

# 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

## Academic Appointments

### Current

*School of Social Work, University at Buffalo, State University of New York*

Assistant Professor 2020-present

*University at Buffalo, State University of New York*

Graduate Faculty 2020-present

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

Faculty Associate September 2019-August 2021

### Past Appointments

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

Assistant Professor 2016-2020

*CUNY Graduate Center*

Doctoral Faculty January 2019-present

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

Romich, J. & **Rodriguez, M.** (Feb 17, 2021) There and Back Again: A Commentary on Social Welfare Policy in the Wake of 2020. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1086/713020>

Nkonde, M., **Rodriguez, M. Y.**, Cortana, L., Mukogosi, J. K., King, S., Serrato, R., Martinez, N., Drummer, M., Lewis, A., & *Malik, M. M.* (2021). Disinformation creep: ADOS and the strategic weaponization of breaking news. *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review*. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-52>

Wilson, A. B., Mahadevan, T., Villodas, M., **Rodriguez, M.**, Bailliard, A., & Cuddeback, G. (2020). Tiny Homes Are Huge for People Living With Serious Mental Illness. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 104973152096144. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049731520961448>

Storer, H. L., & **Rodriguez, M.** (2020). #Mapping a movement: Social media, feminist hashtags, and movement building in the digital age. *Journal of Community Practice*, 28(2), 160–176. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705422.2020.1757541>

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2020). The National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program (NFMC) and Spanish-Speaking Immigrants: A Case Study. *Journal of Poverty*. DOI: 10.1080/10875549.2020.1731048

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, DePanfilis, D. & Lanier, P. (2019). Bridging the Gap: Social Work Insights for Ethical Algorithmic Decision-Making in Human Services. *IBM Journal of Research and Development*. 10.1147/JRD.2019.2934047.

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.

#### *Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters*

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

#### *Peer-Reviewed White Papers*

**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. [Link](#)

#### *Other Peer Reviewed Publications*

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

#### *Publications Under Review*

*italics denote students*

*Chung, S. K. G.*, **Rodriguez, M.**, Lanier, P., & Gibbs, D. (2021). Text-mining open-ended survey responses using structural topic modeling: A practical demonstration to understand parents’

coping methods during COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore. OSF Preprints. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/enzst>

Windel, F., Nga, T., Perkins, K. **Rodriguez, M.** #Hanau: A Mixed-Method Study of German-Speaking Twitter's Reckoning with Racism after a White Nationalist Shooting (British Journal of Social Psychology)

#### *Publications In Preparation*

**Rodriguez, M.**, Oretga-Williams, A., Patton, D., and Cogburn, C. "Analog Angels: Social Work's digital response to COVID-19 shows the infodemic affects professions too". (Journal of the Society for Social Work Research)

**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.** 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 Policy Practice and Research)

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

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** Decision-making in Human Services: An Experiment

#### *Professional Reports*

**Rodriguez, M.Y.**(2015) WA State Foreclosures: Rates, Numbers, and Demographic Characteristics at the Zip Code Level, [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.

## **Grants**

### *Grants Funded*

**Funder:** American Public Health Association/Centers for Disease Control

*Project Title:* Identifying organic bystander interventions in racist social media interactions:An exploratory study

*Role:* Principal Investigator

*Amount:* \$57,691.00

Summer/Fall 2021

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

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

*Role:* Co-Principal Investigator

*Amount:* \$5,300

Summer 2019

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

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

*Role:* Co-Principal Investigator

*Amount:* \$68,062

2017-2018

**Funder:** Russell Sage Foundation and The Sloane Foundation

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

*Role:* Site Organizer

*Amount:* \$30,000

Summer 2018, Summer 2019

*Grants Under Review*

**None at this time**

*Grants Not Funded*

**Funder:** National Science Foundation (NSF)

*Project Title:* NSF AI Institute for Social Good

*Application number:* IIS - 2112629

Applied: December 2020

**Funder:** HudsonUP & Humanity Forward

*Project Title:* HudsonUP universal basic income (UBI) demonstration in Hudson, NY

*Application number:* N/A

Applied: July 2020 (not selected in final round)

**Funder:** Facebook, Inc.

*Project Title:* Multi-platform political communities & disinformation opportunities

