

# Maria Ylcelis Rodriguez, MSW, PhD.

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## Education

*University of Washington*, PhD Social Welfare August 2016

**Dissertation:** Foreclosure Counseling with Hispanic Households: Policy Assumptions in a Changing Demographic Landscape

**Chairs:** Jennifer Romich, PhD & Lynne Manzo, PhD

*University of Pennsylvania*, MSW Macro Social Work Practice June 2010

*Alfred University*, B.A. Clinical Counseling and Child Psychology December 2005

## Honors and Awards

### Specialized Trainings and Certifications

Summer Institute in Computation Social Science [SICSS] (<https://compsocialscience.github.io/summer-institute/2017/>) Summer 2017

Center for the Study of Ecology and Demography (University of Washington) Demographic Methods Certificate June 2016

## Academic Appointments

*Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University*

Faculty Associate September 2019-August 2020

*Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College, City University of New York*

Assistant Professor 2016-present

*CUNY Institute for Demographic Research*

Faculty Affiliate 2016-present

*CUNY Graduate Center*

Doctoral Faculty January 2019-present

## Publications

*Peer-Reviewed Articles*

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** , DePanfilis, D. & Lanier, P. (In Press) Bridging the Gap: Social Work Insights for Ethical Algorithmic Decision-Making in Human Services. *IBM Journal of Research and Development*.

Lanier, P., **Rodriguez, M.**, Verbiest, S., Bryant, K., Guan, T., & Zolotor, A. (2019). Preventing Infant Maltreatment with Predictive Analytics: Applying Ethical Principles to Evidence-Based Child Welfare Policy. *Journal of Family Violence*, 1-13.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, & Storer, H. (2019). A computational social science perspective on qualitative data exploration: Using topic models for the descriptive analysis of social media data. *Journal of Technology in Human Services*, 1-32.

Storer, H. L., **Rodriguez, M.**, & Franklin, R. (2018). "Leaving Was a Process, Not an Event": The Lived Experience of Dating and Domestic Violence in 140 Characters. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, DOI:0886260518816325.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, Ostrow, L., & Kemp, S. P. (2016). Scaling Up Social Problems: Strategies for Solving Social Work's Grand Challenges. *Research on Social Work Practice*, DOI: 1049731516658352.

#### *Other Peer Reviewed Publications*

Shelton, J., & **Rodriguez, M.** (2019). Social media. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Social Work*. Oxford University Press. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199975839.013.1327>

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, De Candia, T. & Pree, L.. (2017, December) "Evaluating Predictive Algorithms for Racial Equity: A Case Study of the NYC Administration for Children's Services". White paper for the Workshop on Trustworthy Algorithmic Decision-Making, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA. URL: [link](#)

**Rodriguez, Maria Y.** (2014). "¿Podemos Darnos el Lujo del Sueño Americano? Can we afford the American Dream?" University of Minnesota: Hubert Project. Url: <http://www.hubertproject.org/hubert-material/354/>.

#### *Publications Under Review*

Storer, H.L. & **Rodriguez, M.** "The largest & most public discussion I've ever seen about domestic violence": Social Movements, Social Media, and Social Work (*Journal of Community Practice*)

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** The Effects of Immigration Status and Language Preference on Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Success: A Case Study (*Journal of Poverty*)

Wilson, A., Mahadevan, T., Villodas, M., **Rodriguez, M.Y.**, Billiard, A., & Cuddeback, G.. Tiny Homes are Huge for People with Mental Illnesses. (*Research on Social Work Practice*)

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** A Spatial Analysis of Foreclosure in Washington State: The Importance of Demographics in Understanding the Foreclosure Crisis. (*Demographic Research*)

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** Can We Afford the American Dream? The Social Construction of Homeowners during the 2007 Foreclosure Crisis.(*Journal of Community Practice*)

#### *Publications In Preparation*

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** Wei, K., Bates, G. Defining Social Problems: Understanding Public Response to #NoBanNoWall and #UniteTheRight.

