

Carolina Vélez-Grau, Ph.D., LCSW

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EDUCATION

PhD	Columbia University, School of Social Work, NY, NY	October 2019
MSW	Columbia University, School of Social Work, NY, NY Advanced Clinical	May 2006
Psicóloga	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Facultad de Psicología, Bogotá, Colombia 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)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022-Present	Assistant Professor, Boston College School of Social Work
2019-2022	Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow , McSilver institute for Poverty Policy and Research, Silver School of Social Work, New York University.

HONORS RECEIVED

2022-Present	Fellow, CHIPS (Child Intervention, Prevention, and Services) Research Training Institute. NIMH Division of Services and Intervention Research (DSIR)
2019	Speaker, Representative of the Doctoral Graduates, Graduation Ceremony Columbia University School of Social Work
2018-2019	Fellow, Puerto Rico Interprofessional-Education and Service Learning pilot Program, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
2017 & 2018	Scholar, Doctoral Travel Grant, Columbia University
2017	Fellow, Career Development, Yale Ciencia Academy, New Haven, CT
2015	Scholar, Provost's Diversity Fellowship, Columbia University

RESEARCH

CURRENT RESEARCH

- 2020-2022 **Principal Investigator.** *Understanding interpersonal factors, mechanisms of engagement in treatment and suicidal ideation among Black and Latinx youth with and without depression.* National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Diversity supplement. (Co-PIs: Lindsey, Mufson; \$91,532)
- 2020-2021 **Principal Investigator.** *Exploring the meaning that Latinx and Black adolescents ascribe to social connectedness and burdensomeness: A qualitative Study.* Dean's Upstream Seed Funds, NYU Silver School of Social Work. (\$15,000)
- 2020-2022 **Consultant.** *Engaging adolescents and their families in Telemental Health Services.* Funded by Columbia University Private Donors. (PI: Mufson)
- 2019-2022 **Postdoctoral Fellow.** *Engaging Black Youth in Depression and Suicide Prevention Treatment within Urban Schools: A Preliminary Study.* (PI: Lindsey, Co-I: Mufson; \$695,526)

PRIOR RESEARCH

- 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*
- 2016-2019 **Graduate Research Assistant.** *Evaluating a Microfinance Intervention for High Risk Women in Kazakhstan,* National Institute on Drug Abuse R01 (MPI: Witte and El-Bassel, \$3,926,082)
- 2016-2019 **Research Assistant.** *Interagency Collaboration to Implement Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBIs),* National Institute of Mental Health R01 (PI: Pinto, \$3,817,543)
- 2015-2016 **Graduate Research Assistant.** *Peer-led Healthy Lifestyle Program in Supportive Housing.* National Institute of Mental Health R01 (PI: Cabassa, \$3,354,903)
- 2011 **Clinical Interviewer.** DSM-5 Child and Adolescent Field Trials New York State New York Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University Medical Center

CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010-2015 **Senior Social Worker, LCSW, Program Director**
Home Based Crisis Intervention Program, Child Psychiatry Department
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian/ 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 **Psychotherapist**
Brooklyn Center for Psychotherapy. Brooklyn, NY.

2002-2004

Family Support Specialist

September 11 Recovery Program. American Red Cross.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Vélez-Grau, C., & Lindsey, M. A. (2022). Do connectedness and self-esteem play a role in the transition to future suicide attempts among Latina and Latino youth with suicide ideation?. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 106553.

Vélez-Grau, C. Romanelli, M., Lindsey, M.A. (2022). Adolescent suicide attempts in the United States: When suicidal thoughts and suicide capability interact. *Suicide & Life-Threatening Behaviors*.

Vélez-Grau, C., El-Bassel, N., McCrimmon, T., Chang, M., Terlikbayeva, A., Primbetova, S., Mergenova, G., Witte, S.S. (2021). Suicidal ideation among women who engage in sex work and have a history of drug use in Kazakhstan. *Mental Health & Prevention Journal*, 23, 200208.

Yang, L. Witte, S.S., **Vélez-Grau, C.,** McCrimmon, T., Terlikbayeva, A., Mergenova, G., Primbetova, S., El-Bassel, N. (2021). The financial lives and capabilities of women engaged in sex work and drug use in Kazakhstan: How can paradoxical autonomy inform intervention strategies? *Global Journal of Health Science*, 13(6), pp.1-69.

Vargas, L., **Vélez-Grau, C.,** Camacho, D., Richmond, T. S., & Meisel, Z. F. (2021). The permeating effects of violence on health services and health in Mexico. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 0886260521990832.

Xiao, Y., Romanelli, M., **Vélez-Grau, C.,** & Lindsey, M. A. (2021). Unpacking racial/ethnic differences in the associations between neighborhood disadvantage and academic achievement: Mediation of future orientation and moderation of parental support. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 50(1), 103-125.

