

Thelma I. Vélez

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Teaching Associate

The Ohio State University, 2018-2020

Adjunct Faculty

Florida International University, 2014 - 2015

Agroecology Program Co-coordinator and Teaching Assistant

Florida International University, 2011- 2012

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Environment and Natural Resources-ABD Expected May 2021

The Ohio State University

Focal Areas: Agroecology in Puerto Rico; Food Sovereignty;
Food, Environment, and Climate Justice Movements;

Certificate(s): Course Design Institute; Inclusive Teaching

M.S. Environmental Studies, 2012

Florida International University

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture; Plant and Soil Science;
Carbon Sequestration; Biochar from Invasive Species

B.A. Sociology/Anthropology, 2010

Florida International University

Concentration: Sustainable Food Systems and Resource Conservation

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2019 Course Design Institute, *Ohio State University*
- 2019 Inclusive Teacher Training Workshop, *Ohio State University*
- 2018 Community-Based Participatory-Action Research, *Society for Study of Social Problems*
- 2018 Professional Development Certificate, *American Sociological Association*
- 2017 Center for Advancement of Teaching Training, *Ohio State University*
- 2015 Advancing Global Learning Foundations, *Florida International University*

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters:

Vélez, Thelma and Kerry Ard. 2019. Building an Edible City: Green Spaces in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. *Cities around the World: Struggles and Solutions to Urban Life*, Ed: Jing Luo. ABC-CLIO, Vol.2 pp 169-173.

Vélez, Thelma. 2018. Treehugger Farm: Sustainability Visions in Urban Agriculture. *Palgrave Handbook of Sustainability Case Studies and Practical Solutions*, Eds. Sandra Garren and Robert Brinkman, Palgrave MacMillan, Ch.22, pp 411-429.

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Vélez, Thelma. 2019. So you're 'Latina, Latina': Positionality and Reflexivity in Scholar-Activist Praxis. *Journal of Latin American Geography*, Vol.18 (3), 215-220.

Vélez, Thelma, Moonilall, N., Reed, S., Scinto L. J., Jayachandran, K. 2018. Impact of *Melalencra quinquenervia* biochar on *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. growth, soil nutrients, and microbial gas flux. *Journal of Environmental Quality*, 47(6), 1487-1495.

Ard, K., Colen, C., Becerra, M., **Vélez, T.** 2016. Two Mechanisms: The Role of Industrial Pollution Exposure and Social Capital in Explaining Racial Disparities in Self-Rated Health. *Intl. Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 13 (10), 1025-37.

Manuscripts Under-Review:

Vélez, Thelma. 2020. Puerto Rico's #JustRecovery: A Political Economic Analysis of Agrarian Change. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*. * Revise and Resubmit.

Arceno, M.A., Smiles, D., Smiles, Yotebieng, K., **Vélez, T.**, Wilson J.P., Mazumdar, A., McSweeney, K. 2020. Great Expectations: Ethics in Fieldwork. *Agitate!* Accepted.

In-preparation:

Vélez, T., Usher, K., Sweeney, G., Ryan-Simkins, K. Empowering the Community and Rooting the Economy through the Linden Worker-Owned Food Hub. *Submission Target: *Cultivating Food Justice*, April 2021.

Vélez, Thelma. Converging after the Storm: Agroecology for Climate Justice and Resilience in Puerto Rico. * Submission Target: *Social Problems*, Feb. 2021.

Book Reviews:

Vélez, Thelma. 2017. The changing politics of organic food in North America. Lisa F. Clark. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 34 (3), 781-782.

Technical reports:

Purchasing 40% Local and/or Sustainable Food by 2025: The Ohio State University Panel on Food Sustainability Final Report, Dec. 2018.

Purchase of Local and Sustainable Food by 2025: The Ohio State University Panel on Food Sustainability Progress Report, May 2017.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Collaborative Grants

2019 **InFACT Connect and Collaborate \$58,060**

One Linden Cooperative Community-University Partnership for Sustainable Food and Community Economic Development. Team: K. Usher (PI), K. Levine, J. Karetny, P. Williams, **T. Velez**, K. Ryan-Simkins, G. Sweeney, L. Ferguson, A. Latham.