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** & Albrecht, K. Foreclosure and Crime: The Effect of Data Distortions on Housing Decisions.

**Rodriguez, M.Y.**, Bates, G., Hoyos-Torres, S., & Lewis, M. Machine Learning: A New Hope for Causal Inference in Social Work Research?

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** Decisionmaking in Human Services: An experiment

**Rodriguez, M.Y.**. Investigating the impact of protective factors and alternative service outcomes in child welfare: Re-introducing Predictive Analytics to client strengths

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, & Shelton, J. Incorporating Digital Organizing Tools into the Macro Classroom

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, Bates, G., Hoyos-Torres, S., Storer, H., & Shelton, J. Community Organizing in the Digital Age: An Exploratory Analysis of the 2017 #WomensMarch using Deep Neural Networks (DNNs)

Bates, G., **Rodriguez, M.Y.**, Hoyos-Torres, S. Examining the Association of Hospital Proximity and Foreclosed Homes in Bronx County New York on Acute Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack) Hospital Visits

Storer, H.L. & **Rodriguez, M.** Intersectional narratives of IPV: Insights from #WhyIStayed and #WhyILeft

Shelton, J. & **Rodriguez, M. Y.**. #TrueColorsDay: Analyzing Social Media Participation in a Multi-Platform Advocacy Event

Bates, G., Hoyos-Torres, S., & **Rodriguez, M.Y.**. #Youknowme: Examining Digital Narratives In a Discussion of Abortion on Twitter.

Than, N., Yoong, D., Windel, F., & **Rodriguez, M.Y.**. What is the alt-right thinking?

### *Professional Reports*

**Rodriguez, M.Y.**(2015) WA State Foreclosures: Rates, Numbers, and Demographic Characteristics at the Zip Code Level, URL: [link](#). Produced for the Northwest Justice Project. Dissemination by HUD region IX.

**Rodriguez, M.Y.**(2015) WA State Foreclosures: Rates, Numbers, and Demographic Characteristics at the Neighborhood Level. Produced for the Northwest Justice Project.

## **Research and Training Grants**

### *Unfunded Research*

#### **NIH Score Grant (SC2)**

*Applied:* April 2017

*Project Title:* #BlackLivesMatter: Understanding the effects of structural racism on health and well-being using Twitter

*Application number:* 1 SC2 GM127229-01

*Abstract:* The proposed study seeks to examine discourses of relative deprivation, chronic stress, and stigma (Shaw, Dorling, & Smith, 2006; Brunner & Marmot, 2006; Link & Phelan, 1995) using the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag. Specifically, the study hones in on the SDOH pathway between the upstream factor of social environment and the downstream psychological factor (Brunner & Marmot, 2006) in the specific context of structural and interpersonal racism.

*Status:* Not Funded

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Pioneering Ideas** [web link](#)

*Applied:* October 2018

### **Principal Investigator**

*Project Title:* Ending Teen Dating Violence: Integrating Technology and Infrastructure to Realize a Culture of Health

*Application Number:* 77391

*Project Aims:*

1. To gather a national body of youth, TDV advocates, and social media experts, to examine the opportunities and challenges presented by social media to end teen dating violence.
2. To hold focus group dialogues across the three sectors above to collect broader perspectives on how social media may support teen relationship health.
3. To distill these dialogues into a guiding framework for TDV advocates, technologists, and researchers that facilitates building programs and algorithms to eliminate domestic TDV.

*Status:* Not Funded

### *Contracts*

#### **Co-Principal Investigator**

2017-2018

*Project Title:* Building capacity to use predictive analytic modeling to inform key child welfare decisions

*Funder* Administration for Children's Services (NYC).

