

# Robert Manduca

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## Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Michigan (2020-present)

Faculty Associate, Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics  
Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center  
Fellow, University of Chicago Center for Spatial Data Science

## Education

Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Policy, Harvard University (2020)

Dissertation: *Social Structure, Space, and the Dynamics of Income Inequality*  
Committee: Robert J. Sampson (chair), Mario L. Small, Jason Beckfield

M.C.P., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2014)

B.A. with High Honors in Economics, Swarthmore College (2010)

## Publications

\* indicates student co-author

**Manduca, R.** Should Social Insurance Programs Count as Wealth? Augmented Wealth in Research and Policy. Accepted, *Socio-Economic Review*.

Lynch, T.M., & **Manduca, R.** 2024. Beyond Local and Traded: Evidence for a Third Industry Market Area Type and Implications for Regional Planning and Economic Development. *Economic Development Quarterly*. ([Publisher's version](#))

**Manduca, R.**, Anampa Castro, C.,\* & Ochoa, A.\* 2024. Social Transfer Programs as Non-Spatially Targeted Methods of Reducing Interregional Geographic Inequality. *Social Service Review*. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

- Editor's Choice article, *Social Service Review*
- Finalist, Frank R. Breul Prize for best article published in *Social Service Review* in 2024

**Manduca, R.**, Hell, M., Adermon, A., Blanden, J., Bratberg, E., Gielen, A. C., van Kippersluis, H., Lee, K. B., Machin, S., Munk, M., Nybom, M., Ostrovsky, Y., Rahman, S., & Sirnio, O. 2024. Measuring Absolute Income Mobility: Lessons from North America and Europe. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 16(2): 1-30. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

**Manduca, R.** 2024. "I Was Open to Anywhere, It's Just This Was Easier:" Social Structure, Location Preferences, and the Geographic Concentration of Elite College Graduates. *Qualitative Sociology* 47: 153-185. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

Fritz, B.\* & **Manduca, R.** 2021. The Economic Complexity of US Metropolitan Areas. *Regional Studies* 55(7): 1299-1310. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

**Manduca, R.** & Sampson, R.J. 2021. Childhood Exposure to Polluted Neighborhood Environments: An Analysis of Intergenerational Income Mobility, Teenage Birth, and Incarceration in the U.S. *Population and Environment* 42(4): 501-523. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

**Manduca, R.** 2021. The Spatial Structure of US Metropolitan Employment: New Insights from Administrative Data. *Environment and Planning B* 48(5):1357-1372. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

- Tiebout Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Western Regional Science Association, 2018

Spicer, J., **Manduca, R.**, & Kay, T. 2020. National Living Wage Movements in a Regional World: The Fight for \$15 in the United States. *Labor and Employment Relations Association Research Volume*. ([Publisher's version](#))

**Manduca, R.** 2019. Antitrust Enforcement as Federal Policy to Reduce Regional Economic Disparities. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 685(1):156-171. ([Publisher's version](#))

**Manduca, R.** & Sampson, R.J. 2019. Punishing and Toxic Neighborhood Environments Independently Predict the Intergenerational Social Mobility of Black and White Children. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116(16):7772-7777. ([Publisher's version](#))

**Manduca, R.** 2019. The Contribution of National Income Inequality to Regional Economic Divergence. *Social Forces* 98(2):578-621. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

- Graduate Student Paper Award, North American Regional Science Council, 2017
- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section, 2019

**Manduca, R.** 2018. The US Census Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Datasets. *REGION* 3(5):R5-R12. ([Publisher's version](#))

Small, M.L., **Manduca, R.**, & Johnston, W.R. 2018. Ethnography, Neighborhood Effects, and the Rising Heterogeneity of Poor Neighborhoods. *City and Community* 17(3):565-589. ([Publisher's version](#))

**Manduca, R.** 2018. Income Inequality and the Persistence of Racial Economic Disparities. *Sociological Science* 5:182-205. ([Publisher's version](#))

Folch, D., Spielman, S., & **Manduca, R.** 2018. Fast Food Data: Where User-Generated Content Works and Where it Does Not. *Geographical Analysis* 50(2): 125-140. ([Publisher's version](#))

Chetty, R., Grusky, D., Hell, M., Hendren, N., **Manduca, R.**, & Narang, J. (2017). The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility Since 1940. *Science* 356(6336):398-406. ([Publisher's version](#))

Green, B., Caro, A., Conway, M., **Manduca, R.**, Plagge, T., & Miller, A. (2015). Mining Administrative Data to Spur Urban Revitalization. In *Proceedings of the 21st ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining* (pp. 1829-1838) New York: ACM Press. ([Publisher's version](#) | [Preprint](#))

## Public Writing

Johnson, N., and **Manduca, R.** 2022. [After Free Trade](#). *Boston Review*.