Vélez-Grau, C., El-Bassel, N., McCrimmon, T., Terlikbayeva, A., Primbetova, S., Mergenova, G., ... & Witte, S. S. (2020). '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. *International Social Work*, 0020872820917737.

Mergenova, G., El-Bassel, N., McCrimmon, T., Terlikbayeva, A., Primbetova, S., Riedel, M., Kuskulov, A., **Vélez-Grau, C.** & Witte, S. S. (2019). Project Nova: a combination HIV prevention and microfinance intervention for women who engage in sex work and use drugs in Kazakhstan. *AIDS and Behavior*, 23(1), 1-14.

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*, 44(1), 57-60.

Vélez-Grau, C., (2018) Using Photovoice to examine adolescents' experiences receiving mental health services in the United States. *Health Promotion International*, 34(5), 912-920. doi.org/10.1093/heapro/day043.

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 CHAPTERS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Duarté-Vélez, Y., **Vélez-Grau, C.**, & Álvarez, K. (2021). Psychosocial Treatments for Ethnoculturally Diverse Youth with Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors. *Handbook of Youth Suicide Prevention*, 315-347.

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*.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Vélez-Grau, C., Magan, I.M., Gwadz, M. (revise and resubmit). The burden of not belonging: A qualitative study of the applicability of the interpersonal theory of suicide constructs of belongingness and burdensomeness to ethnocultural minoritized youth

Vélez-Grau, C., Mufson, L., Buelvas, K., Lindsey M.A. (under review). Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the family relationships and the lives of Latinas and Latinos in the United States: A qualitative study.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Interpersonal factors, mental health stigma and help-seeking behaviors among depressed and non-depressed ethnocultural minoritized youth. (Vélez-Grau, lead author)

COVID-19 impact on the Latinx Community living in the South Bronx: Creating an Agenda for Social Workers to Address Health Disparities. (Vélez-Grau, lead author)

Research with Immigrant and Refugee youth: Lessons learned from two qualitative studies in the era of COVID-19. (Magan, lead author)

Factores precipitantes del intento suicida en los jóvenes estudiantes de medicina en Bogotá, Colombia: Estudio Cualitativo (Barrios, lead author).

TEACHING

Spring 2022

Instructor

Clinical Practice with Families (MSWEL-GS.2086)
Graduate students (2nd year) NYU Silver School of Social Work

Spring 2021

Instructor

Clinical Practice with Families (MSWEL-GS.2086)
Graduate students (2nd year) NYU Silver School of Social Work

Fall 2020

Instructor

Social Work Practice III (MSWAC-GS.2002)
Graduate students (1st year) NYU Silver School of Social Work

- Spring 2020 **Instructor**
 Clinical Practice with Families (MSWEL-GS.2086)
 Graduate students (2nd year) NYU Silver School of Social Work
- 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
- 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

GUEST LECTURES

- Spring, 2022 Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR). Photovoice Project
 Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Columbia University
- Spring, 2021 Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
 Doctoral Program, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- Fall, 2020 Social Support in Social Work Practice: Field placement seminar (co-lead with Dr. Susan Witte) School of Social Work, Columbia University
- Fall 2020 Social Work Practice with individuals and families
 School of Social Work University of Washington
- Fall 2019 Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
 Doctoral Program, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- 2018 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 Photovoice as a tool to understand the needs of your clients. Community Pediatrics Resident Program, Medical Students, Columbia University Medical Center
- 2018 Photovoice project: Lessons from my experience, Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). Doctoral Program, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- 2018 Adolescent Suicide in the U.S., Advance Clinical Practice. Graduate students, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- 2017 Photovoice as a method of CBPR, Advanced Generalist Practice and Programming. Graduate students, School of Social Work, Columbia University

