Agustin Leon-Moreta

School of Public Administration (SPA)
University of New Mexico
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Library: municipal research

Educational History

Ph.D., Public Administration and Policy, August 2013 Askew School at Florida State University Dissertation: Essays on Local Government in the United States GPA: 4.0/4.0

Master of Public Administration (MPA), 2008 Askew School at Florida State University Specialization: Public Budgeting and Financial Management GPA: 4.0/4.0

Graduate Certificate in Financial Management, 2007 Askew School of Public Administration and Policy

Graduate Certificate in Taxation, 2005 Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (Panama)

B.S. in Economics, 2002 The Catholic University of Ecuador Specialization: Finance

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor **School of Public Administration**, University of New Mexico July 2022 - present

Assistant Professor **School of Public Administration**, University of New Mexico Fall 2013 - June 2022

Affiliated Faculty

Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program, University of New Mexico
Fall 2017 - present

Affiliated Faculty **Latin American and Iberian Institute**, University of New Mexico

Spring 2014 - present

Research Assistant Askew School of Public Administration and Policy Fall 2010 - spring 2013

Public Management Practice

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of Ecuador, Napo, Provincial Director 2008 - 2010

Appointed by the Director General of the Internal Revenue Service, I served as a Provincial Director. My principal responsibilities included planning, organizing, budgeting, setting, and implementing regional policies to enforce the National Tax Code. During my tenure, the Province accomplished the highest tax-collection rates in a decade and modernized internal management information systems.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of Ecuador, Senior Auditor 2003 - 2006

From a nationally competitive examination process, I was selected as a Senior Auditor for the Tax Audit Department within the Internal Revenue Service. I audited the tax and financial reports of major public, nonprofit and private organizations in Ecuador. Main accomplishments include the implementation of new databases and procedures to monitor tax compliance.

Honors and Awards

U.S. HUD: Center of Excellence (UNM Co-PI as part of the Arizona Research Center for Housing Equity and Sustainability), 2023 -

ASPA: The Louis Brownlow Award (for the best Public Administration Review article co-written with a practitioner), 2022

University of New Mexico: The Vice President for Research WeR1 Grant (for research on municipal water and wastewater systems), 2022 -

University of New Mexico: The Vice President for Research WeR1 Grant (for research on municipal regulation of housing markets), 2021 - 2022

University of New Mexico: Faculty Research Allocation (RAC) Grant (for research on land and water state acts), 2021 -

Winner of the UNM Limited Competition toward the EPSCOR Fellowship Track-4, 2019

The 40 for 40 Fellow, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) (outstanding early career researcher in the field of public policy and management), 2018

Winner of the Case Study Award, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (for a case research study on programs of conservation finance in the Albuquerque-Middle Rio Grande region), 2018

Title VI Development Fund, U.S. Department of Education, LAII sub-award (for international cooperation curricula on economic development), 2017

APSA: The Paul A. Volcker Junior Scholar Award, (for research on socioeconomic condition of cities and their provision of services in the United States), 2016

The Artinian Award, Southern Political Science Association, (for presentation of research on socioeconomic condition of cities and their provision of services in the United States), 2017

University of New Mexico: Faculty Research Allocation (RAC) Grant (for research on socioeconomic condition of cities and their provision of services in the United States), 2016 - 2017

University of New Mexico: Faculty Research Allocation (RAC) Grant (for research on municipal corporations in the United States), 2014-2015

The University of New Mexico Teaching Fellow (for research on best practices in public budgeting and financial management education), 2015-2016

University of New Mexico: Teaching Allocation Grant (for instructional innovations in public budgeting and financial management), 2014-2015

The Florida State University Dissertation Award (for research on municipal corporations in the United States), 2013

The Ruth Cox Award for Best Dissertation, Florida Center for Public Affairs Award (for research on municipal corporations in the United States), 2013

Askew School of Public Administration Endowment Scholarship, 2013

Florida State University: Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship, 2010-2013

Fulbright Fellow, U.S. Department of State, 2006-2008

Florida State University: Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship, 2006-2008

DeGuzman Award for the Best Ph.D. Research Paper, Askew School at Florida State University, 2012-2013

Pi Alpha Alpha, the NASPAA National Honor Society, 2008

Articles Published in Refereed Journals

- 2025. "Land Dedications as Local Government Requirement for Open Space: Results from US Surveys of Cities," *Cities*
- 2024. "Establishing an Agenda for Public Budgeting and Finance Research," with Bruce McDonald et al., *Public Finance Journal*

