



# The Promise of our Students

Training the  
Next Generation  
of Urban Scholars:  
**The Kreisman  
Graduate Fellows  
Program**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

**“The Kreisman Graduate Fellows reflect the University’s investment in the brightest and most promising urban scholars who will be at the forefront of designing and leading future change in cities. Together, they are seizing an opportunity to think about housing solutions in an integrated way, and ultimately amplify their collective efforts to make a more powerful impact.”**

**Luís Bettencourt**

Pritzker Director, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation  
Professor, Ecology and Evolution and the College  
Associate Faculty, Department of Sociology



# Welcome.

**The Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation** is committed to training the next generation of urban scholars and practitioners. The Kreisman Graduate Fellows Program focuses on one of the most important elements of life in cities: housing. In a rapidly urbanizing world, housing and its many interconnected issues are a fundamental nexus for sustainable human development and healthy communities.

**The Kreisman Graduate Fellows** engage in a unique experience, exploring diverse strategies and interacting with key stakeholders from across the housing field – from policy to advocacy, research to real estate. The Fellows hail from across the University of Chicago’s professional schools and research programs. By creating an interdisciplinary student cohort and a multi-faceted series of activities, we believe Kreisman Fellows will be ideally positioned to address interrelated systemic challenges around housing law and policy.

The Kreisman Initiative is creating a network of University of Chicago-trained experts who will lead scientific advancement in urban-focused academia and industry, locally and around the world. Kreisman Graduate Fellows meet with housing policy leaders and thinkers in Chicago and beyond. In parallel, they are building professional skills and new analytical methods that will serve them in their careers, and expand the state of the art in the field. This blend of multidisciplinary subject matter expertise and professionalization provides Fellows with insights into the complexities of housing issues, as well as the tools they need to become transformative changemakers.

**The Mansueto Institute and University of Chicago Law School** are grateful to our program partners for making this new kind of fellowship experience possible. We are excited for what the Kreisman Graduate Fellows will accomplish ahead.

**Luis Bettencourt**

Pritzker Director, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation  
Professor, Ecology and Evolution and the College  
Associate Faculty, Department of Sociology



## MEET OUR FELLOWS

# Coming together to understand the complexities of housing research and practice, and how the intersection of housing perspectives can inform new, innovative solutions

## Our students serve society and have the knowledge and skills to drive transformative change.

The Kreisman Initiative on Housing Law and Policy brings together students, faculty, and professionals from multiple disciplines to develop new integrative knowledge, data, and policy about housing.

The Kreisman Graduate Fellows Program is a cohort of University of Chicago graduate students from across fields of study who are committed to pursuing careers in housing research or practice. The initiative is a partnership of the University of Chicago Law School, UChicago GRAD, the Office of Civic Engagement, and the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, which

brings programs and scholars together to study the fundamental processes that drive, shape, and sustain cities.

The Graduate Fellows Program runs for one academic year and supports graduate and PhD students in law, policy, social services, social sciences, and business. During the program, Kreisman Fellows take part in a range of professional development activities, including intimate lunch-and-learn meetings, site visits, a two-day trek to a major metropolitan area to meet with housing experts, and a subsidized internship or research project in the field.

### The goals of the Graduate Fellows Program are to:

- Expose fellows to a wide array of perspectives within the field of housing, from policy to advocacy, real estate to research.
- Foster interdisciplinary discussions around key issues and opportunities facing the broad field of housing.
- Support Fellows' exploration of where they may have the greatest impact through their own work, and facilitate a hands-on experience in the field.
- Help Fellows build professional skills and contacts to bolster their future career in housing research or practice.
- Build an enduring network of housing scholars and practitioners, driving innovative change at the University of Chicago and beyond.

This program is made possible by the generous support of David Kreisman, AB '60, JD '63, and his wife, Susan.

LEFT The 2019 Kreisman Graduate Fellows (l to r) Jerel Ezell, Inés Escobar González, Meghan Jarpe, Ross Tilchin, Cosette Hampton, Jesús Israel Ramírez Franco (*not pictured: Chris Palencia*).

