

RACHEL M. PERERA

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EMPLOYMENT

Brookings Institution, Brown Center on Education Policy
Fellow, Governance Studies July 2022 –

RAND Corporation
Adjunct Policy Researcher 2022 –
Assistant Policy Researcher 2016 – 2022

EDUCATION

Pardee RAND Graduate School
Ph.D., Policy Analysis 2022
M. Phil., Policy Analysis 2018

New York University, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
M.P.A., specialization in Public Policy Analysis 2014

Hofstra University, Honors College
B.A., dual major in Political Science and History 2009

RESEARCH INTERESTS

K-12 education policy; educational equity; civil rights and education; school discipline; student assignment and school choice policies; politics of education; and quantitative policy analysis

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Perera, R. M., Bush-Mecenas, S., & Schweig, J. D. (2023). Passive Investment: The Political Dynamics of Charter Expansion in Los Angeles' Portfolio District. *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR)*, 1–30.

Domina, T., Carlson, D., Carter III, J., Lenard, M., McEachin, A., & **Perera, R.** (2021). The Kids on the Bus: The Academic Consequences of Diversity-Driven School Reassignments. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 40(4), 1197–1229.

McEachin, A., Lauen, D., Fuller, S.C., & **Perera, R.** (2020). Social Returns to Private Choice? Effects of Charter Schools on Behavioral Outcomes, Arrests, and Civic Participation. *Economics of Education Review*, 76, 101983.

Peer Reviewed Reports

Pierson, A., Cannon, J., **Perera, R.**, Mihaly, K., & LeMahieu, R. (2021). Professional development incentives for Oregon's early childhood education workforce: A randomized study. (REL 2021–111). U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Northwest.

Dahlke, K., Karoly, L. A., **Perera, R.**, Little, M., Henry, C., Lasserre-Cortez, S., & Gerdeman, D. (2020). Participation in state-funded prekindergarten in Oklahoma (REL 2021–044). U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Southwest.

Cannon, J., Schweig, J., & **Perera, R.** (2020). Evaluation of Families Forward Learning Center: Participant Perspectives and Student Outcomes. RAND Corporation.

Stelitano, L., **Perera, R.**, & Johnston, W. (2019). Supporting Students with High Incidence Disabilities in U.S. Schools. RAND Corporation.

Perera, R. & Armstrong, C. (2019). Time for Change? Educators' Perception of Discipline Reform in their Schools: An AEP Data Note. RAND Corporation.

McEachin, A., Schweig, J., **Perera, R.**, & Opper, I. (2018). Validation Study of the TNTP Core Teaching Rubric. RAND Corporation.

Wang, E., Gates, S., Herman, R., Mean, M., **Perera, R.**, Tsai, T., Whipkey, K., & Andrew, M. (2018). Launching a Redesign of University Principal Preparation. RAND Corporation.

Edelman, A., **Perera, R.**, & Schweig, J. (2018). Results from the Teach For America 2017 National Principal Survey. RAND Corporation.

Working Papers (Drafts of manuscripts available upon request)

Carlson, D., Domina, T., Carter, J., **Perera, R.**, McEachin, A., & Radsky, V. (2021). Structured Choice: School Segregation at the Intersection of Policy and Preferences. *Annenberg Institute EdWorking Paper No. 23-753* (link).

Perera, R. A Promise Unfulfilled? How Modern Federal Civil Rights Enforcement is Used to Address Racial Discrimination in School Discipline. *Annenberg Institute EdWorking Paper No. 21-413* (link).

Perera, R. When the Feds Come Knocking: The Impact of Federal Civil Rights Investigations on Racial Disparities.

Policy Briefs, Blog Posts, and Other Publications (Selected)

Perera, R. & Valant, J. (2023, June 28). The Biden administration's updated school discipline guidelines fail to meet the moment. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*.

Perera, R. & Diliberti, M.K. (2023, June 8). Principals say they need better-trained teachers and more resources to address student misbehavior. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*.

Perera, R. & Diliberti, M.K. (2023, February 23). What purpose do suspensions serve? Principals don't seem quite sure. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*.

Perera, R. & Diliberti, M.K. (2023, January 19). Understanding how U.S. public schools approach school discipline. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*.

