

# THELMA I. VELEZ

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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Environment & Natural Resources (Expected 2020) Ohio State University  
*Areas: environmental sociology, social movements, food and climate justice*  
Dissertation: Mobilization and Activism for Sustainable Futures: Identities, Values, and Claims of Justice.
- M.S. Environmental Studies (2012) Florida International University  
*Areas: agroecology, carbon sequestration, resource conservation*  
Thesis: Impact of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* Biochar Application on Plant Growth, Soil Nutrients, and Microbial Gas Flux.
- B.A. Sociology (2010) Florida International University  
*Areas: environmental science, post-consumerism, resource degradation*  
Capstone: World-System Theory and Ecological Citizenship: Valuing Natural Resources, Repositioning the World

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles:

- Velez, Thelma. 2018. *Grassroots Mobilization for Puerto Rico's #JustRecovery: Understanding the Historical, Socio-Political Context of Disenfranchisement*. Sustainability.\*Submission target - January 2019.
- Velez, Thelma, Moonilall, Nall, Reed, Stewart, Scinto Leonard J., Jayachandran, Krishnaswamy. 2018. *Impact of Melaleuca quinquenervia biochar on Phaseolus vulgaris L. growth, soil nutrients, and microbial gas flux*. Journal of Environmental Quality. November Issue.
- Ard, K., Colen, C., Becerra, M., Velez, T. 2016. *Two Mechanisms: The Role of Social Capital and Industrial Pollution Exposure in Explaining Racial Disparities in Self-Rated Health*. Intl. Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 13,10:1025-37.

### Chapters:

- Velez, Thelma and Kerry Ard. 2018. *Green Spaces in Rotterdam, the Netherlands*. Cities around the World: Struggles and Solutions to Urban Life. ABC-CLIO. In Press.
- Velez, Thelma. 2018. *Treebugger Organic Farm: Sustainability Visions in Urban Agriculture* (Chapter 22). Palgrave Handbook of Sustainability Case Studies, eds. Sandra Garren and Robert Brinkman. Palgrave MacMillan.

### Technical reports:

- Snyder, Brian et al. 2018. Purchasing 40% Local and/or Sustainable Food by 2025: The Ohio State University Panel on Food Sustainability Final Report, December, 2018
- Hoy, Casey, et al. 2017. Purchase of Local and Sustainable Food by 2025: The Ohio State University Panel on Food Sustainability Progress Report, May 2017.

### Book Review:

- Velez, Thelma. 2017. The changing politics of organic food in North America. Author: Lisa F. Clark. Agriculture and Human Values. Feb. 2017.

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Adjunct Faculty - Florida International University, 2014-2015

*Developed courses with traditional lectures, weekly student-led discussions, collaborative projects, immediate feedback quiz assessments, and service learning requirements.*

EVR 1017 Global Environment and Society (36 students) - curriculum evaluates the relationship between humans and ecological systems within local and global perspectives utilizing both natural and social sciences.

EVR 1001 Environmental Science and Sustainability (90 students) - scientific study of the environment, topics: natural resources, ecosystem services, habitat degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, energy, air and water pollution, and solid waste management. Fulfills physical science requirement for non-science majors.

Teaching Assistant - Florida International University, 2011-2012

*Taught and supervised field and lab component for two courses*

EVR 4272 Agroecology (25 students) - Facilitated and supervised outdoor field research for undergraduate and graduate students, created weekly assignments, workshops, and led discussions.

EVR 4274 Sustainable Agriculture (22 students) – Supervised adaptive-management field projects: student progress based on innovation, commitment to project success, and attendance.

Research Assistant - Florida International University, 2010- 2011

Coordinated agroecology program projects, managed organic garden and nursery, supervised soil and plant lab activity, advised undergraduates, coordinated three symposia, and developed educational workshops for high-school science teachers.

## FUNDING

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### External:

2018 Stinner Award co-PI \$10,000

2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to date \$102,000

2016 Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Scholarship \$4,000

2014 Texas A&M AAHHE Travel Fellowship \$1,800

2010 National Science and Math Grant \$2,000

### Internal:

2018 SENR Conference Travel Funding \$1,000

2018 Ray Travel Award \$1,000

2018 Office of Energy and Environment Grant \$500

2018 Longaberger Grant \$1,500

2017 Diversity and Inclusion Career Development Grant \$500

2017 Longaberger Grant \$1,500

2017 SENR Conference Travel Funding \$1,000

2015 Graduate Enrichment Fellowship \$20,800

2012 FIU Master's Research Fellowship (USDA funded) \$42,000

2011 FIU Graduate Study Grant \$5,000

2011 FIU International Travel Grant \$350

2010 FIU International Science Education Grant \$3,500

2010 FIU Undergraduate Research Grant \$1,000

2003-2008 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship \$8,700

## CONFERENCES

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- Velez, Thelma. *Climate Justice and Agroecology in Puerto Rico: A Disaster as Catalyst for Counter Hegemonic Mobilization*. UNM-LAII Agricultural Transformation in Latin America's Changing Climate. Albuquerque, NM, November 2018.
- Velez, Thelma. *Puerto Rico's Plight: Framing Collective Action for a Sustainable and Just Recovery*. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2018. Philadelphia, PA, August 2018
- Velez, Thelma. *The Convergence of Climate, Environment, and Food Movements: Grassroots Mobilization for Puerto Rico's #JustRecovery post Hurricane Maria*. Society for the Study of Social Problems 2018 Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, August 2018
- Velez, Thelma. *Treebugger Organic Farm: Visions for a Sustainable Food System*. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2018. Madison, WI. June 2018
- Velez, Thelma. *Growing Food Sovereignty: Mobilizing post-Hurricane Maria*. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2018. Madison, WI. June 2018
- Velez, Thelma. *Grassroots Mobilization for a #JustRecovery*. American Environmental Studies Society 2018 Meeting. Washington DC, June 2018
- Velez, Thelma. *The Wall: Not Another Brick in Our Food System*. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2017. Pasadena, CA June 2017.
- Velez, Thelma. Roundtable Panelist. *Getting Sustainable and Just Food on Campus*. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Meeting 2017. Pasadena, CA June 2017.
- Velez, Thelma. *Institutional Procurement of Sustainable and Local Food from Somewhere*. American Association of Geographers 2017 Annual Meeting, Boston, MA April 2017.
- Velez, Thelma and Kerry Ard. *Revitalizing Communities with Gardens: is it always rosy?* 76th Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. August 2016. Toronto, Canada \*Accepted, could not attend.
- Velez, Thelma. *Green Thumbs, Green Spaces, and Green Gentrification*. Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Joint Meeting 2016. Toronto, Canada. \*Accepted, could not attend.
- Velez, T., Reed, S., and Jayachandran K. *Measuring the Impact of Melaleuca quinquenerivra Biochar Application on Soil Quality, Microbial Gas Flux, and Plant Growth*. Soil Science Society of America International Annual Meeting. Cincinnati, OH, Oct 2012.
- Bhat, M. G., S. Alvarez-Ventura, A. Jungman, T. Velez, A. Zangari, K. Jayachandran and B. Gowda. *Sustainable Bioenergy: Moving Beyond the Food-Fuel Controversy*. International Society of Ecological Economics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. June 2012.
- Velez, Thelma I. *Emerging Topics in Biofuels*. International Biofuels Conference, Miami, FL. May 2011.
- Velez, Thelma I. *The Biofuels Push: Land Management Strategies for Sustainable Community Development*. FIU Agroecology Symposium 2011 Miami, FL, Feb. 2011.
- Alvarez-Ventura, S., Bhat, M.G., Jayachandran, K. and Velez, T. *Life Cycle Analysis of Biodiesels in India*. 99th National Indian Science Congress, Bhuvanesar, India. January 2012.
- Velez, Thelma I. *The Role of Co-Curricular Education in Enhancing Agriculture Science Programs in Urban Universities*. North American Colleges and Teachers in Agriculture 2011 Conference, Alberta, Canada. July 2011.
- Velez, Thelma I. FIU. *Resource Conservation through Rain Water Harvesting*. Agroecology Symposium 2010, Miami, FL. March 2010.

INVITED TALKS

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- Velez, Thelma, Paula Penn-Nabrit. Workshop Organizers/Facilitators. *Cross-Pollination: It isn't Just for Plants*. Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association 2019 Conference. Dayton, OH, February 2019.
- Velez, Thelma. Moderator. Office of Diversity and Inclusion Graduate and Professional Student Recruitment Initiative. Columbus, OH, October 2018.
- Velez, Thelma. Delegate for Ohio Workgroup. National Food Systems Resilience and Equity Workshop. Stanford University, CA, May 2018.
- Velez, Thelma. Presenter/Panelist. *Mobilization, People, and the Environment*. Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education. Delaware, OH. October 2017.
- Velez, Thelma. Panelist. Professional and Graduate School in the Environmental Field. Environment and Natural Resources Career Day. Columbus, OH. October 2017
- Velez, Thelma. Guest Lecture. *Local Flora and Invasive Species Management at the FIU Nature Preserve*. Advanced Plant Conservation Biology. Miami, FL. March 2012.
- Velez, Thelma I. Speaker. *Sustainability: Local Food Systems and the Role of Community Gardens*. Miami Dietetics Association Annual Meeting. Miami, FL. October 2011.
- Velez, Thelma I. Guest Lecture. *Natural Resource Management and Global Food Production*. Global Environment and Society, FIU Class. Miami, FL. April 2011.

SERVICE

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Academic

- 2017-present Journal of Food, Agriculture, and Community Development, Reviewer  
2012 North American Colleges and Teachers in Agriculture Journal, Reviewer

University

- 2017-present Ohio State University Food Sustainability Panel 40% by 2025  
2017 OSU Faculty Search Committee- PhD student representative  
2016-2017 OSU Sustainability and Environment Committee  
2016-2017 OSU Council of Graduate Students Delegate  
2011-2012 FIU Office of University Sustainability Committee

ACCOLADES

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- 2016 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Awardee  
2014 USDA, Texas A&M Career Prep Institute Graduate Fellow  
2013 FIU- Arts and Sciences, Outstanding Academic Achievement  
2011 FIU- Arts and Sciences, Outstanding Academic Achievement,  
2011 FIU, Agroecology Program. Outstanding Leadership and Service  
2011 USFS, Chief Forest Scholar Program

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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- 2018 SSSP 2018 Community-Based Participatory Action Research  
2018 ASA 2018 Professional Development Certificate  
2017 OSU University Center for Advancement of Teaching Training  
2015 FIU Workshop on Advancing Global Learning Foundations

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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Fairchild Challenge 2014 - Coordinated, planned, and facilitated a 6-week FIU Agroecology internship program for 11 high school students selected by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Served as a teacher, mentor, and advisor to students.

Upward Bound Scholars Program 2011 and 2012 - Developed week-long summer workshops and educated over 100 high school and middle school students on the ecology of S. Florida and the importance of environmental sustainability for two Summer of Service events at the FIU Nature Preserve.

Fairchild Challenge 2011- Developed and taught an 8-week biofuel course at FIU for 12 high school interns selected by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.