# The 2019 Kreisman Graduate Fellows



Using quantitative and qualitative analysis to engage underserved and hard-to-reach populations that are in need of housing

## Jerel Ezell

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**HOMETOWN** Flint, Michigan

**EDUCATION** B.A., Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; M.P.H., Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University, New York, NY; M.A., Sociology, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

**Jerel Ezell** is a mixed methods researcher, currently enrolled in the sociology doctoral program at the University of Chicago. He is a graduate of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health (M.P.H., 2010), where he had his first experience in the housing sector working at New Destiny Housing Corporation, a nonprofit which develops supportive, sustainable housing for low-income survivors of domestic violence. Jerel applies lessons from this and related experiences through quantitative and qualitative data analysis addressing complex housing and infrastructure policies. Jerel is particularly passionate about using research to engage underserved and hard-to-reach populations that are in need of housing (e.g., individuals with serious mental illness and homeless or insecurely housed individuals). More broadly, Jerel is deeply interested in interdisciplinary, prevention-based work - he provides mentoring to underserved youth, including through the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club. He has published 13 peer-reviewed articles (first author on eight) and has independently conducted over 100 qualitative interviews. His current work involves evaluating urban planning efforts and health policy in Flint during the city's ongoing water crisis. ■



**Designing social policies and programs that create strategic investment in communities**

## Jesús Israel Ramírez Franco

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**Jesús Ramírez Franco** is a Computational Analysis and Public Policy graduate student with strong interest in urban development, specifically in housing policy. He has an M.A. in business administration from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) where he specialized in finance and planning; and a B.S. in economics from the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), where he focused on poverty measurement and, as a result, was awarded the 2007 National Prize of Economic Students. Before attending the University of Chicago, Jesús worked in the public sector for eight years, first in the Government of the State of Morelos as Director for Investment Attraction in the Economic Development Secretariat and then as Governor Advisor for Programs Evaluation. In those positions, he participated in the design of myriad social policies and programs; designed the strategy for investment attraction; managed programs of subsidies and obtained federal funds for infrastructure. Jesús also worked for the National Housing Commission in Mexico City as Project Leader. Most recently, in 2018 he participated in the Cook County Summer Fellowship, where he worked in the Economic Development Department, conducting data cleaning and analysis in collaboration with the Chicago Regional Growth Corporation to identify priority markets. ■



**Exploring the precise ways in which mortgage finance impacts the livelihoods of low-income populations within the transition from informal to finance-driven homeownership**

## Inés Escobar González

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**Inés Escobar González** is a Ph.D. Candidate in the University of Chicago's Anthropology Department whose research aims to understand the precise ways in which mortgage finance is impacting the lives, livelihoods, and social reproduction practices of low-income Mexicans, all within the transition from informality to finance-driven "formal" homeownership. Her work is chiefly ethnographic and collaborative, striving to be in interdisciplinary conversation across the qualitative/quantitative divide. At the University of Chicago, she has relished teaching, holding an Ignacio Martín-Baró Prize Lectureship at the Center of Latin American Studies and the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights ("Development and the Right to Housing in Latin America: A Critical Appraisal"), the Ethnographic Methods Starr Lectureship granted by the Anthropology Department, and a Lectureship in the Power, Identity, and Resistance sequence within the College's Social Science Core. Before coming to Chicago, Inés received her B.A. from Trinity College at the University of Cambridge (2010) and an Anthropology Master's in Research from University College London (2011). Beyond the academy, Inés has consulted for the Inter-American Conference on Social Security and co-authored the Mexican Background Paper for the 2013 World Development Report. Selected honors include the National Science Foundation's Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, the Cambridge Overseas Trust Scholarship, a Distinction in Anthropology from University College London, and the Mexican Council for Science and Technology Fellowship. ■



**Focusing on poverty alleviation policy and advocacy related to housing access and affordability, workforce development, and decarceration**

## Cosette Hampton

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**Cosette Hampton** is a Master of Public Policy candidate, pursuing certificates in data analytics, computational social science and survey research. She focuses on poverty alleviation policy and advocacy, specifically related to housing access and affordability, homelessness, workforce development, community development, and decarceration. Her research and internship experiences have provided her experience in family and poverty policy analysis and data manipulation using a variety of visualization, quantitative and qualitative tools. Cosette worked throughout her undergraduate career at the University of Chicago Poverty Lab on technical assistance projects related to homelessness and youth poverty. She recently worked as a Summer Fellow at Georgetown Law Center on Poverty & Inequality's Economic Security & Opportunity Initiative, updating a massive dataset on deep poverty in the U.S. and drafting multiple chapters of a report/proposal for a federally subsidized youth employment program. Cosette has extensive experience with community engagement through her work with Demoiselle 2 Femme (Young Ladies 2 Women), a Chicago-based nonprofit organization, and grassroots organizing and advocacy against police violence, mass incarceration, violence against Black women and community disinvestment as the Organizing Chair of the Black Youth Project 100 Chicago chapter. She is a Native Chicagoan from the far South side, and has done human rights work in South Africa on land redistribution and in Beijing on women's issues in the workplace. At the Harris School, she is the Fellows Manager for the Community Action Bureau (CAB). ■