- 2023. "Interlocal Interactions, Municipal Boundaries, and Water and Wastewater Expenditure in City-Regions," with Vittoria Totaro, *Urban Studies*
- 2022. "US Cities' Permitting or Restriction of Housing Development," with Vittoria Totaro, *Cities*
- 2021. "Workforce Capacity in Municipal Government," with Vittoria Totaro, *Public Administration Review* 81(2): 273-285.
- 2021. "Ballot Measures for Open Space Conservation," *Urban Affairs Review* 57(3): 675-708.
- 2020. "Social Heterogeneity, Local Capacity, and Urban Parks: Evidence from US Cities," with Vittoria Totaro and David Dixon, *Cities* 99: 102588.
- 2019. "Functional Responsibilities of Municipal Government: Metropolitan Disparities and Instruments of Intergovernmental Management," *Urban Studies* 56(12): 2585-2607.
- 2018. "Institutional Capacity and Police Services: A Local Public Economies Perspective," *Public Administration Review* 78(2): 270-283.
- 2017. "Special District Formation: Evidence from Panel Data," *Public Administration Quarterly* 41(3): 40-72.
- 2016. "Functional Responsibilities of Municipal Governments," *American Review of Public Administration* 48(1): 1-22.
- 2016. "Municipal Incorporation: Socioeconomic and Policy Factors of Influence," *State & Local Government Review* 47(4): 255-270.
- 2015. "Municipal Incorporation in the United States," *Urban Studies* 52(16): 3160-3180.

Chapters Published in Edited Volumes

- 2021. "What Can Local Governments Do? Variation Across States," with Vittoria Totaro, in *Cooperation and Conflict Between State and Local Government*, Rowman & Littlefield.
- 2015. "Municipal Incorporations," in *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Policy*, 3rd edition: 1991-2016, CRC Press.

Case Studies Published

• 2018. "Coordinating Conservation Programs in the Albuquerque-Bernalillo Region," *Local Government and Intersectoral Programs for Land Conservation, Climate Change*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Other Articles Published in Professional Outlets

Jul. 2021. "Delivering Local Services through Interlocal Cooperation: Reasons and Implications," with Omowonuola Fayemiro, PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Dec. 2020. "Local Government Roles in Housing Access and Affordability," with Silvia Saenz, PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Jun. 2020. "Capital Infrastructure and Financing in Local Government," with Silvia Saenz, PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Jan. 2020. "Equity and Capacity for Water and Sanitation Services," with Silvia Saenz, PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Oct. 2019. "Promoting Equity in Access to Park Land And Open Spaces," with Silvia Saenz, PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

May 2019. "Factors Influencing Employment Capacities of Local Governments," with Silvia Saenz, PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Mar. 2019. "Local Government Capacity-Building in Regional Perspective," with Vittoria Totaro, PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

May 2018. "Budgeting for a Local Government Workforce: Implications for Compensation," PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Nov. 2017. "Inequality as a Demographic Shift and Local Government Adaptation," PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Sep. 2017. "Community Policing and Public Safety," PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Mar. 2017. "Funding Models for Municipal Policing," PA TIMES, the newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Manuscripts in Progress

"Transparency and the Quality of Local Administrations," in preparation

"Land Exactions that Condition Development," in preparation

"Administrative Action and Social Equity: The Case of Affordability Mandates," with Wonu Fayemiro, in preparation

"Municipal Infrastructure Investment: Evidence from Road and Highway Systems," with Wonu Fayemiro, in preparation

"Accountable Public Sector Organizations: Comparing North American and Latin American Subnational Fiscal Management," invited chapter for the *Comparative Analysis in Hemispheric Perspective: Essays in Honor of Ferrel Heady* edited book.