2018 **Stinner Summit Award \$12,800 ***

Community Engagement and Listening Sessions: Linden Worker-Owned Business. Team: **T. Velez**, K. Usher, K. Ryan-Simkins, J. Karetny, A. Latham.

Individual Grants and Fellowships

2019	* Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Student Fellowship <i>Society for the Study of Social Problems</i>	\$15,000
2019	Diversity and Inclusion Career Development Grant <i>Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Ohio State University</i>	\$1,000
2019	Edward J. Ray Travel Grant <i>Council of Graduate Students, Ohio State University</i>	\$1,000
2018	Conference Travel Funding <i>School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University</i>	\$1,000
2018	Edward J. Ray Travel Award <i>Council of Graduate Students, Ohio State University</i>	\$1,000
2018	Energy and Environment Grant <i>Sustainability Institute, Ohio State University</i>	\$500
2018	Longaberger Scholarship <i>Special Scholarships Program, Ohio State University</i>	\$1,500
2017	Diversity and Inclusion Career Development Grant <i>Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Ohio State University</i>	\$500
2017	Longaberger Scholarship <i>Special Scholarships Program, Ohio State University</i>	\$1,500
2017	Conference Travel Funding <i>School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State</i>	\$1,000
2016	Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Scholarship <i>Special Scholarships Program, Ohio State University</i>	\$4,000
2016	* NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program <i>National Science Foundation</i>	\$142,000
2015	Graduate Enrichment Fellowship <i>The Graduate School, Ohio State University</i>	\$20,800
2014	* Caminos Fellowship <i>Texas A&M and U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>	\$1,800
2012	Graduate Study Grant <i>Earth and Environment, Florida International University</i>	\$5,000

GRANTS AND FUNDING continued

Individual Grants and Fellowships

2011	Graduate Research Fellowship <i>Agroecology Program, Florida International University</i>	\$42,000
2011	International Travel Grant <i>Agroecology Program, Florida International University</i>	\$3500
2010	International Science Education Grant <i>Earth and Environment, Florida International University</i>	\$3,500
2010	Undergraduate Research Grant <i>Earth and Environment, Florida International University</i>	\$1,000
2008	*Florida Bright Futures Scholarship <i>State of Florida</i> <i>* External Funding</i>	\$8,700
	Total Funding	\$327,160

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- 2018- pres. **Agroecology Research-Action Collective**- a collective of scholar-activists working on issues of farm justice, food justice, food sovereignty, and agroecology in North America. We strive to make research and science accessible to the general public and be a bridge between academic and non-academic organizations. <https://agroecologyresearchaction.org>
- 2018- pres. **One-Linden Cooperative Project**- a community-based project geared toward developing a cooperative, worker-owned food hub in a marginalized community in Columbus, Ohio, specifically for formerly incarcerated citizens. We seek to establish an alternative economic model and encourage sustainable and equitable community transformation. <https://onelindencooperative.weebly.com>
- 2017-2019 **Ohio Delegation on Food System Resilience and Equity**- a group of academics and community-based practitioners transforming the regional food-system to be more inclusive and equitable. Our most recent project entailed organizing a theme of justice and diversity within the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Annual Meeting. We collaborate on projects, regionally, to advance our goals.
- 2016-2018 **Institutional Procurement of Sustainable Food** - Ohio State University seeks to source 40% local and sustainable food by 2025. Our team, comprised of administration, faculty, and staff has been integral in defining local and sustainable, identifying current allocation, as well as identifying how to engage the community and regional producers.
- 2010-2012 **2nd Generation Biofuels: Transportation and Transformation in India** - this project was a collaboration between Florida International University-based researchers and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore extension which resulted in community-engaged research, policies for sustainable development, and the signing of an MOU between the two universities.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE** Ordered by level of responsibility***Adjunct Faculty/Instructor of Record***Florida International University, 2014-2015*

EVR 1001 Environmental Science and Sustainability (86 students) – science course covering: natural resources, ecosystem services, climate change, degradation, biodiversity loss, energy, air and water pollution, and solid waste management.
Fulfills physical science requirement for non-science majors.