**Understanding the position of human services organizations at the intersection of policy and practice**

## Meghan Jarpe

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**Meghan Jarpe** is a doctoral candidate in the School of Social Service Administration (SSA) who focuses on human services organizations, and their position at the intersection of policy and practice. Prior to pursuing doctoral study, she received her M.S.W. from the University of Pittsburgh in Human Services Management, has managed peer-to-peer outreach programs, and has worked extensively with adolescents in a variety of capacities and localities. One common thread that spans this youth work has been housing instability and youth homelessness. In her doctoral study, she has worked to address this social problem by developing a research agenda focused on youth-serving organizations, human services workers, and their interactions with clients at the front lines of service delivery. Her dissertation examines the impacts of funder-driven demands on the population of organizations that provide services to homeless youth. During her time in the doctoral program, she has also worked on research projects investigating the advocacy role of Homeless Continuums of Care (CoCs) and interventions to improve workers' schedules in retail firms. ■



**Working on housing and infrastructure investments in the U.S. and emerging real estate markets**

## Chris Palencia

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- HOMETOWN** Los Angeles, CA
- EDUCATION** B.A., Architecture, Graduated with Distinction, Yale University, New Haven, CT

**Chris Palencia** is an M.B.A. student at Chicago Booth focused on real estate and infrastructure. Chris started his career at Morgan Stanley on the New York-based Latin America M&A team before moving to São Paulo to help build out the firm’s Brazil fixed income and project finance practice. On returning to the U.S., Chris joined Sunrun to help lead new market growth, culminating with Sunrun becoming the nation’s largest residential solar developer. At Booth, Chris has worked on housing investments in the U.S. and in emerging markets at CIM Group and Equity International. An architect by undergraduate training, Chris was a Mellon Mays Fellow while at Yale University, pursuing research on housing relief for natural disasters in Central America and urban transportation systems in Brazil. Chris is originally from Los Angeles, and is focused on issues relating to California’s ongoing housing crisis, including densification via Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and technology strategies that lower the cost of housing production. ■



**Looking at the linkages between affordable housing, urban planning, economic development, and social mobility**

## Ross Tilchin

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- HOMETOWN** Washington, D.C.
- EDUCATION** B.A., Government, Law & History, Graduated with Honors, Lafayette College, Easton, PA

**Ross Tilchin** is a Master of Public Policy student at the Harris School of Public Policy. He is interested in the intersection of affordable housing, urban planning, economic development, and social mobility. Before arriving at the University of Chicago, Ross was a Senior Policy and Research Assistant in the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution, where he focused on a wide range of urban policy topics, including transportation, housing, education, workforce development, and intergovernmental issues. He has also worked on urban policy topics internationally, serving as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Amsterdam’s Department of Geography and Urban Planning and as a Summer Associate at the Amsterdam Economic Board. At Harris, Ross is the co-founder and President of the Urban Policy Student Association and was recognized as the Harris School’s 2017-2018 Community Leader of the Year. Ross received his B.A. in Government and History from Lafayette College, which he attended on a scholarship from the Posse Foundation. ■

## MEET OUR LEADERSHIP | THE MANSUETO INSTITUTE FOR URBAN INNOVATION



### **Anne Dodge**

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**Anne Dodge** is the Executive Director of the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation. Prior to joining the Institute, Anne led UChicago Urban, where she worked to make the University's urban research more transparent and accessible, while serving as a guide to the University's wide array of civic programs and nonprofit partnerships. Anne has also worked as an instructor at the Harris School of Public Policy's Cultural Policy Center, where she taught a graduate practicum about creative placemaking. She has worked extensively at the intersection of arts and economic development, including as the interim Executive Director of the Neighborhood Writing Alliance and the Oral History Project Director for the National Public Housing Museum. She holds a Master's in City Planning from MIT, where her master's thesis won the 2006 Ralph Adams Cram Award for the best thesis in the School of Architecture and Planning, and BA from Harvard with a joint concentration in Visual and Environmental Studies and History.