*Application number:* N/A

Applied: June 2020

**Funder:** National Institutes of Health (Big Data to Knowledge Program (BD2K))

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

Application number: 1 SC2 GM127229-01

Applied: April 2017

**Funder:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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

*Application Number:* 77391

Applied: October 2018

## Presentations

*Peer Reviewed Presentations*

*italics denote students*

Patton, D., Cogburn, C., **Rodriguez, M.** (Jan, 2021). Social Work Research and Technology: Leveraging AI, topic modeling, and community-based methods for research in human services. Invited workshop at the Society for Social Work Research and Society. Virtual due to Covid-19. URL: <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2021/webprogram/Session12065.html>

Windel, F., Than, N. & **Rodriguez, M.** (August, 2020). #Halle and #Hanau: German Public's Responses to White Nationalist Shootings. Poster presentation at 2020 Conference on Stanford Computational Sociology. Virtual due to Covid-19

Yoong, D., Than, N., & **Rodriguez, M.** (2020, July) A Glimpse into the Right: Understanding Gender and Sexuality through Misinformation, Polarization, Misinformation, and Entrenched Group Conflict: Harnessing Political Psychology to Find Solutions to Problems New and Old. Paper presentation at the International Society for Political Psychology (ISPP). Berlin, Germany. Now virtual due to Covid-19. Jul 14 – 17, 2020.

**Rodriguez, M.Y.**, Than, N., Yoong, D., Windel, F. (2020, July) Examining the flow of Disinformation in the Alt-Right: Towards intervention development. Paper presentation at the International Society for Political Psychology (ISPP). Berlin, Germany.

Windel, F., Than, N. & **Rodriguez, M.** (2020, July). #Halle: The German Public's Responses to Halle Synagogue Shooting. Presented at Annual Meeting of International Society of Political Psychology.

Nga, T., **Rodriguez, M.Y.**, Yoong, D., Windel, F. (2020, June) Welcome to Gab": Exploring Alt-Right Discourses via Structural Topic Model. Lightning talk presentation at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute. Victoria, BC. (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

Bates, G., **Rodriguez, M.Y.**, Hoyos-Torres, S. (2020, April). Examining the Association of Hospital Proximity and Foreclosed Homes in Bronx County New York on Acute Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack) Hospital Visits. Poster Presentation accepted at the Population Association of America. Washington, D.C. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

**Rodriguez, M. Y.**, Bates, G., Hoyos-Torres, S., & Storer, H. (2020, January) Community Organizing in the Digital Age: An Exploratory Analysis of the 2017 #WomensMarch using Deep Neural Networks (DNNs). Paper Presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.

**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 Talks and Presentations*

Hankerson-Madrigan, D. & **Rodriguez, M.Y.** (June 2021) The Impacts of Mis and Dis information on Communities of Color. Invited podcast interview on the Center for Democracy and Technology's podcast, Techtalks. URL: <https://cdt.org/insights/tech-talk-the-impacts-of-mis-and-disinformation-on-com>

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** (May 2021) The Limitations of Moral Philosophy in Dealing with Algorithmic Bias. Invited talk at the Mechanical Design for Social Good (MD4SG) colloquium series. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6jQPqSgOCI>

**Rodriguez, M.** (April 2021). The Root of Algorithmic Bias and How to Deal with it. Invited Keynote at USC CAIS symposium on Equity and AI. Virtual due to Covid-19. URL: <https://sites.google.com/view/symposium-on-equity-and-ai/schedule>

**Rodriguez, M.** (March 2021). The Root of Algorithmic Bias and How to Deal with it. Invited talk at the USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society. Virtual due to Covid-19. URL: <https://www.cais.usc.edu/events/the-root-of-algorithmic-bias-and-how-to-deal-with-it>

**Rodriguez, M.Y.** (Nov 2020). The Root of Algorithmic Bias and How to Deal with it. Invited Keynote Address and Panel Discussion. 4th Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms (WOAH) at the Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) conference. Virtual due to Covid-19. URL: [https://virtual.2020.emnlp.org/workshop\\_WS-17.html](https://virtual.2020.emnlp.org/workshop_WS-17.html)