EVR 1017 Global Environment and Society (44 students) – interdisciplinary course on ecological problems and solution in local and global context using active learning strategies, experiential engagement, and service-learning projects.
Fulfills Global Learning Foundations requirement.

Teaching Assistant*The Ohio State University, 2019*

ENR 3500 Community, Environment, and Development (64 students) - course on sustainable development exploring place-based approaches to environmental justice issues and conflict through role play.

RURL SOC 5540 Population, Place, and Environment course on demographic issues and related environmental issues, GIS, population change and migration in the context of disaster and resource based development.

Florida International University, 2011-2012

EVR 4272 Agroecology (25 students) - Facilitated and supervised field research projects for undergraduate and graduate students, created weekly inquiry-based assignments, and student-led discussions.

EVR 4274 Sustainable Agriculture (22 students) – Supervised adaptive-management field projects. Student progress based on innovation, demonstration of critical thinking skills, and engagement.

Guest Lecturer*The Ohio State University, 2017-2018*

ENR 2300 Society and Natural Resources

Topic: Mobilization for the Environment

COMM 2596 Health, Risk, and Science Communication

Topic: Communicating Climate Change

SPAN 2422 Intro to Latino Studies

Topic: Contesting Colonialism: Puerto Rico and the Caribbean

Florida International University, 2011-2012

BSC 5935 Advanced Plant Conservation Biology

Topic: Local Flora and Invasive Species Management at the FIU Nature Preserve.

EVR 1017 Global Environment and Society

Topic: Natural Resource Management and Global Food Production

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Organizer/Presider

- 2019 **Vélez, Thelma** and Marko Salvaggio. Organizer and Presider. Indigenous Movements. Society for the Study of Social Problems. New York, NY.
- 2019 Salvaggio, Marko and **Thelma Vélez**. Organizer. Environmental Activism. Society for the Study of Social Problems. New York, NY.

Presentations

- 2019 **Vélez, Thelma**. Toward Sustainable, Just Transformation: Agroecology and Climate Justice in Puerto Rico. Association of American Geographers. Washington, D.C.
- 2019 **Vélez, Thelma**. A Disaster as Catalyst for Mobilization: The Convergence of Climate Justice and Agroecology. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2019. New York, NY.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma**. Building Resilience. Climate Justice and Agroecology in Puerto Rico. University of New Mexico- Latin American and Iberian Institute, Social Transformation in Latin America's Changing Climate. Albuquerque, NM.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma**. Puerto Rico's Plight: Framing Collective Action for a Sustainable and Just Recovery. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2018. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma**. The Convergence of Climate, Environment, and Food Movements: Grassroots Mobilization of Frontline Communities post-Hurricane Maria. Society for the Study of Social Problems 2018 Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma**. Treehugger Organic Farm: Visions for a Sustainable Food System. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2018. Madison, WI.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma**. Growing Food Sovereignty. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2018. Madison, WI.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma**. Grassroots Mobilization on the Frontlines. American Environmental Studies Society 2018 Meeting. Washington D.C.
- 2017 **Vélez, Thelma**. The Wall: Not Another Brick in Our Food System. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2017. Pasadena, CA.
- 2017 **Vélez, Thelma**. Getting Sustainable and Just Food on Campus. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2017. Pasadena, CA
- 2016 **Vélez, Thelma** and Kerry Ard. Revitalizing Communities with Gardens: is it always rosy? 76th Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Toronto, Canada.
- 2012 **Vélez, T.**, Reed, S., and Jayachandran K.. Measuring the Impact of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* Biochar Application on Soil Quality, Microbial Gas Flux, and Plant Growth. Soil Science Society of America Annual Meeting. Cincinnati, OH,