*Role:* Support development of racial equity evaluative framework for predictive models

*Amount:* \$68,062

### *Training Grants*

#### **Co-PI**

Summer 2019

*Project Title* Preparing Community Organizing students for their Digital Soapbox

*Funder* The President's Initiative for Faculty Innovations in Teaching and Technology (Hunter College/CUNY)

*Role:* Revise syllabi for two of three courses in Community Organizing sequence

*Amount* \$5,000

## Site Organizer

Summer 2018, Summer 2019

*Project Title* Sumer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Partner Site.

*Funder* Russel Sage Foundation and The Sloane Foundation

*Role:* Organize and Host a partner insittue of the SICSS main site.

*Amount* \$30,000 total

## Teaching Experience

### Social Welfare Policy & Services (SW 701)

*Course Description:* Generalist intro course for all 1st year MSW students

Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018

### Community Organizing I (SW 741)

*Course Description:* Substantive intro course for 1st year community organizing students

Fall 2018

*Syllabus Re-Designed:* Fall 2018 semester

### Community Organizing II (SW 742)

*Course Description:* Substantive course for 1st year community organizing students

Fall 2017

*Syllabus Re-Designed:* Fall 2017 semester

## Dissertation Exam Committees

Gleneara Elizabeth Bates-Pappas, MSW Dissertation Adviser, Graduate Center, City University of New York  
Fall 2018- Present

## Presentations

### *Peer Reviewed Presentations*

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2019, January) "Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency: Decision-Making Algorithms and the Provision of Human Services". Paper Presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.

Shelton, J. & **Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2019, January) "#TrueColorsDay: Analyzing Social Media Participation in a Multi-Platform Advocacy Event". Paper Presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.,** & Shelton, J. (2018, November) "Incorporating Digital Organizing Tools into the Macro Classroom: A Hands-on Approach". Interactive Workshop at the Council for Social Work Education APM, Orlando, FL.

Chor, B., De Candia, T., DePanfilis, D., **Rodriguez, M.Y.**, Shrof, R., Weiner, D., & Yaroni, A. (2018, January) "Opening the Black Box: Ethically Responsible Use of Big Data". PreConference workshop at the Society for Social Work Research. Washington, D.C.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, Storer, H., Mienko, J. (2018, January) "The Perils and Promises of Unsupervised Machine Learning in Social Work Research: Comparing Human Coders to Computer-Led Topic Modeling". Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work Research, Washington D.C.

Storer, H., **Rodriguez, M. Y.**, & Bagneris, J. (2017, October) "#WhyIStayed: A Micro-Primer for Understanding the Barriers for Leaving Abusive Relationships". Paper presentation at the Council for Social Work Education APM, Dallas, TX.

**Rodriguez, M.Y.**(2017, April). "A Spatial Analysis of Foreclosure in Washington State: The Importance of Nativity in Understanding the Foreclosure Crisis". Poster presentation at the Population Association of America. Chicago, IL.

Storer-Smith, H.,**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, Mienko, J., & Franklin, R. (2017, January) "#WhyIStayed & #WhyILeft; Mapping the Landscape of a Social Movement". Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.

Baker-Castro, A. & **Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2015, November) From Epistemology to Public Policy: Checks and Balances on the Use of Big Data in Policy Analysis. Paper presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, Miami, FL

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2015, April) Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling in Low-Income Latino Communities: Household Trajectories in Seattle, WA. Paper presentation at the Urban Affairs Association Conference, Miami, FL.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**(2015, January) "The National Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007: Using Supervised Machine Learning to Test Policy Process Theory in a Social Welfare Context". Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**(2013, April) "The National Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007: Inter-coalitional Conflict and the use of Evidence in Federal Housing Policy Development". Poster presentation Translating Social Justice through Public Scholarship: Policy and Practice for Social Change Research Symposium, University of Washington School of Social Work Seattle, WA.

