

Thelma I. Vélez, PhD

Abbreviated Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Environment and Natural Resources, 2021

The Ohio State University

Focal Areas: Climate and Food Justice; Climate Resilience; Agroecology

M.S. Environmental Studies, 2012

Florida International University

Focal Areas: Carbon Sequestration; Biochar; Agroecology; Soil Science

B.A. Sociology/Anthropology, 2010

Florida International University

Focal Areas: Sustainable Food Systems; Resource Conservation

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Research and Education Program Manager, 2021- present

Organic Farming Research Foundation

Project Management Assistant, 2020-2021

The Ohio State University, Ohio Sustainable Agriculture Education Network

Adjunct Faculty, 2014-2015

Florida International University, Dept. of Earth and Environment

Agroecology Program Co-coordinator, 2011-2012

Florida International University, Agroecology Program

PUBLICATIONS

Vélez, Thelma. The Intersection of Climate Justice and Agroecology in Puerto Rico post Hurricane Maria. *Climate Justice in the Majority World*. Eds. C. Neil and M. Mikulewicz. Routledge. Forthcoming-Fall 2022.

Synder, L., Schonbeck, M., **Vélez, T.** 2022 National Organic Research Agenda: Outcomes and Recommendations from the 2020 National Organic Survey and Listening Sessions. Organic Farming Research Foundation. <https://ofrf.org/research/nora/>

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

 PUBLICATIONS cont.

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

 CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Organizer/Presider

- 2022 **Vélez, Thelma.** Organic Agriculture Research Forum at EcoFarm. Remote.
Sessions: 1. Controlling Spotted Wing Drosophila Organically
 2. Soil Health on Organic Farms in the Central Coast
 3. Farmer to Farmer Panel on Soil Health
 4. 2022 National Organic Research Agenda
- 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

- 2022 **Vélez, Thelma.** 2022 National Organic Research Agenda: Understanding Grower Needs and Challenges across the U.S. <https://eorganic.org/node/35366>
- 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.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS cont.

- 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.** 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,

INVITED ENGAGEMENTS

- 2022 **Vélez, Thelma.** 2022 National Organic Research Agenda: Challenges and Findings of Organic Growers across North America. Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association. Remote, Ohio.
- 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 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 the Ohio Working Group. National Food Systems Resilience and Equity Workshop. Stanford University, CA.

TEACHING ENGAGEMENTS

Adjunct Faculty/Instructor of Record

Florida International University

EVR 1001 Environmental Science and Sustainability - 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 - interdisciplinary course on ecological problems and solution in local and global context using active learning strategies, experiential engagement, and service-learning projects.

Teaching Assistant

Florida International University

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

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

The Ohio State University

ENR 3500 Community, Environment, and Development - 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.

Guest Lecturer

The Ohio State University

ENR 2300 Society and Natural Resources
Topic: Mobilization for the Environment

COMM 2596 Science Communication
Topic: Communicating Climate Change

SPAN 2422 Intro to Latino Studies
Topic: Contesting Colonialism: Puerto Rico and the Caribbean

Florida International University

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