

SAMANTHA CERVANTES

Center for Policy Research, 426 Eggers Hall
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Public Administration** 2022 –
Syracuse University, Maxwell School
Fields: Urban Economics and Economics of Education
Advisors: Michah W. Rothbart and Amy E. Schwartz
- M.S., Applied Economics with Honors** 2022
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico
- B.A., Business Administration, minor in Political Science** 2018
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Policy Analysis, Urban Policy, Neighborhood Effects, Economics of Crime, Economics of Education

RESEARCH

Working Papers

Too Bright to Learn: Causal Impacts of Crime-Reduction Lighting on Student Outcomes
Cervantes, S., & Schwartz, A. E. [Job Market Paper]

Hold Harmless for Whom? The Impact of COVID Era Policies for School Funding, Teachers, and Students.

Rothbart, M. W., Cervantes, S., & Schwartz, A. E. (Under review)

How a Good School in the Neighborhood Affects Academic Outcomes
Cordes, S., Han, J., Schwartz, A. E., & Cervantes, S.

Works in Progress

The Long-Term Impact of Neighborhood Violence on Youth Outcomes
Cervantes, S., & Schwartz, A. E.

The Impact of a Crime Deterrence Intervention on Political Behavior
Cervantes, S., & Shi, Y.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Research Associate** 2022 –
Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University
Professors Michah W. Rothbart and Amy E. Schwartz
- Research Assistant** 2019 – 2022
Center for Competitiveness Studies (CEC), Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)
Professor Guillermo Abdel Musik

TEACHING

Syracuse University (Master's courses)

Quantitative Analysis (Graduate Teaching Assistant)	Spring 2024, Spring 2025
Public Budgeting (Graduate Teaching Assistant)	Fall 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2024
Education Policy (Guest Lecturer)	Spring 2025
Quantitative Analysis (Guest Lecturer)	Spring 2025

PRESENTATIONS

2026: American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association; Capital District Applied Microeconomics Workshop; Association for Education Finance and Policy

2025: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2024: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; Association for Education Finance and Policy; Public Finance and Budgeting Northeastern Workshop

2023: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

GRANTS & AWARDS

Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Syracuse University \$4,500	2026
Public Administration and International Affairs Department Research Grant, Syracuse University \$4,000	2025
Financial Inclusion Essay Award National Banking and Securities Commission	2021

OTHER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Certificate in Applied Statistics Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico	2018 – 2019
Investment Consultant Profuturo Pensiones, Mexico City, Mexico	2018 – 2019
B.A., Sociology, Open University System Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico	2016 – 2021

SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University	2026-2027
Educational Researcher, ad hoc reviewer	

SKILLS

Statistical software: Stata, R, QGIS (advanced), Python (intermediate)

Last updated: April 22, 2026