Perera, R., Hashim, A., & Weddle, H. (2022, December 6). Family engagement is critical for schools' COVID-19 recovery efforts. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*.

Carter, J., Hughes, R., Lenard, M., Liebowitz, D., & **Perera, R.** (2022). Assessing Integration in Wake County: Loud debate, but muted effects for students and schools. *Education Next*.

Perera, R. (2022, September 12). Reforming school discipline: What works to reduce racial inequalities? *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Membership: Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), American Educational Research Association (AERA), Sociology of Education Association (SEA)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

April, 2023. A Promise Unfulfilled? How Federal Civil Rights Law is Used to Remedy Discrimination in School Discipline. *Jacksonville Urban League's Health Equity and Social Justice Symposium*.

May, 2022. When the Feds Come Knocking: The Impact of Federal Civil Rights Investigations on Racial Disparities. *Urban Institute's Brownbag Research Series*.

February, 2022. A Promise Unfulfilled? How Modern Federal Civil Rights Enforcement is Used to Address Racial Discrimination in School Discipline. *Harvard Strategic Data Project Racial Justice and Education Research Webinar Series*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023	AEFP annual conference, Denver, CO
2022	APPAM fall research conference, Washington, DC
2021	AEFP annual conference, virtual AERA annual meeting, virtual APPAM fall research conference, Austin, TX
2020	APPAM fall research conference, virtual
2019	AEFP annual conference, Kanas City, MO AERA annual meeting, Toronto, Canada

RESEARCH GRANTS

2023 – 2025	Spencer Foundation, “U.S. School Boards in a Time of Conflict and Consequence,” co-PI with Jon Valant (PI), \$359,484.
2020 – 2022	RAND-Initiated Research, “Do principal’s racial biases affect student discipline decisions? A nationally representative study,” PI with Andrew McEachin (co-PI), Celia Gomez (co-PI), and Matthew Mizel (co-PI), \$372,000.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Dissertation of the Year Award (Quantitative), American Educational Research Association Division L (Educational Policy & Politics)	2023
Emerging Education Policy Scholar, Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute	2022 – 2023
Herbert Goldhamer Memorial Dissertation Award, Pardee RAND	2022
APPAM Raymond Vernon Memorial Award	2021
National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship (\$27,500)	2021 – 2022
AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research and AERA & National Science Foundation Grants Program—Joint Scholar (\$25,000)	2020 – 2021
Mathematica Summer Fellowship (\$10,000)	2020
APPAM Equity & Inclusion Fellowship (\$599)	2019

Susan Way-Smith Memorial Dissertation Award, Pardee RAND (\$17,480)	2019 – 2020
David L. Clark Scholar, University Council of Educational Administration	2019
Jim Lovelace Foundation Dissertation Award, Pardee RAND (\$25,000)	2018 – 2019
Sterling D. Spero Prize for Exceptional Written Work, NYU Wagner	2014
Phi Beta Kappa, Hofstra University	2009

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<i>LA Promise Fund</i>	
Data and Analytics Fellow	Summer 2016
<i>Teach For America</i>	
Director, Research Partnerships	2014 – 2016
Manager, Research Partnerships	2013 – 2014
Development Associate	2011 – 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Michigan State University, American Economic Association Summer Program</i>	
Teaching Fellow, Advanced Level Microeconomics	Summer 2019
<i>Pardee RAND Graduate School</i>	
Advanced Econometrics: Introduction to Panel Data	Winter 2020
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Zachary Wagner	
Introduction to Econometrics	Spring 2018, 2019
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Isaac Opper	
Organizational Theory	Winter 2019
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Angela O'Mahony	
Microeconomics I	Fall 2017, 2018
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Troy Smith	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

<i>Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM)</i>	
Member, Program Committee	2023
Member, Student Advisory Committee	2019 – 2021
<i>Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)</i>	
Member, Program Committee	2022
Student Representative, Membership & Outreach Committee	2018 – 2019
<i>Pardee RAND Graduate School</i>	
Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Working Group	2020 – 2021
Education & Labor Broker, On-the-Job-Training Brokerage	2018 – 2020
Student Representative, Faculty Committee on Curriculum & Appointments	2017 – 2018
Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer: <i>Educational Researcher, Economics of Education Review, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, American Journal of Education</i>	