



Daritza Vélez Pérez, PhD

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

School Psychologist

Department of Education, Lares, Puerto Rico

2021 – present

Provide individual and group therapy for typical and neurotypical children and adolescents. Develop, implement, and evaluate treatment plans. Design and offer workshops for teachers and parents. Lead interdisciplinary team meetings.

Mental Health Professional

Mental Services Administration Health and Addiction, Puerto Rico

2020-2021

Provide initial psychological assessment and emotional support to individuals, groups, and families through home visits in communities affected by earthquakes and hurricanes. Implement recovery strategies according to the Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) model.

Intern Psychologist and Assistant Professor (paid internship)

Pontifical Bolivarian University, Bucaramanga, Colombia

2018-2019

Provide individual and family psychotherapy. Lead multidisciplinary interventions, case discussions, and reports. Prepare and deliver conferences and workshops. Teach graduate and undergraduate courses, conduct research, and mentor students. Assist in clinical interviews, outpatient orientation and scientific writing for the Txt4Heart Colombia Clinical Trial.

Instructor Assistant

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus

2019-2020

Collaborate with the instructor, and assist, advise and mentor college students in their research papers for the Applied Seminar in Research in Rehabilitation course.

Research Assistant

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus

Project: El suicidio en estudiantes universitarios: Miradas desde la docencia. [Suicide in University Students: Perceptions from College Professors].

2017-2018

Invite and offer orientation for research participants, co-facilitate focus groups, and perform qualitative data analysis. Collaborate in research reports and manuscripts.

Research Coordinator

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus

Project: Proyecto de Prevención de Suicidio en Jóvenes Universitarios: Un abordaje desde lo psicosocial [Suicide Prevention in Young University Students: A Psychosocial Approach]

2015-2017

Identify, assign tasks, and supervise student interns, conduct in-depth interviews and suicide risk assessments, and analyze qualitative and quantitative data. Collaborate and develop research proposals, protocols, presentations, national and international conferences, and scientific manuscripts.

Education

PhD. Clinical Psychology
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus
May 2020
Magna Cum Laude
Medalla Nilde Cordoliani [Award Medal]

B.A. Social Work
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus
May 2007
Summa Cum Laude

Languages

Proficient in Spanish (Native)
Speak, read, and write in English (Advance Level)

Additional Skills

Analytical and critical thinker
Cultural sensitivity and empathy
Active listener
Team player /Collaborative work
Highly motivated
Leadership skills (among others: accountable, committed, strong communication skills)
Qualitative (Atlas.ti) and Quantitative (SPSS) data analysis
Knowledgeable of diverse therapy models (CBT, ACT, and NET) and crisis intervention.

Publications

Vélez Pérez, D., Usuga, A. J., Mora Orejarena, L. M., Lozano León, S. G., Ingold-Medina, A., & Serrano Romero, G. M. (2022). Experiencias y significados del comportamiento suicida en universitarios de Colombia. *Revista De Psicología Universidad De Antioquia*, 13(1), 1–25.
<https://doi.org/10.17533/udea.rp.e343162>

Maldonado-Santiago, N., Rivera-Lugo, C., **Vélez-Pérez, D.**, & Velázquez-González, H. (2017). El suicidio y otros comportamientos autodestructivos en jóvenes universitarios: Estudio en tres recintos universitarios de tres ciudades de Puerto Rico In J. Carmona, D. Carmona, N. Maldonado, C. Rivera, O. Fernández, S. Cañón... S. Alvarado (Eds.), *El suicidio y otros comportamientos autodestructivos en jóvenes universitarios en Colombia y Puerto Rico: Acciones, interacciones y significados* (pp. 118-144). Manizales: Universidad de Manizales

Vélez-Pérez, D., Maldonado-Santiago, N., & Rivera-Lugo, C. (2017). Espectro del suicidio en jóvenes universitarios en Puerto Rico. *Revista Puertorriqueña de Psicología*, 28 (1), 34 -44.
<https://www.repsasppr.net/index.php/reps/article/view/301/303>

Velez, D. & Serrano-García, I. (2011). Opinión del Magisterio sobre el Trabajo Social en Puerto Rico. *Revista Análisis*, 12, 15-30.

Presentations

- Vélez Pérez, D.**, Velázquez González, H.J., Rivera Medinal, G.M., & Valencia Serrano, M.Y. (2021, november, 5-6). *Puerto Rico y Colombia: Acompañamiento virtual a la comunidad universitaria ante crisis sociopolítica* [Conference]. 68th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce, Puerto Rico.
- Mora Orejarena, L., Usuga Jerez, A., **Vélez Pérez, D.**, & Lemos Ramírez, N. (2019, November, 14-16). *Mami... Quiero que la gente me extrañe: Comportamiento suicida durante edades tempranas en estudiantes universitarios* [Poster]. 5th International Congress of Clinical and Health Psychology on Children and Adolescents, Oviedo, Spain.
- Vélez, D.**, Bueno, C.P., & Bock, C. (2019, November 8-9). *Terapia de Exposición Narrativa para Trastorno de Estrés Postraumático: Un estudio de caso* [Conference]. 66th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce, Puerto Rico.
- Lozano León, S., Usuga Jerez, A., **Vélez Pérez, D.**, & Lemos Ramirez, N. (2019, July 15-19). *Significaciones adscritas al comportamiento suicido en jóvenes universitarios de la Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana Seccional-Bucaramanga*. 37th Interamerican Congress of Psychology, Habana, Cuba.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nLYIVMF3iXH5S87TOEJPlnOtCF-aNWDq/view>
- Vélez, D.**, & Rivera, C. (2018, September 7-8). *El suicidio en Puerto Rico: Retos para el escenario universitario* [Invited Speaker]. Segunda Conferencia Avances en la Investigación y Acción con la Niñez y Juventud (CAIANJ), Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.
- Vélez, D.**, & Rivera, C. (2018, April 6). *Suicidio en Puerto Rico: Una mirada psicosocial*. [Conference] World Health Day Seminar, Pontifical Bolivarian University, Colombia
- Maldonado, N., Rivera, C., **Vélez, D.**, & Velázquez-González, H. (2017, July 23-27). *Comportamiento suicida y de riesgo en jóvenes universitarios* [Conference]. 36th Interamerican Congress of Psychology, Mérida, Mexico.
- Maldonado, N., Rivera, C., Jaramillo, J., Velázquez-González, H. & **Vélez, D.** (2017, July 23-27). *Prevención del suicidio en el escenario universitario: Investigación Colaborativa entre Puerto Rico y Colombia* [Conference]. 36th Interamerican Congress of Psychology, Mérida, Mexico.
- Justiniano, S., **Vélez, D.**, Maldonado, N. & Rivera, C. (2016, November 18-19). *Relaciones Vinculares e Intento Suicida: Voces Estudiantiles Universitarias* [Conference]. 63rd Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

References

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Carmen I. Rivera Lugo, MS., Retired Professor / Part-time Teacher, Pontifical University of Puerto Rico
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