PRESENTATIONS, SYMPOSIUMS, AND LECTURES

- Vélez-Grau, C** (2022, June). Belonginess and burdensomenes through the eyes of ethnocultural minoritized youth. Youth Suicide Research Consortium. Third National Virtual Conference.
- Vélez-Grau, C** (2022, April). Adolescent Suicide: Risk and protective factors and what to do. Youth Advocacy Center. Virtual Workshop.
- Vélez-Grau, C** (2022, March). Sociocultural aspects of theoretical constructs associated with suicide ideation among Latinx and Black youth. Social Work Education Program. New York Presbyterian Hospital. Virtual Conference.
- Vélez-Grau, C & Lindsey, M.A.** (2022, January). The child suicide crisis: What is the impact on family and community. Essential Chats with Mit. NASW. NASW Facebook Live.
- Duarte-Vélez, Y., **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Jimenez-Colon (2022, January). Socio-cultural context and evidence-based treatment for Latinx youth with suicidal behaviors. National Multicultural Conference & Summit. Virtual Conference.
- Vélez-Grau, C** (2021, September). *Back to School Anxiety Panel: NYPCC Café*. New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center. New York, NY. Virtual Presentation
- Vélez-Grau, C** (2021, August). *Re-opening Schools amid COVID-19: What we need to know to support Latinx and Black youth*. Lang Youth Medical Program. New York, NY. Virtual Presentation
- Vélez-Grau, C** (2021, July). *Adolescent suicide: Risk, protective factors and what to do*. Boys Club of New York. New York, NY. Virtual Presentation
- Padilla-Medina, D., **Vélez-Grau, C.** (2021, May) C. Help-Seeking Intentions and Behaviors Among Diverse Youth. Evidence Hour. Center for Victim Research. Virtual Presentation
- Vélez-Grau, C** (2020, November). *El suicidio en los adolescentes*. Medicine Residency. Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Virtual Presentation.
- Vargas, L., **Velez-Grau, C.**, Camacho, D., Richmond, T. S., & Meisel, Z. (2020, October). The permeating effects of community violence on health services and health in Mexico. In *APHA's 2020 VIRTUAL Annual Meeting and Expo (Oct. 24-28)*. American Public Health Association.
- Vélez-Grau, C & Montoya, YS.** (2020, October). *El impacto de COVID-19 on children and adolescents (The impact of covid-19 on children and adolescents)*. Colombian Consulate in New York City, New York, NY. Virtual Presentation.
- Vélez-Grau, C.** (2020, June). Cross-cultural supervision working with Latinx youth: Going beyond the office. Anti-Racist and Multicultural Practices in Clinical Supervision Annual Conference. New York University. Virtual presentation.
- Witte, S.S. **Vélez-Grau, C.** (2020, May). Staying close from a distance: Strengthening social support amid COVID-19. Columbia University. Virtual presentation.

- Kramer, C., Camacho, D, Batthacharya, A. **Vélez-Grau, C.**, Cosgrove, D. (2020). Navigating an Integrated Personal and Scholarly Identity: Experiences of Participatory Action Research Scholars of Color Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). Washington D.C.
- Vélez-Grau, C.** & Gould, M. (October 2019). Social connectedness and self-esteem among Latino/a adolescents in the U.S. International Summit on Suicide Research. Miami, FL.
- Vélez-Grau, C.** (March, 2019). The role of social connectedness and self-esteem on suicidal ideation among Latina and Latino adolescents. The New York Academy of Medicine
- Vélez-Grau, C.**, El-Bassel, N., McCrimmon, T., Terlikbayeva A., Primbetova S., Mergenova, G., & Witte (2019). "I Never Hope 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. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). San Francisco, California.
- 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.** (2018, March). *Aculturación y su impacto en la salud mental de los latinos que viven en los E.U. (Accultuation and its impact on the mental health of Latinos living in the United States)*. Simposio de migración. Invited symposium conducted at the Universidad Centroamericana, Managua, Nicaragua
- 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
- 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 United States: 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 (The impact of Violence: A new realization)*. Invited presentation for the Colombian Consulate in New York City, New York, NY
- 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.** (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

SOCIAL MEDIA

RadioTV Española. Pandemia en la gran ciudad.

<https://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/en-portada/pandemia-covid-bronx-nyc-iztapalapa-mexico-leganes-madrid/5664510/>

15 minutos. Un tabu que destruye vidas mas alla de la muerte: el suicidio

<https://www.15minutos.com/especiales/un-tabu-que-destruye-vidas-mas-alla-de-la-muerte-el-suicidio/>

15 minutos. Del dicho al hecho. 8 mitos y realidades en torno del suicidio

<https://www.15minutos.com/actualidad/del-dicho-al-hecho-8-mitos-y-realidades-en-torno-al-suicidio/>

City and State NY. *Why New York has such low rate gun death.*

<https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/opinion/commentary/why-new-york-has-such-low-rate-gun-death.html>

STUDENT MENTORING

2020-2022	Mentor (2 MSW students and 1 Public Health student) New York University
2020-2021	Field Work Instructor (1 MSW student and 1 public health student) McSilver Institute
2017, 2018	Trainer in qualitative analysis using NVivo. Undergraduate and graduate students, Columbia University Global Health Research Center of Central Asia
2010-2015	Instructor and mentor (Psychologist and psychiatry residents) Dialectical Behavior Therapy Consultation Team. Community Intervention and Outreach. Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC)/New York Presbyterian Hospital

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

2015-2020	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	NYPH/CUMC, Child Psychiatry Department, Recruitment and Retention Committee
2013-2015	NYPH/CUMC, Child Psychiatry Department, Risk Management Committee
2010-2011	NYPH Social Work Department, Bereavement Committee

AD HOC MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Journal of Child and Family Studies

Journal of Medical Internet Research

International Journal of Social Work Welfare
BMC Women's Health
BMC Public Health

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES

Youth Suicide Research Consortium, Member
National Association of Social Work, Member
Society for Social Work and Research, Member
Ciencia Puerto Rico, Yale Ciencia Academy, Member

Languages Spanish (Native), English