

**Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego**  
**Center for the Study of International Migration, UC Los Angeles**

**In Co-Sponsorship with:**

**Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative, UC Berkeley**

**Global Migration Center, UC Davis**

**Immigration Research Group, UC Riverside**

**Migration Initiative, UC Santa Barbara**

# **Government Data in Migration Research: Advantages, Pitfalls, and Examples**

Friday, May 20, 2022 | 12:00PM - 2:00PM Pacific Time

Will be held via Zoom



**Co-Workshop Leader: [Aston Kocher](#)**

Assistant Research Professor in the Newhouse School of Public Communication and a researcher with the Transactional Research Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), a research institute at Syracuse University that uses Freedom of Information Act requests to study the federal government.



**Co-Workshop Leader: [Caitlin Patler](#)**

Associate Professor of Sociology at UC Davis, where she is a faculty affiliate at the Global Migration Center, the Center for Poverty and Inequality Research, and the Human Rights Program, and an Advisory Committee member of the Office of Public Scholarship and Engagement.



**Co-Workshop Leader: [Juan Manuel Pedroza](#)**

Assistant Professor of sociology at UC Santa Cruz where he studies the changing landscape of immigration in the United States. Over the past decade, Pedroza has examined the vast inequalities of immigrants' access to justice, the social safety net, and poverty.



**Co-Workshop Leader: [Alicia Riley](#)**

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Core Faculty in Global and Community Health at UC Santa Cruz. As a sociologist, Riley studies how the health effects of structural inequality can be modified through policy.

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In this panel, we will discuss the use of US government data in migration research. We will begin with a discussion of the data available through the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, broadly known as the main clearinghouse for government data on migration research. Dr. Kocher will describe TRAC's processes, the epistemological issues with how government knowledge is produced, and various applications of the work in both academic work and in the real world. Dr. Patler will then discuss her experiences submitting FOIA requests to ICE and CBP as an individual academic, as well as partnerships with non-academic entities who have gathered data via FOIA, and present examples from that work. Dr. Pedroza will discuss the trade-offs between survey and administrative data to study immigration-related questions at the individual versus place level. There will be plenty of time for discussion and brainstorming student projects.

**[Register Here](#)**

***For more information please email [w2tam@ucsd.edu](mailto:w2tam@ucsd.edu)***