

## Using the Spatial Equity Data Tool API for More Efficient and Effective Equity Analysis

### Speaker Biographies

**Jonathan Cheung** is a Data Analyst at the Office of the City Administrative Officer in Los Angeles, he actively contributes to impactful data-driven solutions. Notably, Jonathan contributed to the development of a groundbreaking equity index for city-wide budget planning. Jonathan previously served as a Data Analyst in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office for the Eric Garcetti administration.

**Saira Gandhi** is a Senior Management Analyst at the City of Los Angeles. Saira has 15 years of experience working in the public sector and holds a Master's in Public Policy and a BA in International Development from UCLA. Saira started her career in the City as a 2013 Bohnett Fellow in the Office of Mayor Garcetti. Saira has worked in multiple departments within the City of Los Angeles and is an advocate for sustainability, equity, and good governance. Saira currently works in the Office of the City Administrative Officer in the Equity, Performance Management and Innovation team.

**Gabe Morrison** is a data scientist on the Technology and Data Science team at the Urban Institute. His work focuses on researching and building tools to address equity-related issues in cities and counties, often with spatial data. Morrison also helps manage and govern Urban's use of cloud computing resources. Before joining Urban full time, Morrison interned with the Cook County Assessor's Office, Urban's Data Science team, the University of Chicago's Center for Spatial Data Science, the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, the Metropolitan Planning Council, and Taller de José. Morrison holds a BA in geographical sciences and an MS in computational analysis and public policy from the University of Chicago.

**Sonia Torres Rodríguez** is a research associate in the Office of Race and Equity Research at the Urban Institute, where she is affiliated with the Racial Equity Analytics Lab and the Community Engagement Resource Center. She applies advanced quantitative and participatory research methods to study policies and programs advancing equity and inclusion, particularly in housing, neighborhood change, and automated decision making systems. Formerly, as a research analyst in Urban's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, she was an assistant manager of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, a network advancing the effective and equitable use of data and technology. Before joining Urban, Torres Rodríguez was a research fellow at the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, supporting a national ethnographic study of poverty and inequality in primarily Spanish-speaking Latinx and Black communities in the US. She holds a BA in mathematical economic analysis from Rice University and an MS in applied economics from Johns Hopkins University.

**Alena Stern** is the chief data scientist at the Urban Institute, leading Urban's data science team. She is also a member of the Racial Equity Analytics Lab within the Office of Race and Equity Research. Her research focuses on creating data science tools and informing policy solutions to advance equity and inclusion. Before joining Urban, she worked at AidData, the Sunlight Foundation, and the Center for Data Science and Public Policy, where she used machine learning, natural language processing, statistical analysis, and geospatial data to inform the design of government policies and international development programs. Stern holds a BA in economics and international relations from the College of William and Mary and an MS in computational analysis and public policy from the University of Chicago.