

Carolina Vélez-Grau, PhD, LCSW

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Current Position: Provost's Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow
New York University Silver School of Social Work
McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Adolescent mental health with an emphasis on suicide prevention, engagement in services and Latinx youth. Intervention/Implementation of mental health services. Qualitative, quantitative, community-based participatory research methods.

EDUCATION

PhD	Columbia University, School of Social Work Concentration: Advanced Practice and Research Dissertation Title: Social connectedness, self-esteem, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts among Latina/o adolescents in the United States	May 2019
MSW	Columbia University, School of Social Work, NY, NY Advanced Clinical	May 2006
Psicóloga	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Facultad de Psicología, U.S. Educational equivalent: Combined B.S. and M.S. in Psychology	December 1993

LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, LCSW for practice in the State of New York (License #077588)

EXPERIENCE

Research

2019-present	Provost's Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow New York University, Silver School of Social Work
2018-2019	Fellow Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health Puerto Rico Inter-professional Education (IPE) & Service Learning (SL) Pilot Fellowship Program

- 2016-2019 **Graduate Research Assistant**
Columbia Global Health Research Center for Central Asia, Columbia School of Social Work
- 2016-2017 **Principal Investigator**
Adolescents' experiences receiving mental health services: A photovoice project.
Columbia School of Social Work, Seminar in Community Based Participatory Research
- 2015-2016 **Graduate Research Assistant**
Columbia University School of Social Work
- 2014-2015 **Research Assistant**
New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University Medical Center. Child Day Unit (CDU).
- 2001-2002 **Research Assistant**
State University of New York Stony Brook. Narrative attachment assessment

Teaching

- Spring 2019 **Instructor**
Social Support in Health and Mental health: Strengthening social networks for relationship-building and healing
Graduate Students, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- Summer 2017, 2018 **Lecturer/Trainer**
Qualitative analysis using NVivo. Undergraduate and graduate students, Columbia University Global Health Research Center of Central Asia
- Spring 2018 **Teaching Assistant & Course Co-developer**
Advanced Clinical Practice: Social Support in Health and Mental Health: Strengthening social networks for relationship building and healing.
Graduate students, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- 2012-2015 **Instructor/consultation team**
Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital

Practice in the United States

- 2018-2018 **Consultant**
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). Division of Family and Child Health and the Division of Mental Hygiene. Mexican Coalition. Project: Latino Toxic Stress Project/Amiga Confidente

- 2010-2015 **Senior Social Worker, LCSW/Program Leader**
Home Based Crisis Intervention Program, Child Psychiatry Department
Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-
Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center
- 2011 **Clinical Interviewer**
DSM-5 Child and Adolescent Field Trials. New York State Psychiatric
Institute/Columbia University Medical Center
- 2006-2010 **Social Worker, LMSW**
Home Based Crisis Intervention Program, Child Psychiatry Department
Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian/
Columbia University Medical Center
- 2005-2005 **Psychotherapist**
Brooklyn Center for Psychotherapy. Brooklyn, NY.
- 2002-2004 **Family Support Specialist**
September 11 Recovery Program. American Red Cross.

Academic Service and Administrative Leadership

- 2017-present University of Michigan School of Social Work/Columbia University School of Social
Work, Member of the Collaborative Community Board for the Impact of provider-level
collaboration and referrals across HIV services in New York Project
- 2015-2019 Columbia University Human Rights Initiative Physicians for Human Rights, Asylum
Evaluator
- 2017-2018 Read Ahead & Columbia University, Mentor
- 2014-2015 Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC)/New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH),
Suicide Task Force
- 2013-2015 CUMC/NYPH, Child Psychiatry Department, Recruitment and Retention Committee
- 2013-2015 CUMC/NYPH, Child Psychiatry Department, Risk Management Committee
- 2010-2011 CUMC/NYPH, Social Work Department, Bereavement Committee

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Stefancic, A., Cabassa, L. (2018). Keeping the peer in peer specialist when implementing evidence-based interventions: Lessons from the field. *Health & Social Work Journal*.
2. Mergenova, G., El-Bassel, N., McCrimmon, T., Terlikbayeva, A., Primbetova, S., Riedel, M., Kuskulov, A., **Vélez-Grau, C.**, & Witte, S.S. (2018). Project Nova: Microfinance and HIV prevention intervention for women who engage in sex work and use drugs in Kazakhstan. *AIDS and Behavior*. doi.org/10.1007/s10461-018-2268-1

3. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, (2018) Using Photovoice to examine adolescents' experiences receiving mental health services in the United States. *Health Promotion International Journal*. 1-9. doi.org/10.1093/heapro/day043.
4. Cabassa, L., Camacho, D., **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Stefancic, A. (2017) Peer-based health interventions for people with serious mental illness: A systematic literature review. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*. 84, 80-89. doi: 84. 80e89

Book Reviews

1. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, (2016). Book Review "Theories of Suicide". An Accessible Guide for Understanding the Future of Suicide Research and Prevention. *The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*. doi: 10.1027/0227-5910/a000424

Manuscripts Under Review

1. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, El-Bassel, N., McCrimmon, T., Terlikbayeva A., Primbetova S., Mergenova, G., & Witte S. "I never hoped for anything... now I have other plans": The role of microfinance in HIV intervention for women who use drugs and engage in sex work in Kazakhstan. (ISW).

