

# Elena Tapia

(919) 452-8509 | etapia9318@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

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**University of Maryland, College Park** (exp.) May 2025  
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

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**STAE Tutor, Hoggard High School** 2024-Present  
New Hanover County Schools  
Wilmington, North Carolina

- Provided academic support to high school students enrolled in rigorous honors and AP courses, helping them improve comprehension and study skills.
- Guided students through the college admissions process, including researching schools, completing applications, and writing personal statements.
- Mentored students on life skills, offering social-emotional support and advice on managing school, relationships, and future planning.

**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.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Research Assistant, University of Maryland**

2022-2023

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

- Merit scholarship that provides \$5,000 annually for exceptional graduate students.

### **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** (2024) 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.

## 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*)
- Python (*Intermediate*)
- Microsoft Office Excel (*Proficient*)
- LaTeX (*Intermediate*)

**Language**

- Spanish (*fluency in reading, writing, and speaking*)

**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, [brooksfb@uncw.edu](mailto:brooksfb@uncw.edu)

**Jean Lozada**, Case Manager, Costal Horizons Clínica Latina, Wilmington, NC, (910) 398-3526,  
[jlozada@coastalhorizons.org](mailto:jlozada@coastalhorizons.org)

**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)