"Structure of Municipal Debt"

"Municipal Bankruptcy"

"Case Studies in Face-to-Face and Distance Courses in MPA Programs"

Data Sets Published

"Land Dedications as Local Government Requirement for Open Space: Results from US Surveys of Cities," at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E211921V1

"US Cities' Permitting or Restriction of Housing Development," at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E171721V1

"Interlocal Interactions, Municipal Boundaries, and Water and Wastewater Expenditure in City-Regions," at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E156301V2

"Workforce Capacity in Municipal Government," at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E115968V3

"Social Heterogeneity, Local Capacity, and Urban Parks," at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E117390V2

"Ballot Measures for Open Space Conservation," at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E112162V1

"Functional Responsibilities of Municipal Government: Metropolitan Disparities and Instruments of Intergovernmental Management," at ICPSR, University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E105251V2

"Social Context, Institutional Capacity, and Police Services," at ICPSR, University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E101104V3

"Tax and Expenditure Limitations (TELs) and Special District Formation," at ICPSR, University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E100803V4

"Functional Responsibilities of Municipal Governments," at ICPSR, University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E100379V4

"Municipal Incorporation: Socioeconomic and Policy Factors of Influence," at ICPSR, University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E100659V4

"Municipal Incorporation in the United States," at ICPSR, University of Michigan, public download link: https://doi.org/10.3886/E100977V3

Data Management Experience

Censuses of Government Finance and Employment
Censuses of Population and Housing
American Community Surveys (ACS)
BEA Regional Economic Accounts
ICMA Form of Government Surveys
IRS Business Master Files (National Center for Charitable Statistics)

Grant Reviewer: U.S. Government Agencies

(Ad Hoc) National Science Foundation (NSF)

Peer Reviewer/Referee: Journals

Public Performance and Management Review
Public Administration Review (PAR)
Organization Studies
Urban Affairs Review
International Workshop on Environment & Geoscience
Southeastern Geographer

Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs

Urban Studies

Journal of Urban Affairs: Committee Member for the 2017-2018 Best Article Award

Journal of Politics: Committee Member for the 2019-2020 Best Article Award

State and Local Government Review

Annals of the Association of American Geographers

Urban Geography

Public Finance and Management

International Review of Public Administration

El Trimestre Económico (The Economic Quarterly)

Peer Reviewer/Referee for Book Publishers

Fundamentals of Public Budgeting and Finance, 2nd edition, Palgrave

Cost and Managerial Accounting in Government and Nonprofit Organizations, Routledge | Taylor & Francis

Revenues Sources of Local Governments, Routledge | Taylor & Francis

Research Handbook on Public Financial Management, Edward Elgar

Fundamentals of Public Budgeting, 2nd edition, Palgrave Macmillan

Municipal Bankruptcies and Fiscal Emergencies, Routledge | Taylor & Francis

Fundamentals of Public Budgeting, 1st edition, Palgrave Macmillan

Budget Tools: Financial Methods in the Public Sector, SAGE Publications, CQ Press Municipal Incorporation Activity in the United States, Springer Introduction to Real World Statistics, Pyrczak Publishing Governmental Budgeting Workbook, Birkdale Publishers Public Policy Analysis, Peter Lang

Panel Chair/Discussant at Conferences

Panel Discussant for "Behavioral and Economic Impacts of Finance and Tax Policy," APPAM, Washington, DC. November 2022

Panel Chair and Discussant for "The Politics of Municipal Finance," Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 2022

Panel Chair for "Budgetary Effects of Local Consolidation," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management. Washington, DC. September 2021

Panel Chair for "Electricity Sector: Policy Design and Outcomes," National Tax Association. November 2020

Panel Chair for "Citizen Perception in Sustainability," Southern Political Science Association, Austin, TX. January 2019

Panel Discussant for "Implementation and Performance Measurement in Sustainability," Southern Political Science Association, Austin, TX. January 2019

Panel Discussant for "Representation: New Insights and Comments," Southern Political Science Association, Austin, TX. January 2019

Panel Moderator for "Economic Development When Sustainability Matters," American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Denver, CO. March 2018

Panel Chair for "Social Equity in Law Enforcement," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference in Chicago, IL. November 2017

Panel Chair for "Public or Private? The Problem with Market Failures," Southern Political Science Association Conference in New Orleans, LA. January 2017

Panel Chair for "Perspectives on Inequality," Midwest Public Affairs Conference in Columbus, OH. June 2016

Panel Chair for "Public Affairs Education," Midwest Public Affairs Conference in Columbus, OH. June 2016

Panel Chair for "Topics in Local Government Fiscal Structure," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Conference in Washington, DC. October 2015

Panel Chair for "State and Local Finance," Public Management Research Association (PMRA) Conference in Minneapolis, MN. June 2015