#### *Invited Presentations*

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2018, July). "A Computational Social Science Perspective on Qualitative Data Exploration: The Implications of Descriptive Text Analysis for Demographic Research". Paper presentation at Pew Research Center. Washington, D.C.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2018, May). "Topic Modeling for Qualitative Data Exploration: The Implications of Quantitative Text Analysis for Health Practitioners". Paper presentation at Weill Cornell Medicine Research Methodology Conference, Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluative Sciences Research. New York, NY.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2018, April). "A Computational Social Science Perspective on Qualitative Data Exploration: Using Topic Models for the Descriptive Analysis of Text". Paper presentation at the University of North Carolina's School of Social Work "Tate Talks" series. Chapel, Hill, NC.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.,** De Candia, T. & Pree, L. (2017, December). "Evaluating Predictive Algorithms for Racial Equity: A Case Study of the NYC Administration for Children's Services". Paper presentation at the Workshop on Trustworthy Algorithmic Decision-Making, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA. [Peer Reviewed]

Storer, H.L. & **Rodriguez, M.Y.** (2017, November). "'The most public discussion I have ever seen about Domestic Violence': The potential, limitations, and utility of Twitter data in Domestic Violence research". Tulane University's School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine's Research Seminar Series. New Orleans, LA.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**(2017, April). "Why Social Work Needs Big Data". Paper presentation at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice "Control Societies" speaker series. Philadelphia, PA. [link](#)

## Professional Experience

**Cultures of Resistance** *Web and Outreach Team*, (Philadelphia PA):

Coordinated volunteer opportunities with organizational network members, updated social justice-oriented film screenings on network website 2011 - 2013

**Training for Change** *Consultant*, (Philadelphia PA):

Developed and facilitated trainings/workshops with organizations and groups engaging in social justice through direct action and community organizing. Completed 200 hour Super-Training for Social Action Trainers 2010 - 2012

**Women's Community Revitalization Project** *Community Organizer*, (Philadelphia, PA): Engaged community residents in a grassroots campaign to convert vacant, city-owned land into an affordable community land trust in North Philadelphia, attended community meetings with elected officials, facilitated inter-organizational coalition building 2009 - 2011

**Episcopal Community Services** *Vocational Advantage Program Intern*, (Philadelphia PA):

Responsible for implementing grant-funded program utilizing vocational assessment measures and Cognitive Therapy techniques to facilitate gainful employment initiatives with homeless women. 2008 - 2009

**Bethesda Project (Our Brother's Place)** *Life Skills Counselor*, (Philadelphia PA): Provided ongoing case management for 10-20 men in large, urban homeless shelter for single men. 2007-2009

## Service to Academic Institutions

*University Service*

*School Service*

*Chair*, Faculty Development Committee, Silberman School of Social Work 2017-2018

*Member*, COPD Committee, Silberman School of Social Work 2016-present

*Member*, Policy Faculty Committee, Silberman School of Social Work 2016-present

*Silberman Representative*, NYC Latino Social Work Coalition 2016-2017

## **Professional and Civic Activities**

<i>Editorial Board Member, Journal of Community Practice</i>	2018-present
<i>Editorial Board Member, Journal of Technology in Human Services</i>	2019-present
<i>Editorial Board Member, Journal of Policy Practice and Research</i>	2019-present
<i>Ad Hoc Reviewer, Housing Policy Debate</i>	2017-present
<i>Ad Hoc Reviewer, Journal of the Society for Social Work Research</i>	2017-present
<i>Ad Hoc Reviewer, Journal of Community Practice</i>	2015-present
<i>President, Board of Directors, Casino Free Philadelphia</i>	2011-2012
<i>Member, Organizing and Advocacy Committee, Casino Free Philadelphia</i>	2010-2011

## **Professional Affiliations**

<i>CUNY Institute for Demographic Research-Faculty Affiliate</i>	2016-present
<i>Population Association of America</i>	2016-present
<i>Association for Public Policy and Management</i>	2015-present
<i>Urban Affairs Association</i>	2015-present
<i>Society for Social Work and Research</i>	2015-present
<i>Association for Community Organization and Social Administration</i>	2014-present