

# Elena Tapia

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Maryland, College Park** (exp.) May 2027  
Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology & Criminal Justice

**University of Maryland, College Park** (exp.) May 2024  
Master of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice

**University of North Carolina at Wilmington** May 2022  
Bachelor of Arts in Criminology with a Minor in Harp  
*Summa Cum Laude*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Incarceration, Racial Inequality, Policy, Women's Studies, Latino Studies, Data Science

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Research Assistant, University of Maryland** 2022-Present  
Dr. Rod Brunson, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Conducted in-depth research with a primary focus on hotspots policing. Specifically involved analyzing racialized data and examining crime and place theories through a nuanced and racially informed lens.
- Assisted in various tasks and projects along with co-authoring a forthcoming paper.

**BSOS Research Resilience Hub Showcase** 2022-2023  
Examining Risky Firearm Behaviors Among High-risk Gun Carriers in New York City  
Dr. Rod Brunson, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Created and designed poster exhibiting the research on unsafe gun handling habits among male youth in New York City.
- Presented at the BSOS Research Resilience Hub Showcase.

**First Year Research Experience Program (FYRE)** 2019-2020  
Anthropology Department, Dr. Eleanora A. Reber  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

- Faculty-mentored undergraduate research.
- Assisted Dr. Reber in her pottery residue lab learning proper lab technique and research methodology.
- Presented at Spring Showcase of Research and Creative Scholarship.

- Northside Co-Op Project** 2019-2020  
Sociology Department, Dr. Jill Waity  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
- Assisted the Northside Co-Op Project by researching the best methods to ensure a successful Co-Op.
  - Research was presented at a panel to the leaders of the Northside Co-Op project.
  - Helped to implement a Co-Op grocery store in a food desert in the local Wilmington area.

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- ASC Division of Feminist Criminology Graduate Poster Competition** November 2023
- First Place Winner of Competition.
  - Poster Title - "Doing Gender, Doing Time and Doing Better: Women's Participation in Prison Education".
- President's Fellowship** 2022-2027  
University of Maryland, College Park
- Awarded to outstanding doctoral students from differing backgrounds or with unique personal and scholarly experience.
  - A multi-year enhancement award which totals up to \$50,000 per student.
- Dean's Graduate Fellowship** 2022-2027  
University of Maryland, College Park
- SOAR Scholarship** 2019-2022  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- Merit scholarship that provides full financial support for Bachelor's studies and all associated expenses.
- Harnett County Association of Educational Office Professionals** 2018-2019
- "Senior Grant", \$5,000

## PUBLICATIONS

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Brunson, Rod, Vélez, María B., & **Tapia, Elena** (*forthcoming*) A Race-Centered Critique of Place-Based Research and Policing. *Aggression and Violent Behavior* [Special Issue]

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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**Tapia E.** "Doing Gender, Doing Time and Doing Better: Women's Participation in Prison Education" Poster Presented at the European Society of Criminology, 23rd Annual Conference, Italy, In Person Presentation (Session: "Poster Session"). September 2023.

**Tapia, E.** "Doing Gender, Doing Time and Doing Better: Women's Participation in Prison Education" Poster Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, In Person Presentation (Session: "Poster Session II"). November 2023

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Project Manager, Racial Democracy Crime and Justice Network** 2022-Present

Arnold Ventures Foundation

Reducing Inequality in Criminal Justice through Improved Public Safety Policies

College Park, Maryland

- Created Request for Proposal (RFP) for the project.
- Coordinate grant submissions, assist in applications and communicate with applicants.
- Design and create website for RDCJN.
- Organize meetings and keep team on course with project deadlines.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland** 2022-2023

Police-Community Relations, Seminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice

College Park, Maryland

- Assessed student progress on assignments and overall performance in the course.
- Held regularly scheduled office hours to aid and mentor students.
- Maintained record of student grades and attendance.

**Visitor Services Agent, Cameron Art Museum** 2021-2022

Wilmington, North Carolina

- Organized and managed visitor services desk by facilitating entry.
- Assisted customers with navigation, ticket and membership sales, and information about exhibitions.
- Administered tours for schools, visitors, and special events.

## CERTIFICATIONS

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**Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative** April 2021

- CITI Certification
- Human and Social/Behavior Research Course

**Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative** April 2021

- CITI Certification
- Responsible Conduct of Research, Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research

## SERVICE

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### **Mi Casa Mentoring Program** 2019-2022

Centro Hispano

University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

- Mentored high school students referred from Big Brothers/Big Sisters on the requirements to be successful future college students.
- Worked together with my mentee and others in the group on several community service projects such as cleanup and rebuilding of the Wilmington area after hurricane Florence.

### **Soar Ambassador** 2019-2022

Soar Program Executive Board

University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

- Member of the board identified to help lead the Soar service initiatives locally.
- Served as the secretary of the Soar program and facilitated and organized meetings.
- Assisted in the organization of several community service projects.

### **Plastic Ocean Project** 2019-2022

POP Member

University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

- Committed to the community service project of beach cleanup in the Wilmington area.
- Helped to recruit other members to the project.

## SKILLS

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### **Data Analysis**

- Stata (*Proficient*)
- R (*Proficient*)
- SPSS (*Proficient*)
- Microsoft Office Excel (*Proficient*)
- Python (*Beginning Proficiency*)

### **Language**

- Fluent in Spanish

## AFFILIATIONS

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Latina/o/x Criminology 2023-Present

ASC Division of Feminist Criminology 2023-Present

Racial Democracy Crime and Justice Network 2022-Present

## REFERENCES

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**Dr. Rod Brunson**, Department Chair, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, (269) 337-0037, [rbrunson@umd.edu](mailto:rbrunson@umd.edu)

**Dr. Robert Stuart**, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, (952) 451-4828, [robstew@umd.edu](mailto:robstew@umd.edu)

**Felix Brooks**, Director of Criminal Justice, Sociology Department, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC, (330) 687-4238, [brooks@uncw.edu](mailto:brooks@uncw.edu)

**Heather Wilson**, Executive Director, Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC, (910)-395-5999, [hwilson@cameronartmuseum.org](mailto:hwilson@cameronartmuseum.org)

**Christina Brier**, Professor of Music, Music Department, College of Arts and Sciences, Wilmington, NC, (810) 358-4259, [brierc@uncw.edu](mailto:brierc@uncw.edu)