Panel Chair for "Bureaucratic Politics and the Implementation of Public Programs," Public Management Research Association (PMRA) Conference in Minneapolis, MN. June 2015

Panel Discussant for "Second Generation Fiscal Federalism," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference in Albuquerque, NM. November 2014

Panel Discussant for "Local Debt Management: Emergent Issues," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. November 2014

Panel Chair for "Local Fiscal Policy and Budget Stabilization," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Conference in Washington, DC. October 2013

Panelist at Conferences

"Public Investment in Infrastructure Systems across Cities," ASPA, Washington, DC. March 2025

"Sociopolitical Characteristics and Workforce Diversity in Police Agencies," ASPA, Washington, DC. March 2025

"Administrative Action and Housing Equity: The Case of Affordability Mandates," APPAM, Atlanta, GA. November 2023

"Land Dedications that Control Development," ASPA, Washington, DC. March 2023

"US Cities' Permitting or Restriction of Housing Development," APPAM, Washington, DC. November 2022

"Local Capacities for Water and Wastewater Systems," Public Management Research Conference, Phoenix, AZ. May 2022

"Local Capacities for Water and Wastewater Systems," Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 2022

"Cities' Regulation of Housing Development: Political and Economic Factors of Influence," Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 2022

"Annexation, Interlocal Cooperation, and Fiscal Capacity for Water and Wastewater Systems," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management. September 2021

"Infrastructure Investment in Municipal Government," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management. September 2021

- "Local Government Roles in Housing Access and Affordability," American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). April 2021
- "Conservation Financing by the Ballot Box," National Tax Association. November 2020
- "Open Space Conservation by Direct Democracy," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Denver, CO. November 2019
- "Ballot Measures for Land Conservation Finance," Southern Political Science Association, Austin, TX. January 2019
- "Institutional Capacity and Public Funding of Urban Parks," Southern Political Science Association, Austin, TX. January, 2019
- "Conservation Finance through the Ballot Box: An Event History Analysis," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Washington, DC. November 2018
- "Functional Responsibilities of Municipal Government in a State-Local System," *Deil S. Wright Symposium* at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Conference in Denver, CO. March 2018
- "Fiscal Capacity, Fiscal Disparities, and Their Impact on Local Government Services," American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Conference in Denver, CO. March 2018
- "Institutional Capacity and Police Services," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference in Chicago, IL. November 2017
- "Functional Responsibilities of Municipal Governments," Urban Affairs Association (UAA) Conference in Minneapolis, MN. April 2017
- "The Quality of Local Government in the United States: Evidence from Public Safety," Southern Political Science Association Conference in New Orleans, LA. January 2017
- "Income Inequality and Municipal Expenditure Differentials: Panel Data Evidence," Midwest Public Affairs Conference in Columbus, OH. June 2016
- "Case Studies in Face-to-Face and Hybrid Courses in Public Budgeting and Financial Management," Midwest Public Affairs Conference in Columbus, OH. June 2016
- "Adoption of Tax-Expenditure Limitations and Special District Formation," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Conference in Washington, DC. October 2015
- "Local Government Reorganization in the United States," Public Management Research Association (PMRA) Conference in Minneapolis, MN. June 2015

"Fiscal Institutions and Local Government Reorganization in the United States," National Tax Association (NTA) Conference in Santa Fe, NM. November 2014

"Institutional Factors of Debt Capacity in US Local Governments," National Tax Association (NTA) Conference in Santa Fe, NM. November 2014

"Fiscal Institutions and Local Government Reorganization in the US," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference in Albuquerque, NM. November 2014

"Institutional Factors of Debt Capacity in US Local Governments," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. October 2014

"Municipal Incorporation in the United States," American Political Science Association Conference in Washington, DC. August 2014

"Tax-Expenditure Limits and Infrastructure Finance," Western Social Science Association Conference in Albuquerque, NM. April 2014

"Institutional and Non-Institutional Explanations of Contracting-Out in Local Governments," Western Social Science Association Conference in Albuquerque, NM. April 2014

"Local Government Reorganization: An Analysis of New Municipalities, 1970-2000," Western Social Science Association Conference in Albuquerque, NM. April 2014

"Tax-Expenditure Limits and Special District Finance," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Conference in Washington, DC. October 2013

"Tax-Expenditure Limits and Infrastructure Finance in Fiscal Federalism," American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Conference in New Orleans, LA. March 2013

