

ALAN ZARYCHTA

University of Chicago
**Crown Family School of
Social Work, Policy, and Practice**

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[Academic Website](#)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor (with tenure), University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice, July 2024 -

Assistant Professor, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, July 2016 - June 2024

AFFILIATIONS

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Global Health, University of Chicago, 2018-present

Faculty Affiliate, Ostrom Workshop, Indiana University Bloomington, 2017-present

Faculty Affiliate, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder, 2017-present

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago, 2016-present

Fellow, Center for Health Administration Studies, University of Chicago, 2016-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Colorado Boulder, 2016

- Winner of the 2017 Leonard D. White Award for Best Dissertation in the Field of Public Administration, American Political Science Association (APSA)
- Honorable Mention, 2017 Award for Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management, Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM)
- Finalist, 2017 Ronald H. Coase Best Dissertation Award, Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (SIOE)

M.A., Public Policy, University of Colorado Boulder, 2013

- Winner of the 2014 Nathaniel Lichfield Award for Best Thesis in Regional Studies, Regional Studies Association (RSA)

B.S., Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University, 2007

PUBLICATIONS

15. **Zarychta, Alan**, *Michelle E. Benedum, *Emily Sanchez, and Krister Andersson. 2024. "Decentralization and Corruption in Public Service Delivery: Local Institutional Arrangements that Can Help Reduce Governance Risks." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 34(2): 238-54. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/muad022>
14. **Zarychta, Alan**, and *Jade Wong. 2024. "Decentralization and Resource Contributions in Local Governance Networks: Evidence from Health Sector Reform in Honduras." *Policy Studies Journal* 52(1): 113-37. <http://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12509>

* Student co-author

13. Alakoc, Burcu Pinar, **Alan Zarychta**, Gulay Ugur Goksel. 2023. "Public Attitudes about Integration and Citizenship for Refugees: Evidence from Turkey." *Politics & Policy* 51(5): 775-99. <https://doi.org/10.1111/polp.12551>
12. **Zarychta, Alan**, Tara Grillos, and Krister Andersson. 2022. "Accountability and Effort among Street-level Bureaucrats: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-Field Experiment." *International Public Management Journal* 25(6): 916-38. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10967494.2021.1951408>
11. *Molina-Garzón, Adriana, Tara Grillos, **Alan Zarychta**, and Krister Andersson. 2022. "Decentralization Can Help Increase Cooperation among Public Officials." *American Journal of Political Science* 66(3): 554-69. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12606>
10. Alakoc, Burcu Pinar, Gulay Ugur Goksel, and **Alan Zarychta**. 2022. "Political Discourse and Public Attitudes toward Syrian Refugees in Turkey." *Comparative Politics* 54(3): 547-71. <https://doi.org/10.5129/001041522X16263065025324>
9. Grillos, Tara, **Alan Zarychta**, and Krister Andersson. 2021. "Governance Reform, Decentralization, and Teamwork in Public Service Delivery: Evidence from the Honduran Health Sector." *Public Administration* 99(4): 832-58. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padm.12722>
 - Winner of the 2021 Haldane Prize for Best Article in *Public Administration*
8. *Emmelhainz, Roger, **Alan Zarychta**, Tara Grillos, and Krister Andersson. 2021. "Linking Knowledge with Action when Engagement is Out of Reach: Three Contextual Features of Effective Public Health Communication." *Health Policy and Planning* 36(10): 1534-44. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czab105>
7. Grillos, Tara, **Alan Zarychta**, Jami Nelson-Nuñez. 2021. "Water Scarcity and Procedural Justice in Honduras: Community-based Management Meets Market-based Policy." *World Development* 142: 105451. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105451>
6. Root, Elisabeth Dowling, **Alan Zarychta**, *Bertha Bermudez Tapia, Tara Grillos, Krister Andersson, and Jane Menken. 2020. "Organizations Matter in Local Governance: Evidence from Health Sector Decentralization in Honduras." *Health Policy and Planning* 35(9): 1168-79. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czaa084>
5. **Zarychta, Alan**, Tara Grillos, and Krister Andersson. 2020. "Public Sector Governance Reform and the Motivation of Street-Level Bureaucrats in Developing Countries." *Public Administration Review* 80(1): 75-91. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13132>
4. **Zarychta, Alan**. 2020. "Making Social Services Work Better for the Poor: Evidence from a Natural Experiment with Health Sector Decentralization in Honduras." *World Development* 133: 104996. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.104996>
3. **Zarychta, Alan**, Krister Andersson, Elisabeth Root, Jane Menken, and Tara Grillos. 2019. "Assessing the Impacts of Governance Reforms on Health Services Delivery: A Quasi-experimental, Multi-method, and Participatory Approach." *Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology* 19(4): 241-58. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10742-019-00201-8>
2. **Zarychta, Alan**. 2015. "Community Trust and Household Health: A Spatially-Based Approach with Evidence from Rural Honduras." *Social Science & Medicine* 146: 85-94. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.08.046>

* Student co-author.

