

# Samantha Chapa

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Notre Dame  
schapa2@nd.edu | samantha-chapa.com | July 2025

---

## Education

2026 Ph.D., Political Science, University of Houston  
2022 M.A., Political Science, University of Houston  
2016 B.A., History and Literature, Rice University

## Research Interests

Immigration, local politics, race, ethnicity, and politics.

## Academic Employment

2026- *Assistant Professor*  
Department of Political Science, The University of Texas at Arlington.  
  
2025-2026 *Hesburgh Postdoctoral Research Associate*  
Hesburgh Program in Public Service, University of Notre Dame.

## Publications

2025 Bryan, Sarah, **Samantha Chapa** and Alexia Rauen. 2025. "Experiences of Immigrant Women with Law Enforcement." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*.  
  
**Chapa, Samantha**, and Jeronimo Cortina. 2025. "Unraveling the Healthy Immigrant Paradox: The Impact of Inclusion on Immigrant Health Outcomes in the United States." *Social Science Quarterly* 106(3): e70028.  
  
2023 Artabe, Eugenia, **Samantha Chapa**, Leah Sparkman, and Patrick E. Shea. 2023. "External Threats, Capacity, and Repression: How the Threat of War Affects Political Development and Physical Integrity Rights." *British Journal of Political Science* 53(4): 1311-27.  
  
Bagashka, Tanya, **Samantha Chapa**, and Lydia Tiede. 2023. "Influenced by Power or Reasons? The Role of Amicus Curiae Briefs in Constitutional Court Decision-Making." *East European Politics and Societies* 38(1): 5-29.

## Work in Progress

**Chapa, Samantha**. "Cities, Inclusion Policies, and the Ripple Effect on Immigrant Communities." *Manuscript in preparation*.

-Winner of the 2024 MPSA Latino/a Caucus Best Graduate Student Paper Award

**Chapa, Samantha** and Ling Zhu. "Immigrant Inclusion: Reframing Local Policy in Immigration Politics." *Manuscript in preparation*.

**Chapa, Samantha** and Shana Hardin. "Place Matters: Enhancing Voter Turnout among Low Propensity Voters." *Manuscript in preparation*.

Rouse, Stella, **Samantha Chapa**, and Jim Garand. "Complicated Loyalties: Latino Attitudes about Immigration in an Era of Changed Demographics." *Manuscript in preparation*.

## **Fellowships and Grants**

- 2025 Giving to Learn Grant, \$2000, *Rice University Center for Civic Leadership*.  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship, *Colorado University Boulder* (declined).
- 2024 Public Policy Section Travel Grant, \$300, *APSA*.  
Women of Color in Political Science Travel Grant, \$250, *APSA*.  
Prestage-Cook Travel Award, \$300, *SPSA*.  
Committee on the Status of Latinos in the South Graduate Student Travel Award, \$230, *SPSA*.
- 2023 Cullen Foundation Travel Grant, \$700, *University of Houston*.  
Diversity Scholarship, \$500, *ICPSR*.  
Fund for Latino Scholarship, \$500, *APSA*.  
Diversity Fellowship Program Grant, \$400, *APSA*.  
Public Scholar Fellowship, \$2000, *APSA*.
- 2022 First Generation Scholar Travel and Accessibility Grant, \$200, *APSA*.  
Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship, \$600, *APPAM*.  
Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative Summer Institute, *UC Berkeley*.  
Institute for Civically Engaged Research, *APSA*.  
Teaching Practicum, \$2500, *University of Houston, Rice University, and Houston Community College*.
- 2021-2024 Graduate Research Fellowship, \$138,000, *National Science Foundation*.
- 2020-2021 APSA Diversity Fellowship, \$2,000, *APSA*.  
Graduate Tuition Fellowship, \$7,500, *University of Houston*.
- 2019-2020 Graduate Tuition Fellowship, \$7,500, *University of Houston*.
- 2015 Loewenstern Fellowship in International Service, \$7,000, *Rice University*.

## **Conference and Paper Presentations**

- 2025 Sanctuary Symposium. San Diego State University.
- 2022-2025 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

2023-2025	Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting.
2022-2025	Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting.
2024	Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium at The University of Texas at Austin.
2024	Conference on Mobilizing Low Propensity Voters, University of Houston.
2021-2024	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.
2021-2024	University of Houston Brownbag Series.
2023	Symposium on the Politics of Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity.
2023	Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium at Arizona State University.
2021	IMISCOE Online workshop on Ethics and Privacy of Big Data Use for Migration Research.
2021	University of Houston Graduate Student Poster Session.

### **Teaching**

#### **Instructor of Record**

2024	Civically Engaged Research. Fall. In-Person. <i>University of Houston</i> .
2023	American Politics. Summer. In-Person. <i>Houston Community College</i> .
	American Politics. Summer. Online Asynchronous. <i>Houston Community College</i> .

