
ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



Tonantzin Carmona

Tonantzin Carmona is a David M. Rubenstein Fellow at Brookings Metro. Throughout her professional career, she has designed and implemented inclusive and equitable public policy solutions to meet the needs of historically disinvested communities. Her research interests include racial equity, wealth and inequality, public finance, and civic technology.

Carmona's most recent scholarship at Brookings has focused on the risks and drawbacks of cryptocurrencies, particularly for Black and Latinx communities seeking to access financial services or build wealth.

Additionally, through cutting-edge research, policy frameworks, and solutions, Carmona aims to reshape policy conversations around Latinx wealth in the United States.

Carmona has been cited in Bloomberg Tax, Quartz, Tech Crunch, Tech Monitor, StateScoop, Route Fifty, and City & State New York. Carmona has also appeared on NPR Marketplace's "Make Me Smart" podcast, and she has been published in *Bloomberg* and *Crain's Chicago Business*.

Prior to her work at Brookings, Carmona's professional background spanned roles in public policy, communications, community outreach, politics, and philanthropy. Previously, Carmona spearheaded citywide and intergovernmental policy initiatives when she served as the Chief of Policy for the Chicago City Clerk and as the Director of the Office of New Americans at the City of Chicago Mayor's Office. As Chief of Policy, Carmona led the Chicago Fines, Fees & Access Collaborative, which culminated in significant reforms of the City's regressive public finance policies. She launched Chicago's municipal ID card, which simultaneously serves as a transit and library card, and she led the creation of several immigrant integration policies in Chicago, including the city's first language access ordinance. Carmona also championed federal policies through her work as the Illinois Political Director for the 2020 presidential campaign of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and as Senator Warren's Deputy Press Secretary on Capitol Hill.

Carmona holds an M.P.A from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. in political science from Northwestern University.

Cryptocurrencies & U.S. Communities of Color

Keynote Address | Thursday, April 13, 2023 | 12:30 p.m. CDT

Student Center Ballroom | Live Broadcast available at <https://go.tamtu.edu/carmona>

In this presentation, Carmona will examine a recent trend that involves communities of color and high adoption rates of cryptocurrencies and possible reasons for why these communities might be drawn to cryptocurrencies. A brief overview of cryptocurrency and financial inclusion narratives will follow, as well as a discussion of the potential risks and downsides of cryptocurrency for communities of color. The presentation will culminate with a discussion of how cryptocurrencies relate to the concept of "predatory inclusion."