### **Diana Petty**

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**Diana Petty** is a project- and program-manager by trade and has spent her career helping mission-driven organizations operate more effectively to increase impact in their communities. She brings nearly a decade of experience working in municipal government and public-sector consulting, particularly on cross-sector, cross-functional partnerships. Prior to joining the Mansueto Institute, Diana worked as a senior consultant at Public Works Partners, helping government and nonprofit clients conceptualize new programs, secure stakeholder buy-in for organizational change, and implement program enhancements. She also spent several years working for the City of New York in communications, strategic planning, and relationship management positions at both the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and NYC Dept of Information Technology. Diana received her BA in Political Science and Media Studies from Macalester College. She is a graduate of the New York Urban Fellows Program, NYU Wagner's Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service, and the StartingBloc Fellowship for Change Leaders.

## MEET OUR LEADERSHIP | UCHICAGOGRAD



### Brooke Noonan

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**Brooke Noonan** leads the office that has become a national model for providing graduate students and postdocs with pioneering resources and services to prepare them for success in academia, industry, nonprofit and arts organizations, and government, as well as research/policy institutes across fields of study and influence.

Brooke oversees the UChicagoGRAD office that ensures a world-class graduate experience for our 9,000 graduate students and 600 postdocs who are engaged across the university's 100 graduate programs, representing five graduate divisions and seven professional schools.

Brooke supervises the largest career development and employer relations staff in the country dedicated to graduate education. UChicagoGRAD provides career advisors, writing and public speaking advisors, diversity initiatives, and a wide variety of career exploration resources to enable graduate students and postdocs to excel. For example, the University of Chicago has been a Fulbright Fellowship Top Producing Institution for graduate students for more than thirty consecutive years.



### Kathrin Kranz

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**Kathrin Kranz** is the dedicated career advisor for graduate students and postdocs in the Social Sciences Division. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science and Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, and an LL.M. in Public International Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has expertise in the international arms trade and economic sanctions, and published research on these topics. Originally from Germany, Kathrin has lived in four different countries. Prior to joining UChicagoGRAD, Kathrin worked as a professor at liberal arts colleges, and gained experience in political affairs and not-for-profit organizations. Informed by her international and varied experiences inside and outside of academia, she supports graduate students and postdocs in exploring careers and finding meaningful employment.

# The Path Ahead Building Partnerships and Expanding Opportunities

**The Mansueto Institute  
for Urban Innovation**  
[miurban.uchicago.edu](http://miurban.uchicago.edu)

**The University of Chicago  
Law School**  
[law.uchicago.edu](http://law.uchicago.edu)

**UChicagoGRAD**  
[grad.uchicago.edu](http://grad.uchicago.edu)

**The Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation** studies the fundamental processes that drive, shape, and sustain cities. Our researchers come from the social, natural, and computational sciences, along with the humanities. Together, we pursue innovative, interdisciplinary scholarship, develop new educational programs, and provide leadership and evidence to support global, sustainable urban development.

The Mansueto Institute serves as an intellectual destination at the University of Chicago for urban scholars, students, policy makers, and practitioners to generate the best knowledge and practices around urban development, while training the next generation of urban scholars and practitioners. Our work is organized to create a fundamental science of cities, based on an interdisciplinary approach that makes the most of the data and knowledge that cities embody.

**The University of Chicago Law School** offers a rigorous and interdisciplinary professional education that blends the study of law with the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Learning is participatory. UChicago Law does not seek to impose a single viewpoint or style of thought on its students. Instead, our faculty exposes students to contrasting views, confident in students' abilities to choose their own paths.

UChicago Law aims to train well-rounded, critical, and socially conscious thinkers and doers. A UChicago legal education prepares students for any professional role they might choose – legal practice or legal education, entrepreneurial ventures, international private or public law practice, corporate practice, government service, alternative dispute resolution including arbitration and mediation, or work with non-profit organizations. Graduates do many things in their careers, and they all take with them the analytic skills emphasized during their years at the Law School.

**UChicagoGRAD** is leading the national movement to provide dedicated, effective resources and opportunities to complement our students' academic rigor and excellence in scholarship. The long-standing hallmarks of graduate education at UChicago – impact across fields of knowledge and human endeavor – are now woven together with the mission and work of UChicagoGRAD.

At UChicagoGRAD, we equip our graduate students to thrive in an infinite variety of careers and settings. They are prepared to become the next generation of gifted scholars; knowledgeable government officials; astute leaders in business, nonprofit, and think tank organizations; and dynamic change agents in any profession. We provide groundbreaking initiatives like the GRAD Global Impact Internship Program, GRADTalk training in public speaking, career exploration training and workshops, and employer roundtables and treks.