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS continued

Presentations

- 2012 Bhat, M. G., S. Alvarez-Ventura, A. Jungman, **T. Vélez**, A. Zangari, K. Jayachandran and B. Gowda. Sustainable Bioenergy: Moving Beyond the Food-Fuel Controversy. Intl. Society of Ecological Economics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2012 Alvarez-Ventura,S., Bhat,M., Jayachandran,K., **Vélez, T.** Life Cycle Analysis of Biodiesels in India. 99th National Indian Science Congress, Bhuvanesar, India.
- 2011 **Vélez, Thelma.** Emerging Topics in Biofuels. International Conference on Biofuels, Miami, FL.
- 2011 **Vélez, Thelma.** The Biofuels Push: Land Management Strategies for Sustainable Community Development. FIU Agroecology Symposium, Miami, FL
- 2011 **Vélez, Thelma.** The Role of Co-Curricular Education in Enhancing Science Programs in Urban Universities. North American Colleges and Teachers in Agriculture, Alberta, CAN

INVITED ENGAGEMENTS

- 2020 Vélez, Thelma. Agroecological Mobilization in Puerto Rico: the Intersection of Research, Scholar Activism and Identity. University of South Dakota. Virtual Zoom.
- 2020 **Vélez, Thelma.** Moderator. Racial Reckoning in the Environment and Food System. Center for Ethics and Human Values. Virtual Zoom.
- 2019 Penn-Nabrit, Paula, Nabrit, Charles, and **Thelma Vélez.** Workshop Organizer and Facilitator. *Cross-Pollination Isn't Just for Plants: Diversity and Inclusion in Organic Food Systems.* Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association 2019 Conference. Dayton, OH.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma.** Moderator. Office of Diversity and Inclusion Undergraduate and Graduate Student Recruitment Initiative. Columbus, OH.
- 2018 **Vélez, Thelma.** Delegate for Ohio Workgroup. National Food Systems Resilience and Equity Workshop. Stanford University, CA.
- 2017 **Vélez, Thelma.** Presenter. *Mobilization, People, and the Environment.* Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education. Delaware, OH.
- 2011 **Vélez, Thelma.** Speaker. *Sustainability: Local Food Systems and the Role of Community Gardens.* Miami Dietetics Association Annual Meeting. Miami, FL.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Agriculture Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS)

Association of American Geographers (AAG)

Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

American Sociological Association (ASA)

COMMITTEES AND SERVICE

Academic

- 2018- pres. Session Organizer and Presider, *Society for the Study of Social Problems*
- 2017- pres. Reviewer, *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*
- 2012-2014 Reviewer, *North American Colleges and Teachers in Agriculture Journal*

University

- 2017- 2018 Food Sustainability Panel, *Voting Member, OSU*
- 2016-2017 Sustainability and Environment Committee, *Representative, OSU*
- 2016-2017 Council of Graduate Students, *Department Delegate, OSU*
- 2011-2012 University Sustainability Committee, *Student Member, FIU*

Departmental

- 2018- pres. Graduate Studies Committee, *Voting member, OSU*
- 2017 Faculty Search Committee, *Voting member, OSU*

ACCOLADES AND MERIT

- 2019 Racial and Ethnic Minority Graduate Student Fellowship Awardee
Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2016 Graduate Research Fellowship Program Awardee
National Science Foundation
- 2015 Graduate Enrichment Fellowship Awardee
Ohio State University, The Graduate School
- 2014 Career Prep Institute Graduate Fellow
Texas A&M and U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 2013 Outstanding Academic Achievement
Florida International University, College of Arts and Sciences
- 2012 Outstanding Mentorship and Service
Upward Bound, South Florida
- 2011 Outstanding Leadership and Service
Florida International University, Agroecology Program

REFERENCE LIST

Dr. Casey Hoy

Professor, Kellogg Endowed Chair in Agro-ecosystems Management Faculty
Director, Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT)
The Ohio State University
Email: Hoy.1@osu.edu
Phone: 330-263-3611

Dr. Kerry J. Ard

Associate Professor,
School of Environment and Natural Resources
The Ohio State University
Email: Ard.7@osu.edu
Phone: 614-292-2265

Dr. Mahadev Bhat

Professor
Co-Director Agroecology Program
Florida International University
Email: Bhatm@fiu.edu
Phone: 305-348-1210

Dr. Kendra McSweeney

Professor
Geography Department
The Ohio State University
Email: McSweeney.14@osu.edu