#### **Teaching Assistant**

2020	Human Rights. <i>University of Houston</i> .
2019	Human Rights. <i>University of Houston</i> .

#### **Selected Guest Lectures and Invited Talks**

2024	Mobilizing Voters Through Nonprofits. Invited Speaker. <i>Center for Latino/as &amp; American Politics, Arizona State University</i> .
	Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methods. Invited Speaker. <i>ICPSR</i> .
	Civically Engaged Research. Invited Speaker. <i>University of Houston Population Health</i> .
2023	Moral Leadership in Nontraditional Spaces. Invited Speaker. <i>North Carolina State University</i> .
	Arguments, Data, and Politics. Guest Speaker. <i>University of Houston</i> .
2021	Leadership in Professional Research. Panelist. <i>North Carolina State University</i> .
	Human Rights. Guest Lecturer. <i>University of Houston</i> .

Comparative Politics. Guest Lecturer. *University of Houston*.

2020 Human Rights. Guest Lecturer. *University of Houston*.

Leadership in Professional Research. Guest Lecturer. *North Carolina State University*.

### **Academic Service**

2024 Discussant, “Contemporary Issues in Race and Ethnic Politics.” MPSA Annual Conference.

2023 Chair, “Policing, Citizen Oversight, and the Media.” SPSA Annual Conference.

Chair, “Understanding and Amplifying the People’s Voice: Diverse Public Opinion, Vote Choice & Political Participation.” WPSA Annual Conference.

Discussant, “The Impact of Digital Technologies and Information Networks on Migration.” APSA Annual Conference, virtual.

President, Political Science Graduate Student Association, University of Houston.

2022 Discussant and Chair, “Politics of Assimilation and Acculturation.” APSA Annual Meeting.

Discussant, “Latest Trends in Latina, Latino, and Latinx Politics.” APSA Annual Meeting.

Discussant, “Political Appeals, (Mis)Information, and Racial Politics.” APSA Annual Meeting.

Discussant, “The Role of Structural Issues as a Barrier to Racial Equity.” APPAM International Conference.

President-Elect, Political Science Graduate Student Association, University of Houston.

2020-2021 University of Houston, Graduate Student Mentor.

### **Public Writing**

2024 Chapa, Samantha. 2024. “Webinar Highlights from “Teaching the 2024 US Election.” *Political Science Today* 4(4): 9-10.

Chapa, Samantha. “[Defining Capitalist Racialization](#).” *Political Science Now*.

Chapa, Samantha. “[What’s the Matter with the Great Plains](#).” *Political Science Now*.

Chapa, Samantha. “[Stolen Land and Strategic Settlement](#).” *Political Science Now*.

Chapa, Samantha. “[Gender, Not Sex](#).” *Political Science Now*.

Chapa, Samantha. “[Learning and Overturning](#).” *Political Science Now*.

2023 Cortina, Jeronimo and Samantha Chapa. “[Abbott just signed two major border security bills. They’ll backfire. \(Opinion\)](#).” *The Houston Chronicle*.

Chapa, Samantha. “[Americans Want Workplace Democracy](#).” *Political Science Now*.

Chapa, Samantha. "[Deportation by Design](#)." *Political Science Now*.

Chapa, Samantha. "[Diversity and Felony Convictions](#)." *Political Science Now*.

2017 "Welcoming Houston: Task Force Recommendations." Welcoming Houston Project Team, Houston, TX, Jan 2017. 96-page collaborative proposal for immigrant inclusion policies presented to the Mayor of Houston.

### **Professional Experience**

- 2023-Present Research Partner, BakerRipley
- Conduct focus groups for GOTV efforts across four community centers
  - Create novel Get Out the Vote experiment with 40,000 mailers across Houston
  - Coordinate GOTV efforts with community stakeholders, such as League of Women Voters
  - Advise the civic engagement team on recent scholarly findings regarding GOTV
- 2021-Present Research Partner, *Advocates for Immigrant Survivors (AIS)*
- Establish research procedures for surveys conducted on immigrant survivors of violence
  - Create and update survey to be fielded in partnership with AIS
  - Design training materials for all AIS employees, interns, and volunteers
  - Train volunteers to properly conduct in-person surveys
- 2018-2019 Deportation Defense Houston Legal Assistant, *BakerRipley*
- Collaborated with four nonprofits to create a deportation defense program for Houston
  - Established court watch programs in two immigration courts to ensure due process for migrants
  - Legally represented detained immigrants in immigration court proceedings
  - Advised stakeholders about changing immigration policies for fundraising purposes
- 2016-2018 Immigration Services Specialist, *BakerRipley*
- Legally represented over five hundred individuals seeking immigration benefits
  - Conducted and facilitated "Know Your Rights" workshops for immigrants and allies
  - Recruited, trained, and managed interns on various projects throughout the year
  - Provided training on forms of immigration relief to attorneys and law students