1. He, Yuan, **Alan Zarychta**, Joseph B. Ranz, Mary Carroll, Lori M. Singleton, Paria M. Wilson, and Elizabeth P. Schlaudecker. 2012. "Childhood Immunization Rates in Rural Intibuca, Honduras: An Analysis of a Local Database Tool and Community Health Center Records for Assessing and Improving Vaccine Coverage." *BMC Public Health* 12(1): 1056. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-12-1056>

CURRENT RESEARCH

Under Review

Zarychta, Alan, Bertha Bermudez Tapia, Elisabeth Dowling Root, *Dominic Freake, Tara Grillos, Krister Andersson, and Jane Menken. "Decentralization and Equitable Service Delivery: Access and Satisfaction under Health Sector Governance Reform." R&R.

Zarychta, Alan, Krister Andersson, and Thomas J. Bossert. "Frontline Decision Autonomy under Decentralization Reform." Under review.

Works in Progress

Zarychta, Alan. "Past Performance, Need, or Politics: Why are Some Municipalities Targeted for Governance Reforms?"

Zarychta, Alan. "Decentralized Service Delivery and Individuals' Political Behavior: Evidence from a Survey Experiment."

Zarychta, Alan. "Electoral Competition and Decentralized Service Delivery: Evidence from the Honduran Health Sector."

Zarychta, Alan. "Institutional Reforms and the Network Structure of Local Governance Systems."

Grillos, Tara, **Alan Zarychta**, Adriana Molina, and Krister Andersson. "The Social and Behavioral Effects of Decentralization on Street-level Bureaucrats: Evidence from the Honduran Health Sector."

GRANTS & AWARDS

External

- Research Funding Award, Spencer Foundation, Small Grants Program, PI, 2023-24 (\$50,000)
- NSF IBSS Research Grant, National Science Foundation, Key Personnel, 2013-17 (\$998,555)
- SSRC Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, PI, 2015-16 (\$18,800)
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation, PI, 2013-16 (\$136,000)
- Clifford C. Clogg Scholarship, ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, 2014 (\$2,300)
- Research Funding Award, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, PI, 2006 (\$2,000)

Internal

- UChicago Global, Latin America Grant Program, University of Chicago, 2024 (\$20,000)
- International Institute of Research in Paris Faculty Grant, University of Chicago, 2024 (\$3,333)
- UChicago Global, Latin America Grant Program, University of Chicago, 2023 (\$20,000)
- CUPC Development Award, University of Colorado Population Center, 2023 (\$7,000)
- Center for Health Administration Studies Seed Grant, University of Chicago, 2022 (\$50,000)
- Kiphart Center Project Implementation Grant, University of Chicago, 2022 (\$50,000)
- International Institute of Research in Paris Faculty Grant, University of Chicago, 2022 (\$10,000)
- Crown Family Faculty Research Grant, University of Chicago, 2021 (\$25,000)

- Center for Global Health Seed Grant, University of Chicago, 2020 (\$10,000)
- UChicago Global, Latin America Grant Program, University of Chicago, 2020 (\$5,000)
- UChicago Global, Latin America Grant Program, University of Chicago, 2019 (\$22,800)
- SSA Junior Faculty Research Award, University of Chicago, 2019 (\$5,000)
- UChicago Global, Latin America Grant Program, University of Chicago, 2018 (\$24,000)
- The Pearson Institute Faculty Research Grant, University of Chicago, 2018 (\$10,000)
- Center for Latin American Studies Mellon Grant, University of Chicago, 2017 (\$18,000)
- Center for Health Administration Studies Seed Grant, University of Chicago, 2017 (\$25,000)
- Latin American Studies Center Tinker Foundation Grant, University of Colorado, 2015 (declined)
- IBS Research Symposium 2nd Place Poster Award, University of Colorado, 2015
- CARTSS Graduate Fellow Grant, University of Colorado, 2015 (\$1,000)
- Graduate Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, 2015 (\$5,000)
- Cynthia H. Schultz Grant Award, Beverly Sears Program, University of Colorado, 2015 (\$2,000)
- Graduate Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, 2014 (\$1,275)
- Latin American Studies Center Travel Grant, University of Colorado, 2014 (\$250)
- Hope Schultz Jozsa Grant Award, Beverly Sears Program, University of Colorado, 2014 (\$2,000)
- Graduate Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, 2014 (\$2,250)
- Chancellor's Fellowship, University of Colorado, 2011-13 (\$50,000)
- Robert Stover Award (best thesis), Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, 2013
- Jenny Kate Collins Grant Award, Beverly Sears Program, University of Colorado, 2013 (\$2,000)
- Graduate Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, 2013 (\$688)
- Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant, University of Colorado, 2012 (\$1,000)
- Graduate Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, 2012 (\$1,000)
- Best First-Year Poster Award, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, 2011
- CARTSS Scholars Grant, University of Colorado, co-PI with Krister Andersson, 2011 (\$2,000)
- Academic Year Research Grant, Northwestern University, 2006 (\$1,000)
- G. Alfred Hess Research Award, SESP, Northwestern University, 2006 (\$500)

