

# Maria P. Perez Arguelles

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PREFESSOR

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## Academic Positions

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2025-Present	<b>Research Assistant Professor</b> , Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston
2022-2025	<b>Research Associate</b> , Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston
2020-2022	<b>Researcher</b> , Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston
2015-2020	<b>Graduate Research Assistant</b> , Dept. of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University
2017-2018	<b>Graduate Research Assistant</b> , Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, Texas A&M University
2014-2015	<b>Graduate Research Assistant</b> , Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University
2012-2014	<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b> , Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University

## Education

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<b>Texas A&amp;M University</b>	<i>College Station, TX</i>
PHD URBAN AND REGIONAL SCIENCE	2020
Dissertation title: Socio-Economic and Spatial Determinants of an Informality Spectrum: The Case of El Amate in Guatemala City	
<b>Texas A&amp;M University</b>	<i>College Station, TX</i>
MS AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	2015
Thesis title: Analyzing Structural Changes and Trade Impacts in the Tomato Industry	
<b>Universidad de los Andes</b>	<i>Bogota, Colombia</i>
BS ECONOMICS	2012

## Articles in Peered-Reviewed Journals

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- Adepoju, O., Xu, L., Chavez, S., Dang, P., Tipton, M., **Arguelles, M. P.**, Buttorff, Gail & Wong, M. C. (2025). **Back-to-Back Climate shocks and the mental health crisis: A Texas-sized surge in depression and anxiety ER visits.** The American Journal of Emergency Medicine.
- Safarova, B., Giusti, C. H., **Perez, M. P.**, Zecca, I. B., Carbajal, E. S., Hamer, G. L., & Hamer, S. A. (2021). **Habitat and environmental risks of Chagas disease in low-income colonias and peri-urban subdivisions in South Texas.** Habitat International. 118: 102460.
- Nozhati, S., Rosenheim, N., Ellingwood, B. R., Mahmoud, H., & **Perez, M.** (2019). **Probabilistic framework for evaluating food security of households in the aftermath of a disaster.** Structure and Infrastructure Engineering. 15(8): 1060-1074.
- Perez, M. P.**, Luis A. Ribera, & Marco A. Palma. (2017). **Effects of trade and agricultural policies on the structure of the US tomato industry.** Food Policy. 69: 123-134.
- Perez, M. P.**, Palma M., Behe B., & Hall C. (2016). **Structural Breaks and Future Growth of the Green Industry.** Journal of Environmental Horticulture. 34(2):52-55.

## Book Chapters

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- Book Chapter: Giusti, C. H., **Perez, M. P.**, Ruiz Bode, I., & Hernandez, M. (2022). **El Amate in Guatemala City: An Urban Intervention.** In Informality and the City: Theories, Actions and Interventions (pp. 215-230). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

## Work in Progress

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Bracing for the Storm: Ideal vs Actual Natural Disaster Preparedness in Texas. With: Agustin Vallejo, Gail J. Buttorff, Pablo M. Pinto, Savannah L. Sipole, & M. C. Sunny Wong

The expansion of the LRT in Houston and its effects on gentrification and property values. With: John Park & Agustin Vallejo

Customizing Global Vulnerability Indices for Local Use: The Role of Survey Data. With: Agustin Vallejo, Gail J. Buttorff, Pablo M. Pinto, Savannah L. Sipole, & M. C. Sunny Wong

Visualizing VRAP indicators for policy making in the community: the case of Houston. With: Gail J. Buttorff, Pablo M. Pinto, Savannah L. Sipole, Agustin Vallejo, & M. C. Sunny Wong

Powering Communities: Assessing the Social Impact of Clean Energy and Microgrids in Houston. With: Jian Shi

The expansion of the LRT in Houston and its effects on gentrification and property values. With: Park, J., Perez, Maria P. & Vallejo, A.

Texas winter storm and willingness to pay for electricity. With: Gail J. Buttorff, Yuhsin Annie Hsu, Yewande Olapade, Pablo M. Pinto, Savannah L. Sipole, Agustin Vallejo, & M. C. Sunny Wong.

Methodological Risk Assessment of In-formal markets in the city. With: Cecilia Giusti

## Technical Reports

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**Texas Metropolitan Blueprint: A Five-Year Policy Agenda for Action.** Clark, J. H., Cross, R., Greenberg, S. R., Pedigo, S. W., Pinto, P. M., & Perez Arguelles, M. P. (2025)

**Special Report on Outage Experiences and Preparedness in the Shadow of Hurricane Beryl** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (November, 2024)

**Texas Trends: Climate Perceptions and Community Coping Strategies** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (November, 2024)

**Texas Trends: Climate Change, Beliefs and Actions.** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (November, 2023)

**Texas Trends: School Vouchers.** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (October, 2023)

**Social Vulnerability and Natural Disasters: 5 Years After Hurricane Harvey.** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (July, 2022)

**Texas Trends Survey 2021: Electric Vehicles.** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (February, 2022)

**Reliability and the Texas Power Grid in the Aftermath of Winter Storm Uri.** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (June, 2021)

**Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Distribution of PPP Loans in Austin.** Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (July, 2021)

## Media and Outreach

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Presented at Texas Tribune Event. **A blueprint for Texas cities: Growth, challenges and opportunities** (March 5, 2025)

Quoted in **Survey: Texans who experience power outages, low-income residents perceive hotter summers.** Dominic Anthony Walsh, Houston Public Media (August, 2024)

Quoted in **New survey shows opinions differ on causes, effects of extreme weather.** Sally Strong, phys.org (November, 2023)

Quoted in **New survey confirms big gaps in Texas Health Care Availability and coverage.** Sally Strong, University of Houston (October, 2022)

Quoted in **Why does Houston have so many immigrants? Here's how the Bayou City became so diverse.** Elizabeth Trovall, Houston Chronicle (November, 2022)

Quoted in **A look at who moved to — and from — Harris County during the pandemic** Elizabeth Trovall, Houston Chronicle (August, 2022)

Presentation titled: "Social Vulnerability & Natural Disasters: 5 Years after Hurricane Harvey" at the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Getting it Right Workshop, October, 2022

Presentation titled: "Hispanics in Houston" at the Small Business Administration Hispanic Summit, October, 2022