Firmat, M.R., **Rodriguez, M.**, Nkonde, M., Ufot, N., Johnson, K. (2020, July) Disinformation in 2020: How Breaking News is Being Used to Suppress the Online Vote. Invited Panel presentation at the National Association for Black and Hispanic Journalists (NABHJ). Virtual due to Covid-19. URL: <https://bit.ly/34tR7HO>

Akiwowo, S., Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, C., Prabhakaran, V., **Rodriguez, M.**, Sinderson, C. Waseem, Z., Vidgen, B. (2020, July) Tackling Online Abuse: Bridging the Gap between Human Rights and Computer Science. Panel presentation at RightsCon. Virtual due to Covid-19. URL: <https://bit.ly/2QjdkzY>

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2020, February). Invited guest panelist, “Emerging Technologies and the Future of Social Work”. Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2020, February). “A Computational Social Science Perspective on Qualitative Data Exploration: The Implications of Descriptive Text Analysis for Demographic Research”. Paper presentation at the University of Pennsylvania’s Social Impact, Innovation, and Justice Speaker Series, Philadelphia, PA.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2019, December). “Protective Factors and Service Outcomes: Examining Applications of Machine Learning in Child Welfare”. Paper presentation at Applied Math Department, Hunter College, New York, NY.

**Rodriguez, M. Y.** (2019, November). “A Computational Social Science Perspective on Qualitative Data Exploration: The Implications of Descriptive Text Analysis for Demographic Research”. Paper Presentation at Columbia University School of Social Work’s Critical Media and Digital Studies Workshop. New York, NY.

**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](#)

## **Courses Taught**

*State University of New York (SUNY), University at Buffalo, School of Social Work*

**Course Title:** Theories of Organizational Development and Behavior (SW So6)

*Course Description:* Generalist 1st year course. This course focuses on the theories and empirical knowledge of organizational behavior, development and the change exemplified by theories of bureaucracy, conflict theory, human relations theory and decision making theory.

Spring 2021

*City University of New York (CUNY), Silberman School of Social Work*

**Course Title:** Social Welfare Policy & Services (SW 701)

*Course Description:* Generalist intro course for all 1st year MSW students, review historical development of U.S. Social Policy from English Poor Laws thru PRWORA.

Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

**Course Title:** Community Organizing I (SW 741)

*Course Description:* Substantive intro course for 1st year community organizing students surveying general U.S. community organizing history, major theories, and frameworks. Led major course redesign in Fall 2018.

Fall 2018, Fall 2019

**Course Title:** Community Organizing II (SW 742)

*Course Description:* Substantive course for 1st year community organizing students applying foundational community organizing skills (e.g. Public Speaking, Power Analysis, Digital Organizing). Led major course re-design in Fall 2017.

Spring 2017



## Dissertation Exam Committees

Frederike Windel (committee member) Proposal Defense date: May 2021

Khudodod Khudodov, MSW (committee member) Proposal Defense date: March 2021

Glennara Elizabeth Bates-Pappas, MSW (Chair) Scheduled Proposal Defense date: December 2019

Sarah Bussey, LCSW (committee member) Dissertation Proposal Defense Date: May 21st, 2019

## 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

*Area Chair: Data and Evaluation*, ACM conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (AC FAacct) 2020-Present

*Editorial Board Member*, Journal of Community Practice 2018-present

*Editorial Board Member*, Journal of Technology in Human Services 2019-present

*Editorial Board Member*, Journal of Policy Practice and Research 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>Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society Faculty Associate</i>	2019-present
<i>CUNY Institute for Demographic Research-Faculty Affiliate</i>	2016-2020
<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

### **Honors and Awards**

UW Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Fellowship	Spring 2016
UW GO-MAP Dissertation Fellowship	2015-2016
Population Reference Bureau, Policy Communication Fellowship	Summer 2015
Hubert Project Fellowship, University of Minnesota	Spring 2015
Institute of Translational Health Sciences (NIH TL1)	Summer 2014
University of Washington, West Coast Poverty Center Social Policy Research Fellowship	2012-2014
University of Washington, Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation Fellowship	2011-2012

### **Specialized Trainings and Certifications**

Summer Institute in Computation Social Science [SICSS] ( <a href="https://compsocialscience.github.io/summer-institute/2017/">https://compsocialscience.github.io/summer-institute/2017/</a> )	Summer 2017
Center for the Study of Ecology and Demography (University of Washington) Demographic Methods Certificate	June 2016