

**MELISSA COLÓN**  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 2018      Ph.D., Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development,  
Tufts University, Medford, MA  
*Title: We are Beautiful People: A Multi-Method Examination of the Schooling  
Experiences of Puerto Rican School-Aged Mothers*
- 2013      M.P.P, Urban & Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University
- 1999      B.A., Secondary Education and History, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2012-      **Research Analyst**, Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research  
*Project:* Essentials for Childhood, Department of Public Health Massachusetts (DPHM)  
& Center for Disease Control (CDC) [Currently serve as an evaluator in multi-method  
implementation and impact evaluation of a CDC funded statewide child abuse and  
neglect prevention incentive.]  
*Other Projects:* Massachusetts Healthy Families Evaluation—Phase 2, Children’s Trust  
of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative, DPHM  
[Worked with Principal Investigators on mixed-method cross-site longitudinal  
randomized control evaluation and implementation studies that examine the  
programmatic and operational activities and outcomes of home visiting programs.  
Methods: Social Network Analysis (SNA), survey research, and qualitative approaches]
- 2017      **Principal Investigator**, Youth Build Providence  
*Project:* Examining the Core: Educational and Engagement Outcomes of Rhode  
Island’s Males of Color
- 2017      **Doctoral Research Fellow**, Tufts’ Women and Girls of Color Research Initiative  
*Project:* Testimonio Inquiry Analysis: The Schooling Experiences of School-Age  
Puerto Rican Mothers
- 2017      **Doctoral Research Assistant**, Sociology Department, Tufts University  
*Project:* Prof. Clergé’s Black Millennials: Cultural Belonging among Middle-Class  
Youth (Six Month Project, Qualitative Data Management and Coding)

- 2016      **Doctoral Research Internship**, Office of the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps, Boston Public Schools  
*Project:* Indicators for School Level Culturally Proficient and Sustaining Policies and Practices in Boston Public Schools (Two Semester Internship)
- 2016      **Qualitative Research Associate**, Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Brown University  
*Project:* Educational Equity for Black and Latino Males
- 2012-2016      **Research Associate**, University of Massachusetts Medical School/Gastón Institute  
*Project:* Evaluating the Effectiveness of A Spanish Media Campaign to Promote Puerto Rican Mother-Child Communication about Sexuality and Sexual Health Protection  
*Project:* CRUZA: The Alliance for Latino Health through Faith and Action
- 2012      **Graduate Research Assistant**, America's Promise, Tufts University  
*Project:* Youth Systems Study

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

### Tufts University

- Fall 2018, 2017      **Instructor**, Doing Feminist Research  
 Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Tufts University
- Summer 2018, 2017      **Instructor**, Human Development in Cultural Contexts (Graduate Course)  
 College of Education and Human Development, University of Massachusetts-Boston
- Spring 2018      **Instructor**, Qualitative and Ethnographic Methods in Applied Social Science Research (Graduate Course)  
 Cross Listed: Child Study and Human Development and Diversity and Inclusion Leadership, Tufts University
- Spring 2016      **Teaching Fellow**, Critical Race Theory: Issues in Urban Education  
 Education Department, Tufts University
- Spring 2016      **Teaching Assistant**, Seminar in Current Sociology: Youth Of Color  
 Sociology, Tufts
- Fall 2015      **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Child Development  
 Child Study Human Development, Tufts University
- 1999-2001      **Middle and High School Teacher**, Humanities, Boston Public Schools
- Summer 1998, 2001      **Literacy and Language Teacher**, St. George's College (Kingston, Jamaica)

## RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2006-2011      **Associate Director**, Gastón Institute, University of Massachusetts-Boston

Senior Operations manager for a department with over 15 affiliated faculty and principal investigators, an administrative staff, and graduate and undergraduate interns. Responsibilities included strategic and financial management, fundraising and grant writing, community and media relations, report writing, research management and dissemination, and employee and student evaluations. Represented the Institute and its Director in University-wide and off-campus committees, as well as well as the directed the Institutes programs, including a Speakers' Series, the bi-annual statewide policy conference, policy dialogues, undergraduate student programs, and other special programs. Provided leadership in the development of the Institute's research agenda, working with Principal Investigators and research teams on research translation and dissemination plans.

