Samantha Cervantes

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Administration 2022 – 2027 (expected)
Maxwell School, Syracuse University

M.S., Applied Economics (with Honors) 2022
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico

B.A., Business Administration 2018
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Associate, Center for Policy Research 2022 – present
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

- Conducted the evaluation of an NYPD randomized controlled trial in New York City public housing, constructing a novel dataset that links geocoded experimental assignment to student records, crime records, and building and development characteristics; co-author of the resulting working paper
- Led or contributed to five additional projects evaluating New York City policies using quasi-experimental designs, geospatial analysis, and linked administrative microdata
- Write academic journal articles and present research findings to academic and policy audiences.
- Assist and lead class sections of graduate-level courses in quantitative methods, economics, and public finance.

Research Assistant, Center for Competitiveness Studies 2019 – 2022
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico

- Co-led the quantitative evaluation of Mexico's telecommunications reform for the federal telecommunications authority, designing the empirical strategy and using synthetic control and matching methods to estimate effects on prices, coverage, and student outcomes. Wrote sections of the final report.
- Built and linked datasets from public, proprietary, and agency sources, including web-scraped data, and conducted econometric analyses for multiple government- and private-sector projects.
- Conducted qualitative interviews, developed survey measures based on interview findings, and analyzed longitudinal survey data for a study of household financial behavior during the pandemic.

Investment Consultant, Profuturo Pensiones SA de CV 2018 – 2019
Mexico City, Mexico

- Analyzed securities and asset allocation in Excel to optimize portfolio performance, and executed trades to implement investment strategies.
- Monitored market conditions, evaluated new financial instruments, and produced monthly portfolio performance reports and presentations.

SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, Python, QGIS, Excel; LLMs for research and analysis workflows.
Causal inference and quantitative methods: Randomized controlled trials; quasi-experimental methods; heterogeneous treatment effects; longitudinal and panel data analysis; geospatial analysis.
Data and data linkage: Large-scale administrative, public, and proprietary microdata; linking student, voter, property, housing, crime, Census/ACS, school, and 311 records across sources.
Communication: Academic manuscripts, government reports, client deliverables, conference and workshop presentations for technical and non-technical audiences, and instructional materials on statistical analysis and professional writing for graduate students.
Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent).

RESEARCH

Impacts of a Public-Safety Randomized Controlled Trial on:

- **Student Outcomes and Crime** [**Job market paper**], with Amy Ellen Schwartz
- Political Behavior and Residential Mobility, with Ying Shi
- House Prices, with Alexander Cardazzi

School Funding Policies During COVID (**R&R at Education Finance and Policy**), with Michah Rothbart and Amy Ellen Schwartz

Research using quasi-random assignment of tenants to units within New York City public housing developments:

- Exposure to Crime, solo-authored
- Proximity to Good Schools (under review), with Sarah Cordes, Jeehee Han, and Amy Ellen Schwartz

Project details on my website.

HONORS

- First Place, Graduate Student Poster Session, Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University (2026)
- Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Syracuse University (2026)
- Ph.D. Department Research Grant, Syracuse University (2025)
- Financial Inclusion Essay Award, National Banking and Securities Commission, Mexico (2021)