

Elham Pilegar

Chicago, IL elhamp2@uic.edu

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) – Chicago, IL Master of Science, Civic Analytics (MSCA) College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA)	2024
Tabriz Islamic Art University - Tabriz, Iran Master of Art, Urban Design	2016
Imam Khomeini International University (IKIU) - Qazvin, Iran Bachelor of Science, Urban Development Engineering	2013

SKILLS

Data & Research: Statistical Analysis · Exploratory Data Analysis · Regression Modeling · Program Evaluation · Spatial Analysis · Machine Learning
Technical Tools: R · Python · ArcGIS
Design & Graphics: Adobe Illustrator · Adobe Photoshop · Adobe InDesign · Google SketchUp
Other: Microsoft Office Suite

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Specialist

UIC Great Cities Institute – Chicago, IL	May 2024-Present
• Conduct econometric, spatial, and statistical analyses. • Develop study designs and analytical models, and apply causal inference methods for research projects and program evaluations. • Lead data collection, cleaning, and analysis for major research projects. • Produce static and interactive maps and graphs using R (sf, tmap, ggplot2), ArcGIS. • Develop interactive dashboards using R and Shiny, including dynamic data visualizations, maps, and graphs for end users. • Train and mentor students and research assistants on research design, data analysis, and visualization. • Design publication layouts using Adobe InDesign and Photoshop.	

James J. Stukel Fellow

UIC Great Cities Institute – Chicago, IL	2023-2024
• Assisted project teams with data collection, cleaning, and tabulation. • Created detailed demographic maps using R. • Improved project presentations by developing clear and effective data visualizations for policy audiences.	

Researcher and Urban Designer

Abdasht Consulting Engineers Co. – Tehran, Iran 2017-2021

- Conducted spatial and urban research to support planning projects.
- Evaluated land use and public spaces for development plans.
- Developed policies promoting community well-being and sustainability.

Armanshahr Consulting Engineers – Tehran, Iran 2016-2017

- Developed policies promoting community well-being and sustainability.
- Prepared technical documents for planning and design teams.

Teaching Assistant

**At Islamic Azad University, South Tehran Branch,
Department of Architecture and Urbanism.** 2016

- Taught students how to use ArcGIS, InDesign, Photoshop, and SketchUp for design projects.
- Evaluated and graded students work for Urban Design Studio 2 and 3.

PROJECTS & PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

- Evaluating the Implementation and Impact of We Rise Together 2025
- Youth Employment Data Brief: Racial and Geographic Inequities in Youth and Young Adult Joblessness and Disconnection, 2019–2023 2025
- Movement and Development of Latino/a/x Communities Across Chicago, 1850–2023 2025
- Fuerza Mexicana: The Past, Present, and Power of Mexicans in Chicagoland 2024
- Raíces Report 2024 – Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation 2024

PUBLICATIONS

- Wilson, Matthew D., **Elham Pilegar**, Ahmed Rachid El-Khattabi, Sofia Dermisi. “Real-Estate Speculation and the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago.” *Urban Affairs Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10780874261442184> 2026
- Wilson, Matthew D, and **Elham Pilegar**. “Making Green Rent Gaps: Housing Price Impacts of the 606/Bloomingdale Trail in Chicago.” *Cities: The International Journal of Urban Policy and Planning*. Revise and resubmit decision

IN PREPARATION

- Lopez-Garcia, David, Matthew D. Wilson, Nooshin Javidi, Kabir Jain, **Elham Pilegar**, Revecca Perelman. “Who Benefits from Job Accessibility? Explaining Joint Patterns of Commute Burden and Income in Chicagoland.”
- Lopez-Garcia, David, Matthew D. Wilson, Kabir Jain, Maximiliano Man, Nooshin Javidi, **Elham Pilegar**. “Review of methods for the identification of employment subcenters and their application in the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area.”
- El-Khatbabi, Ahmed-Rachid, Nora Schwaller, Matthew D. Wilson, **Elham Pilegar**, T. William Lester. “The Commercial Economic Impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.”

WORKING PAPERS

- Lopez-Garcia, David, Matthew D. Wilson, Kabir Jain, Maximiliano Man, Nooshin Javidi, **Elham Pilegar**. 2024. "Review of methods for the identification of employment subcenters and their application in the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area." <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5805302>

CERTIFICATIONS

Creating Maps with R , LinkedIn Learning	2023
Building Data Apps with R and Shiny , LinkedIn Learning	2023
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Professional Certificate Online Courses at https://www.coursera.org/ University of California, Davis	2021
Training Certification of Arc GIS , National Cartographic Center	2012