- 2002-2006 **Executive Director**, The Massachusetts Education Initiative for Latino Students  
Responsible for the day to day management of a statewide nonprofit education advocacy organization, including five city-wide coalitions, statewide initiatives, special events, and parent/teacher trainings. Enhanced programmatic efficiency by establishing operational benchmarks, fundraising initiatives, and strategic planning. Created and implemented communication, education, and marketing plans that kept partners engaged in local, statewide, and national education events, publications, and legislative initiatives. Published community fact sheets on the state of Latino Achievement in Massachusetts. Built collaborative relationships with local and national organizations, schools, elected officials, government, and media. Recruited, hired, and trained staff, interns, and volunteers.
- 2001-2002 **College Bound Coordinator**, National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
Located in Washington DC, NCLR, now known as UnidosUS, is the largest Latino civil rights organization. Worked with NCLR affiliates, nationwide, including community college and HSI to improve their capacity to create, fund, and successfully operate linguistically and culturally appropriate college preparation programs. Designed professional development and training opportunities for high school teachers and community-based educators, as well as researched and disseminated relevant college information, opportunities, and best practices. Served as the liaison between affiliate TRIO projects and federal policy initiatives and coordinated the Esteban E. Torres Fellowship, a fellowship for Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government

## **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2017 Eliot-Pearson Doctoral Research Practice Integration Award (April 2017)
- 2016 Tufts Graduate Student Research Competition Grant Awardee (March 2017)
- 2016 Women and Girls of Color Research Initiatives Fellow, Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President, Tufts University
- 2015 Graduate Research Excellence at Tufts (GREAT) Fellow (Summer 2015)
- 2011 Yoel Camayd-Freixas Education Leadership Award (September 2011)
- 2011 Neighborhood Fellow, Tufts University
- 2011 El Planeta PowerMeter Award (100 Most Influential Hispanics in Massachusetts)  
2010 Most Influential Puerto Ricans of Massachusetts, Puerto Rican Festival Committee
- 2005 City of Chelsea Stakeholder of the Year (May 2005)
- 1999 Massachusetts New Teacher Institute (MINT) Fellow, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

1998 Archbishop Oscar Romero Scholar, Boston College

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Beardino, M., & Colón, M., Examining the Core: Educational and Engagement Outcomes of Rhode Island's Males of Color (2017). Youth Build Providence
- Colón, M., and Del Razo J. "Black and Brown at Bruin High School." *Opportunity, Equity, Outcomes and Excellent Public Schools for Black and Latino Males in Boston*. (2015) The Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Brown University.
- Colón, M., & Flannery Aguilar A. *Entre Nosotros: Información para familias sobre los Estudiantes Latinos de Massachusetts*. (2011) Gastón Institute Publications.
- Gastic, B., Colón, M., and Flannery Aguilar A. *The State of Latino Educational Outcomes in Massachusetts: 2010*. (2010) Gastón Institute Publications, Paper 160.
- Goldberg, J., Colón, M., Greenstone, J., Mingo, M., (2016) *Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative Integrated Evaluation Report: TIER Community Study*
- Goldberg, J., Winestone, J. G., Fauth, R., Colón, M., & Mingo, M. V. (2018). Getting to the warm hand-off: A study of home visitor referral activities. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 1-11.
- Granberry, P., Torres M.I, Allison J., Rosal M., Colón, M., Rustan S., Fontes M., and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center Research Team. (2015). "Developing Research and Community Literacies to Recruit Latino Researchers and Practitioners to Address Health Disparities." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 1-7.
- Tung, R., Carlo, V. D., Colón, M., Del Razo, J. L., Diamond, J. B., Raynor, A. F., & Rose, A. S. (2015). *Promising Practices and Unfinished Business: Fostering Equity and Excellence for Black and Latino Males*. The Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Brown University

*In progress*

- Colón, M., *De tal palo tal astilla: Puerto Rican School-Aged Mothers Testimonios of (Un)Belonging, Resistance, and Reimagination*
- Colón, M., and N Zaika. *Building Ties: Connecting Adolescent Parents to Service Networks*
- Goldberg, J., Marshall, J., Colón, M., Ramakrishnan, R., & Joseph, P. *Creating the Groundwork for a Multi-State Evaluation of MIECHV's Role within Community Systems of Care: A Literature Review* ["Manuscript under review"]