**Manduca, R.**, Johnson, N., & Hong, C. 2021. [The Biden Infrastructure Bills Would Restore America's Traditional Approach to Economic Growth](#). *Washington Post*.

Hong, C., **Manduca, R.**, & Johnson, N. 2021. [In the Common Interest](#). *Boston Review*.

Johnson, N., **Manduca, R.**, & Hong, C. 2021. [The American Anti-Austerity Tradition](#). Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

**Manduca, R.** 2021. [The American Dream is less of a reality today in the United States, compared to other peer nations](#). Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

**Manduca, R.** 2021. [Place-Conscious Federal Policies to Reduce Regional Economic Disparities in the United States](#). In *Boosting Wages for US Workers in the New Economy*.

**Manduca, R.** 2019. [Selling Keynesianism](#). *Boston Review*.

**Manduca, R.** 2019. [To Fix Regional Inequality, Target the One Percent](#). *Washington Monthly*.

**Manduca, R.** 2019. [How National Income Inequality in the United States Contributes to Economic Disparities Between Regions](#). Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

**Manduca, R.** 2018. [How Rising US Income Inequality Exacerbates Racial Economic Disparities](#). Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

## Grants & Fellowships

2022-2026 - United States Economic Development Administration, "Best Practices Of Equitable Economic Growth Within ARPA Programs." (Participating Investigator)

2022-2024 - Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Research Grant for "Municipal Neighborhood Effects" (Principal investigator, \$33,348)

2021-2025 - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, "Studying Wealth in America." (Participating Investigator)

2017 - Harvard Center for American Political Studies, Graduate Seed Grant for "Income Inequality and Regional Economic Divergence"

2017-2018 - Russell Sage Foundation, Intergenerational Mobility in the United States award for "The American Dream in the Great Depression: Absolute Income Mobility in the United States, 1915-1940." (Participating investigator)

2015-2017 Doctoral fellow, Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy

## Honors & Awards

Presidential Scholar, Harvard University (2014)

American Institute of Certified Planners Outstanding Student Award, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2014)

Harvey Milk / Grace Lee Boggs Award for Community Leadership and Service to the Intercultural Center, Swarthmore College (2010)

Phi Beta Kappa, Swarthmore College (2010)

National Merit Scholar (2006)

National Hispanic Recognition Scholar (2006)

## Teaching

University of Michigan

SOC 210: Introduction to Statistics for Social Science, Winter 2021, Winter 2022, Winter 2023

SOC 542: Quantitative Methods Practicum, Winter 2022, Winter 2023

SOC 595.004: Topics in Sociology - Spatial Data Analysis, Winter 2021

Harvard University

Models of Social Science Research (Teaching Fellow), Harvard Department of Sociology, Fall 2016

Introduction to Social Inequality (Teaching Fellow), Harvard Department of Sociology, Spring 2017

## Graduate Advising

Chalem Bolton (Sociology, co-chair, in progress)

Elly Field (Sociology, committee member, 2024)

## Undergraduate Advising

Amy Tan (Harvard University undergraduate thesis, 2020), "Diversity in Schools: Academic and Economic Outcomes in Chicago Public Schools and Nationwide."

Patrick Tan (Harvard University undergraduate thesis, 2019), "Industry & Mobility: Examining the Relationship between the Productive Structure of the Local Economy and Intergenerational Income Mobility."

Benedikt Fritz (Zeppelin University undergraduate thesis, 2018), "Relating the Related: On the Relationship Between Different Measures of Regional Variety and Inequality."

- Best BA thesis, Zeppelin University, 2018.

## Professional Activities and Memberships

Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *City and Community*, *DuBois Review*, *Demography*, *Environment and Planning B*, *European Sociological Review*, *Forum for Social Economics*, *Geographical Analysis*, *GeoJournal*, *JAMA*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Regional Studies*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Science*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Research*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Socius*

Member, American Sociological Association

Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility

Section on Community and Urban Sociology

Section on Economic Sociology

Section on Mathematical Sociology

Member, Research Committee 28 of the International Sociological Association

Last updated: March 7, 2025