul University – Consultant	2008-Present
Graduate Student Coordinator - Ethnography Workshop, Northwestern University	2009-2012
President of the Sociology Graduate Student Association	2009-2010

Reviewer for: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *City and Community*, *Criminology*, *Ethnography*, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, *Law and Society Review*, *Oxford University Press*, *Princeton University Press*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Coordinator – Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies Workshop	2021-Present
Department Strategic Plan Committee	2019-2020
Search Committee for Director of Center on Race, Politics, and Culture	2019-2020
Colloquium Committee Chair, University of Chicago	2019-2020
Committee on Selection of Department Chair, University of Chicago	2019
Committee on Selection of Department Chair, University of Chicago	2018
Committee on Development of Sociology Department By-Laws	2018
Race and Capitalism Senior Search Committee, University of Chicago	2018-2019
Race and Capitalism Junior Search Committee, University of Chicago	2018-2019
Selection Committee, Mellon and Gray Dissertation Fellowships, University of Chicago	2018
Faculty Coordinator, Urban Workshop, University of Chicago	2017-2018
Chair of Website Committee, University of Chicago Sociology	2017-2020
Faculty Coordinator, Microsociology Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2015-2016
Graduate Student Job Placement Committee, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2014-2016

TEACHING AND ADVISING

University of Chicago

Principles of Sociological Research
 Criminology
 Sociological Methodology
 Policing the City
 Medical Sociology
 Urban Ecology and Political Economy
 Power, Identity and Resistance II

Power, Identity, and Resistance III

PhD Advisees

Ilana Ventura
Chris Williams
Angela Zorro-Medina

MAPS Advisees

Cristina Orozco (2022)
Micah Moody (2022)
Steffi Liem (2019)
Karina Pagan (2019)

Dissertation Committee Member for:

Lara Jansen (UChicago), Stephanie Ternullo (UChicago), Allison Reed (UChicago), Sophie Fajardo (UChicago), David Knight (UChicago), Alex Brewer (UChicago), Kyla Bourne (UChicago), Matt Mochr (UW-Madison), Lara Janson (U-Chicago), David Rangel (UW-Madison)

Undergraduate Theses Supervised at U-Chicago:

Adriana Barnett (Sociology), Brian Fenaughty (Sociology), Solomon Dworkin (Sociology), Tyrone Lomax (Public Policy), AK Alilonu (Public Policy), Jessica Robinson (Political Science), Lissette Flores-Gonzalez (Sociology), Alyssa Bell-Padget (Public Policy), Michelle Gan (Public Policy), Rachel Kim (Sociology), Ileana Lopez-Martinez (Sociology), Frank Sierra (Sociology); Anil Sindhvani (Public Policy); Delia Sosa (Sociology), Lucas Penido (Sociology), Rachel Kim (Sociology)

REFERENCES

(Available Upon Request)