## SELECTED TALKS PRESENTATIONS

- "De tal palo tal astilla: Puerto Rican School-Aged Mothers Testimonios of (Un)Belonging, Resistance, and Reimagination." Puerto Rican Studies Association Biannual Conference (New Brunswick, NJ) October 2018
- "Challenges and Opportunities of Case-Study Design in Schools." Guest Speaker at Case Studies Qualitative Methods Course (Graduate School of Education -Harvard University, Cambridge, MA), April 2018.
- "Disappearing Girls and Women: Disciplinary Practices of the Education State." National Women's Studies Association (Baltimore, MA), November 2018.
- "Testimonios Boricuas: Diasporic Responses in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria." Graduate School of Education and Human Development Forum (Boston University, Boston, MA), November 2017.
- "Diasporic Responses in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria." Diversity Forum, (Lesley University, Cambridge, MA) October 2017.
- "Testimonio Inquiry Analysis." Guest Speaker, Resilience Graduate Seminar (Tufts University, Medford, MA), October 2017.
- Moderator, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, Beyond the Classroom Forum, (Tufts University) April 2017.

- "She Fought to Stay: Institutional Barriers and the Schooling Experiences of Young Puerto Rican Mothers." American Education Research Association (AERA) (San Antonio, Texas), April 2017.
- "Bruin High: Behind the Curtain of Case Study Designs." Guest Speaker at Qualitative Methods Course, Graduate School of Education (Harvard University), March 2017.
- "Closing the opportunity gap for Black and Latino males: Tools and resources for Anti-Racist, Culturally Sustaining Practices." National Conference for the Coalition of Essential Schools (Providence, Rhode Island), December 2016.
- "Tangled Webs: Using Social Network Analysis to Examine MIECHV Embeddedness in Existing Systems of Care." National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs (Washington, DC), November 2016.
- "She fought to stay: Policy Barriers to Schooling for Young Puerto Rican Mothers." American Education Studies Association (Seattle, Washington), November 2016.
- "Making Black Lives Matter through Policy and Planning." Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning Fall Colloquium (Tufts University), October 2016.
- "Flash Talk: Critical Learning Spaces for Latino Male Academic Engagement." Society for Child Development Special Topics Meeting (Tampa, Florida), October 2016.
- Poster Presentation:* "Building Ties: Connecting Adolescent Parents to Service Networks." Society for Research on Adolescence (Baltimore, MA) April 2016.
- "Analyzing Enrollment, Outcomes, and Excellent Schools for Black and Latino Male Students in the Boston Public Schools." AERA (Chicago, IL), April 2015.
- "Por Ahí Dicen: Transcending Power Relationships through Culturally Responsive Practices in a Public Health Research Project." Diversity Challenge Conference, Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA), October 2013.
- "Massachusetts Latino Students & Postsecondary Education." College Participatory Advisory Group, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (Worcester, MA) May 2013.
- "Not Present, No Accounted For: School Suspensions in Worcester Public Schools." Latino Education Institute (Worcester State University, Worcester, MA), May 2013.
- "Understanding the Research and Policy Gap." Community Research Program (Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA) October 2012, November 2010.
- "If not now, when? State House Briefing Educational and Engagement Outcomes Latino Students Enrolled in Massachusetts Public Schools." Massachusetts State House (Boston, MA) January 2011.
- "Understanding the Research and Policy Gap." Inter-University Program for Latino Research, Summer Institute for Latino Public Policy (George Washington University, Washington, D.C.), June 2010.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE at TUFTS UNIVERSITY**

- 2018-2019     *Member*, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Advisory Committee
- 2016-2017     *Graduate Student Advisor*, Latino Center
- 2015            *Research Mentor*, Undergraduate Scholars Program
- 2014-2016     *Co-Chair*, Graduate Women of Color Forum
- 2014-2015     *Co-Chair*, Students with Families Group

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- American Education Studies Association
- American Education Research Association
- Puerto Rican Studies Association
- Society for Research in Child Development