Manuscripts In progress

1. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Prakash Gorroochurn, Madelyn Gould. The role of social connectedness and self-esteem in suicidal ideation among Latina/o adolescents living in the United States
2. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, The role of social connectedness and self-esteem in the transition from suicidal ideation to attempts among Latina/o adolescents living in the United States
3. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Prema Filipone, Lyla Yang, Susan Witte. Risk and protective factors associated with suicidal ideation among women who engage in sex work and have history of drug use in Kazakhstan
4. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Guzman, J. Urey, C., Amiga Confidente: A pilot tele-support intervention for Latino/a immigrants
5. Eilenberg, M., Marti, Y., **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Marksohn, E., Angevin, E., Lukens, E. A brief psychoeducation intervention for parents of adolescents with OCD

PRESENTATIONS

Witte, S., **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Bhattacharya, A., Camacho, D. (2018, May). *Promoting the Implementation of Participatory Research Methods: Including Photovoice in Social Work Doctoral Curricula*. Panel presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Rego, A., Sevlever, M., Farahmand, P., Cortijo, G., **Vélez-Grau, C.** (2018, May). *Addressing the Social Determinants of Mental Health and Mental Health Disparities*. In D. Leung (Chair). Panel presented at the American Psychiatric Association Annual Conference, New York City, NY

Vélez-Grau, C., Wang, Y. Levin, K., Gauer Bemudez, L. (2017, January) *Environmental Determinants of Early Literacy: Do Food Security and Neighborhood Safety Influence Reading Scores at Kindergarten Entry?* Poster presented at the Society for Social Work Research 21st Annual Conference, New Orleans, LO

Invited National and International Presentations

Valle, Y., **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Kirby K. (2015, April). *Adolescent Suicide Prevention in the Primary Care Setting*. Invited presentation at the Dominican Medical Association XIII Medical Symposium, NY, NY

Vélez-Grau, C. (2018, March). *Aculturación y su impacto en la salud mental de los latinos que viven en los E.U.* Simposio de migración. Invited symposium conducted at the Universidad Centroamericana, Managua, Nicaragua

Vélez-Grau, C. (2017, December). *Suicidio en adolescentes Latinos que viven en los Estados Unidos: Lo que los padres necesitan saber (Suicide among Latino adolescents in U.S.: What parents need to know)*. Invited presentation for the Mexican Coalition, New York, NY

Montoya, YS., & **Vélez-Grau, C.** (2016, October). *El Impacto de la Violencia: Hacia una realización*. Invited presentation for the Colombian Consulate in New York City, New York, NY

Vélez-Grau, C. (2015, April). *Suicidio en Adolescentes Latinos: Una guía para padres (Suicide among Latino adolescents: A guide for parents)*. Invited presentation for Latino parents, George Washington High School, New York, NY

Vélez-Grau, C. (2014, October). *Salud mental en los Adolescentes Latinos: Factores de Riesgo y Protección (Adolescents' Mental Health: Risk and Protective factors)*. City University of New York & Mexican Coalition, New York, NY

Vélez-Grau, C. (2014, March). *Youth, Mental Health and Suicide Risk: What we know about Latina Adolescents*. Panel presented for The City of New York Community Board 12 Manhattan's Youth and Education Committee, New York, NY

Invited Presentations and Trainings

2018 **Guest lecturer**, El Impacto de la migración y la aculturación en la salud mental de los Latinos que viven en la Ciudad de Nueva York (The impact of migration and acculturation on the mental health of Latinos living in New York City). Undergraduate students, Department of Psychology, Universidad Centroamericana, Managua, Nicaragua

2018 **Guest Lecturer**, Photovoice as Qualitative Tool. Community Pediatrics Resident Program, Columbia University Medical Center

2018 **Guest Lecturer**, Photovoice project: Lessons from my experience, Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). PhD Graduate students, School of Social Work, Columbia University

- 2018 **Guest Lecturer**, Adolescent Suicide in the U.S., Advance Clinical Practice. Graduate students, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- 2017 **Guest Lecturer**, Photovoice as a method of CBPR, Advanced Generalist Practice and Programming. Graduate students, School of Social Work, Columbia University

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2017 & 2018 Doctoral Travel Grant, Columbia University
2017 Fellowship for Career Development, Yale Ciencia Academy, New Haven, CT
2015 Provost's Diversity Fellowship, Columbia University

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES

National Association of Social Work, Member
Society for Social Work and Research, Member
Ciencia Puerto Rico, Member

Languages Spanish (Native)