PRESENTATIONS

Annual Meetings and Conferences

- American Political Science Association: 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Midwest Political Science Association: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
- Western Political Science Association: 2014, 2019, 2022
- Association for Public Policy and Management: 2017, 2018, 2021
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health: 2019, 2020 (cancelled), 2022, 2023
- Sustainability and Development Conference: 2019, 2022
- Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action: 2018, 2019
- Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (formerly ISNIE): 2014, 2017
- Latin American Conference on Subnational Governance (LACSUG): 2024
- The Migration Conference: 2024
- International Studies Association Latin America Conference: 2023
- Southern Political Science Association: 2022
- International Research Society for Public Management Conference: 2021
- Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science: 2021
- Regional Studies Association Latin America Conference: 2019

- MIT GOV/LAB Political Behavior of Development Conference: 2019
- American Society for Public Administration: 2018
- Population Association of America: 2018
- International Association for the Study of the Commons: 2015
- Front Range Conference on Environmental Governance Conference: 2015
- Institute of Behavioral Science Research Symposium, University of Colorado Boulder: 2015
- Regional Studies Association Winter Conference: 2014

Invited Talks and Other Presentations

- Harvard University David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies: 2023
- Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, IUPUI: 2023
- PMRA Graduate Student Writing Workshop, Faculty Mentor, University of the Andes: 2023
- Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy: 2022
- UC IIRP Workshop on SLBs, Public Attitudes, and Integration of Refugees in Turkey: 2022
- UC Kiphart Center Launch Interdisciplinary Faculty Panel: 2022
- University of New Mexico School of Public Administration: 2022
- Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs: 2022
- University of Missouri Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs: 2021
- UC US-China Forum Panel on Shifting Contours of Governance and Provision: 2021
- Penn Identify and Conflict Lab Workshop on Refugee Resettlement Challenges: 2021
- UC Consular Corps Faculty Panel on Global Social Welfare: 2020
- SSA/CFS Doctoral Theory Workshop: 2017, 2020
- Public Administration Review (PAR) Behavioral Public Administration Symposium: 2018
- Workshop on Health Sector Reform in Honduras, University of Chicago: 2017
- Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago: 2017
- Honduran Ministry of Health, Tegucigalpa, Honduras: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022
- Regional Health Authority #10, Intibucá, Honduras: 2013, 2015
- Ronald Coase Institute on Institutional Analysis, University of Hong Kong: 2015

TEACHING

Instructor

- Social Intervention: Policies and Programs II (Social Work; master's), University of Chicago: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (x2), 2022, 2024
- Policy Formulation and Implementation (Social Sector Leadership; master's), University of Chicago: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Global Development and Social Welfare (interdisciplinary; master's), University of Chicago: 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 (x2), 2022 (x2), 2023, 2024
- Research Methods in Social Work (doctoral), University of Chicago: 2017, 2018, 2019
- Independent Study
 - Topics in Collaborative Governance (doctoral), University of Chicago: 2017
 - Global Social Development Practice Seminar (master's), University of Chicago: 2021
 - Topics in Program Evaluation (master's), University of Chicago: 2023

SERVICE

Crown Family School (formerly School of Social Service Administration)

- International Initiatives Committee (2016-20, 2023-)
- Social Sector Leadership Working Group and Committee (2018-)
- Social Administration Representative, Curriculum Policy Committee (2021-23)
- Admissions Committee (2017-18)
- SSA/Chapin Hall Institutional Review Board (2016-17)

University of Chicago

- Faculty Advisory Committee, Kiphart Center for Global Health and Social Development (2021-)
- Latin America Faculty Steering Committee, UChicago Global (2022-)
- Steering Committee, Center for Latin American Studies (2022-)
- Application Review Committee, UChicago Obama Foundation Scholars Program (2022)
- Education Subcommittee, Center for Global Health (2020-21)
- Fulbright Fellowship Committee, Center for Latin American Studies (2017-18)

Profession

- Health Politics and Policy Council Member, American Political Science Association (2022-24)
- Haldane Prize Award Committee, *Public Administration* Journal (2023)
- Referee for: *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*; *Public Administration Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Social Science & Medicine*; *Social Service Review*; *Public Management Review*; *Local Government Studies*; *Public Policy and Administration*; *World Bank Economic Review*; *International Journal of Health Policy and Management*; *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*; *Regional Science, Policy and Practice*

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Shoulder to Shoulder, Concepcion, Intibucá, Honduras, 2009-2011

Information Manager (Sept. 2009 to April 2010) and Director of Health Information Systems (May 2010 to May 2011); private non-profit organization working to support underserved communities in rural western Honduras and managing a decentralized network of 11 health centers and 2 maternal clinics under an agreement with the Honduran Ministry of Health.

Industrial Economics Inc. (IEc), Cambridge, MA, 2007-2009

Research Analyst (July 2007 to Dec. 2008) and Senior Research Analyst (Jan. 2009 to Sept. 2009); public sector environmental economics and policy consultancy.

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Honduras (23 months), Guatemala (3 months), Nicaragua (3 months), Turkey (1 month)

LANGUAGES

English (native), Polish (native), Spanish (fluent)