



NextGenPop @ Cornell | Population and Public Policy

June 4-18, 2023

2023 NGP Fellow Biographies

Abigail Elizabeth Archie



Abigail Archie is a rising senior at Florida State University majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology. She is interested in immigration, racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality, and environmental racism. After graduation, Abigail would like to pursue a master's degree and get a job in the FBI or Department of State.

Esther Yaniz Colón Bermúdez



Esther Colón-Bermúdez is a recent graduate from the University of Puerto Rico with a BA in Anthropology and a minor in Human Rights. Esther is interested in understanding displacement, housing insecurity, and the housing crisis in Puerto Rico and developing public policy to address these problems in the context of climate change and the colonialism of Puerto Rico. As a recent graduate, she plans to spend time gaining more professional and field experience, and then hopes to pursue a graduate degree in housing studies and public policy. Esther's purpose is to advocate for accessible and affordable housing and housing justice in Puerto Rico through mixed methods and participatory action research.

Chloe Mae Bombara



Chloe Bombara is a rising senior studying at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Chloe double majors in Sociology and Psychology. Her areas of interest are health disparities among minorities and low-income populations, perceptions of and stigma surrounding chronic illness, and maternal and child health outcomes. Chloe plans on pursuing a PhD in Sociology and becoming a population health researcher.

Kayla Corrin Butler



Kayla Butler is a rising senior at Cornell University, majoring in Public Policy with minors in Law and Society and Inequality studies. Kayla's broad interests are in the intersection of law, policy and childhood outcomes, the social determinant of health as they relate to children and families, and the continuity of intergenerational socioeconomic status. Kayla is planning on attending law school to study children's law or constitutional law. She currently lives in Boston MA, teaching sailing and volunteering with childcare programs.

Hailey Ann Dunn



Hailey Dunn is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, majoring in Sociology and Psychology. Hailey is interested in public policy, modern segregation, and education inequality. Hailey hopes to understand the intersection of these three things and their effect on communities, specifically the educational opportunities of children in the public school system. After finishing her undergraduate degree, Hailey plans on obtaining her Master's degree in Sociology before applying for a Ph.D. program.

Nicholas Xavier Flores



Nicholas Flores is a rising senior at Sam Houston State University majoring in Geography with a focus on Human Geography. Nicholas is interested in researching Urban Inequality by looking at demography, and social and environmental injustice. He is a native Houstonian and loves to travel and meet new people to get a better understanding of the world and how it can be fairer and more inclusive to everyone.

Nakaya Frazier



Nakaya Frazier is a rising senior at the University of California, Merced, majoring in Public Health with a minor in Psychology. She is interested in how institutional and systemic inequities impact individuals' health, specifically among racial minorities. She plans to pursue a master's in public health with a concentration in epidemiology, with the hopes of becoming a social epidemiologist addressing racial health disparities and inequities.

Hertha Maria Torre Gallego



Hertha Torre Gallego is a rising senior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in Health and Societies (concentrating in Global Health) and Hispanic Studies. Hertha is interested in international development, particularly equitable healthcare access through policy and advocacy, with a focus on the Latin American region. She plans to pursue a Master of Public Health while continuing to engage in health-related research.

Ariayana Nicole Harrell



Ariayana Harrell is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ariayana double majors in Psychology (B.S) and Sociology with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She is interested in the life course, embodiment, and the social determinants of health. Her current career goals are to be a researcher in the field of Population Health, Sociology, or Social Epidemiology and obtain her Ph.D. in one of these fields to become a tenure-track professor.

Emily Rose Johnson



Emily Johnson is a rising senior at The Ohio State University studying Sociology with a minor in Philosophy. She is interested in socioeconomic inequalities, education disparities, and Appalachian studies. A 2023 Beinecke Scholar, Emily plans to pursue a doctoral degree in sociology after earning her undergraduate degree.

Siena Arielle Kelly



Siena Kelly is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina dual majoring in Environmental Science and Global Studies. Siena is interested in ethnobotany, particularly in understanding how cultural nuances such as language, public health, and immigration influence environmental policy. Siena is also interested in understanding how globalization influences the relationship between minority groups and environmental sustainability, especially for those in ethnically and racially marginalized communities. She plans to pursue a master's degree to merge her interests in Ecology and African Studies.

Jessamyn Jessica Lopez



Jessamyn Lopez is a recent graduate with a B.A. degree in Sociology and minors in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Jessamyn has strong interests in LGBTQ+ rights, the Latinx community, housing and food inequalities, and digital sociology. She plans to enhance her skills in data analytics and technology by working full-time, and eventually pursue a master's degree in social data science.

Tristan Ian Ly



Tristan Ly is a rising senior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in sociology with a concentration in structures of opportunity and inequality. Tristan is interested in studying how to eliminate barriers to social mobility, such as access to basic resources, access and quality of education, and hiring discrimination along divisions of class, race, and gender. Post-graduation, he intends to pursue a master's degree in social policy and to work in social policy realms to solve these problems.

Nicholas Levi Martens



Nicholas Martens is a rising senior at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). Nicholas is interested in place-based policies, internal migration, and social mobility, with the goal of revitalizing the Rust Belt. In the future, he hopes to obtain a PhD in either sociology or economics.

Arianna Matrecito



Arianna Matrecito is a rising senior at the University of Arizona majoring in Economics and Urban and Regional Development. Arianna is interested in the intersection between economic policy and urban planning and how these fields can be leveraged to promote sustainable and equitable development for disadvantaged communities. Upon graduation, she hopes to further her education by researching and analyzing the economic and social factors that influence urban development and exploring innovative solutions to address issues related to affordable housing, transportation, and economic inequality.

Madelyn McLain



Madelyn McLain is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill majoring in Sociology and Religious Studies with a minor in Data Science. Madelyn is interested in rural sociology, specifically its intersections with sexuality, religion, and belonging. She hopes to continue exploring these topics at the graduate level through mixed-methods research.

Maya Mouldi



Maya Mouldi is a rising senior at Hunter College majoring in Political Science with minors in International Relations and Economics. She is particularly interested in the effects of externalization policies on migrant integration in North Africa. Upon graduating, Maya plans to seek a Master's degree in International Relations and pursue a career in research in the private or public sector.

Aaron Hanif Zaid Muhammad



Aaron Muhammad is a rising junior at the University of South Carolina majoring in Sociology and minoring in African American studies. After graduation, Aaron intends to earn a PhD in Sociology and become a scholar of racial inequality.

Brenda Damian Ortiz



Brenda Damian Ortiz is a recent graduate of the University of California, Davis double-majoring in Psychology and Sociology with an emphasis in Law and Society. As a first-generation college student and Indigenous Chicana, she is both inspired and dedicated to amplifying the voices of her community through her work. Brenda completed an honors thesis, exploring the various impacts of (cr)immigration on undocumented Indigenous immigrants of Mexican origin. She hopes to continue her (cr)immigration-related research by applying to a PhD program and then pursuing immigration/criminal defense law.

Cameron White



Cameron White is a rising senior at Cornell University studying Health Care Policy and minoring in Health Equity. Cameron is interested in studying the health effects of intersectionality, specifically misogynoir and the maternal health crisis, and how using policy to implement non-medical interventions can improve health outcomes for both mothers and their children. He plans to pursue a career in medicine while continuing to engage with translational research.