Invited Talks

"Functional Responsibilities of Municipal Governments," Florida State University Local Governance Lab Series, Fall 2017

"Levels of Inequality in Municipal Policing," SPA Speaker Series, Spring 2017

"Municipal Incorporations," Florida State University Local Governance Lab Series, Fall 2014

"Municipal Incorporations," UNM School of Public Administration, Spring 2013

Mentoring of Graduate Students

Professional Paper Chair for graduate student Rayanna Gracia, in progress

Professional Paper Chair for graduate student Frances Driscoll-Miller, in progress

Graduate Examination Committee for MPP student Marit Rogne, 2021

Professional Paper Chair for graduate student Benjamin A. Wild: "Analyzing the Impact on Public Funding Programs from the Influence of Outside Interest Group Spending in Albuquerque, Portland and Seattle Municipal Elections," 2019-2020

Mentor for PhD student Abraham Song, *George Mason University*, APPAM Mentorship Program, 2019

Mentor for PhD student Arthur Frazier, *Cleveland State University*, APPAM Mentorship Program, 2018

Thesis Chair for graduate student Felicity Fonseca: "Community and Economic Development Strategy for Dixon, NM," 2019 - 2020

Thesis Chair for graduate student Zlata Nourie: "Land Conservation Finance," 2018 - 2019

Thesis Chair for graduate student Vittoria Totaro: "Local Government Spending on Public Housing," 2017-2018

Professional Paper Chair for graduate student Eduardo Nunez: "Best Practices Recruiting Students Compared to the Practices of the UNM Global Education Office," 2014-2015

Directed Independent Study

"Funding Models for Municipal Policing," for graduate student Farah Anabtawi, 2017

"Funding Models for Urban Housing," for graduate student Myriam Doukoure, 2017

Service

Chair of MPA Program Committee, fall 2023 –

ASPA Awards Selection Committee, 2021 –

Faculty Search Committee for an Assistant Professor of Public Administration, 2022 (successfully resulting in the hiring of Dr. Adriana Molina)

MPA Program Coordinator (Interim), 2022

Advisor to the Public Administration Graduate Student Association, fall 2021 - 2022

MPP (Public Policy) Committee, spring 2019 - present

Chair of MPA Committee, spring 2019 – 2021. Major accomplishment: full re-accreditation of

the MPA program by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).

MPA Committee, fall 2015 - 2021

Faculty Search Committee for an Assistant Professor of Public Administration, 2019-2020 (successfully resulting in the hiring of Dr. Iseul Choi)

Senate Budget Committee, fall 2018 - spring 2019

Working Group Member for the Infrastructure and Development Group, LAII, 2017-2018

Senate Graduate and Professional Committee Member, fall 2013-spring 2015

Senate Committee Member for the UNM Dean's Dissertation Scholarship (for Best Prospectus), fall 2013-spring 2015

Senate Committee Member for the UNM Popejoy Dissertation Prize (for Best Dissertation), fall 2013-spring 2015

Reviewer for Graduate and Professional MPA Capstone Papers, fall 2013-present

Diversity Council Member, spring 2014-2015

Faculty Search Committee for an Assistant Professor of Public Administration, 2014-2015 (successfully resulting in the hiring of Dr. Shuyang Peng)

Working Group Member for a Master of Public Administration in Spanish, 2014-2015

Reviewer for the MPA Admissions Committee, fall 2013 - 2021

Additional Academic Recognitions

DeGuzman Award for the Best Ph.D. Research Paper, Askew School at Florida State University, 2012-2013

Pi Alpha Alpha, National Honor Society, NASPAA, 2008

Phi Kappa Phi, National Honor Society, 2008

Golden Key International Honor Society, 2007

The Catholic University of Ecuador Scholarship, 1997

Highest Academic Performance Award, The Catholic University of Ecuador, 1996

Teaching Experience

Administration of State and Local Government (graduate)
Public Budgeting (graduate)
Nonprofit Financial Management (graduate)
Public Financial Management (graduate)
Research Methods (graduate)
Public Finance and Budgeting (upper-division)
Economic Development and Sustainability (graduate)

Professional Memberships

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
American Political Science Association (APSA)
Southern Political Science Association
Urban Affairs Association (UAA)

Volunteering

USA Swimming Official, New Mexico