

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Laura Betancur**  
Winter, 2021

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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**Mailing Address:** 412 Sample St.  
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**RESEARCH INTEREST**

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Poverty, socioeconomic inequality, early childhood education, educational interventions, family stress and investment, community resources and stressors, low- and middle-income countries.

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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**2021- Postdoctoral Research Associate**

Human Development and Family Studies, Iowa State University

**EDUCATION**

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**2020 Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, University of Pittsburgh**

Dissertation: *Urban-rural health and achievement gaps across childhood: development and mediating mechanisms in Peru and India*

- Advisor: Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, Ph.D.

**2016 M.S. in Developmental Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.**

Thesis: *Measuring quality of preschool education in low- and middle-income countries: Analysis of the validity of the ECERS-R in Colombia.*

- Advisor: Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, PhD.

**2013 M.A. in Psychology, Universidad de los Andes. Bogotá, Colombia.**

Thesis: *Quality of Early Childhood Education in Bogota: Exploratory Study in Middle and Low Socio-Economic Status Preschool Centers.*

- Advisor: Carolina Maldonado- Carreño, PhD.

**2011 B.A. in Psychology, Universidad de Antioquia. Medellín, Colombia.**

Thesis: *Social Learning in School: Perception and Use of Educational Space. A Case Study.*

- Advisor: Olga Cuadros, PhD.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Levine Coley, R., Spielvogel, B., Kruzik, C., Miller, P. **Betancur, L.**, & Votruba-Drzal. (2021). Resource and stress processes transmitting income disparities to young children's development. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 55(2), 295-311. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2020.12.006>

**Betancur, L.**, Maldonado-Carreño, C., Votruba-Drzal, E. & Bernal, R. (2021). Measuring preschool quality in low- and middle-income countries: Validity of the ECERS-R in Colombia. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 54(1), 86-98. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2020.08.001>

Bachman, H. J., Elliott, L., Duong, S., **Betancur, L.**, Navarro, M., Votruba-Drzal, L., & Libertus, M. (2020). Triangulating multi-method assessments of parental support for early math development. *Frontiers in Education*, 5. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2020.589514>

Votruba-Drzal, E., Miller, P., **Betancur, L.**, Spielvogel, B., Kruzik, C, Levine Coley, R. (2020). Family and community resource and stress processes related to income disparities in school-aged children's development. *Journal of Educational Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0000589>

Binning, K. R., Kaufmann, N., McGreevy, E., Fotuhi, O., Chen, S., Marshman, E., Kalender, Y., Limeri, L., **Betancur, L.**, & Singh, C. (2020). Changing social norms to unlock the benefits of diversity in collaborative workgroup. *Psychological Science*, 31(9), 1059-1070 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797620929984>

Chen, S., Binning, K., Manke, K., Brady, S., McGreevy, E., **Betancur, L.**, Limeri, L., Kaufmann, N. (2020). Am I a Science Person? A Strong Science Identity Bolsters Minority Students' Sense of Belonging and Performance in College. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167220936480>

Henry, D. A., **Betancur, L.**, & Votruba-Drzal, E. (2020). Black-White skills disparities differ by family socioeconomic status from early childhood through early adolescence. *Journal of Educational Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0000439>

Miller, P., **Betancur, L.**, Whitfield, K, & Votruba-Drzal, E. (2020). Examining links between income and behavior problems through a Developmental Psychopathology lens: A Nationally Representative Study. *Development and Psychopathology*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954579419001494>

**Betancur, L.**, Rottman, B. M., Votruba-Drzal, E., & Schunn, C. (2019). Analytical Assessment of Course Sequencing: The Case of Methodological Courses in

Psychology. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 111(1), 91-103.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/edu0000269>

**Betancur, L.**, Votruba-Drzal, E., & Schunn, C. (2018). Socioeconomic gaps in science achievement. *International Journal of STEM Education*, 5(38), 1-25.  
<http://doi.org/10.1186/s40594-018-0132-5>

Hanauer, D. I., Graham, M. J., SEA-PHAGES, **Betancur, L.**, Bobrownicki, A., Cresawn, S. G., ... Hatfull, G. F. (2017). An inclusive Research Education Community (iREC): Impact of the SEA-PHAGES program on research outcomes and student learning. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 114(51), 13531–13536.  
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1718188115>

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

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**Betancur, L.** Votruba-Drzal, E. & Miller, P. (*Under review*). Urban-rural academic achievement gap in low- and middle-income countries: The role of early childhood education.

**Betancur, L.** Votruba-Drzal, E. & Miller, P. (*In preparation*). Long term effects of early childhood education in three low- and middle-income countries.

**Betancur, L.** Votruba-Drzal, E. & Miller, P. (*In preparation*). Child health disparities across urban and rural areas in low- and middle-income countries: Exploring early experiences at the family, school, and community.

Miller, P.; Whitfield, K., **Betancur, L.** & Votruba-Drzal, E. (*Revise and resubmit*). Income dynamics and the development of behavior problems from early childhood through the transition to adolescence. *Journal of Educational Psychology*.

Whitfield, K.; **Betancur, L.**; Miller, P., & Votruba-Drzal, E. (*Revise and resubmit*). Longitudinal links between income dynamics and young adult human capital & behavioral health outcomes. *Youth and Society*.

Miller, P., Podvysotska, T., **Betancur, L.**, & Votruba-Drzal, E. (*Revise and resubmit*). Income, wealth, and child Development: Main effects, moderated effects, and differences by developmental Stage. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Paper presentations

March, 2019.

**Betancur, L.** & Votruba-Drzal, E. *Long-term associations of attending Early Childhood Education in Low- and Middle-Income Countries and vocabulary skills.* Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Biennial Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

Levine Coley, R. Spielvogel; B. Kruzik, C.; Miller, P.; Votruba-Drzal, E., & **Betancur, L.** *Family and Community Drivers of Economic Disparities in School Readiness Skills.* Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Biennial Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

March, 2015.

Maldonado-Carreño, C.; Guerrero, P.; Votruba-Drzal, E. & **Betancur, L.** *Early Childhood Development and Preschool Quality in Bogotá, Colombia.* Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

September, 2013.

**Betancur, L.** & Maldonado-Carreño, C. *Review of the Validity of a Tool to Assess Environmental Quality of Preschool Classrooms in Colombia.* Third Psychology Conference of the College of Psychologists of Colombia (COLPSIC). Bogota, Colombia.

### Poster presentations

October, 2018.

**Betancur, L.;** Votruba-Drzal, E., & Miller, P. *Experiences of poverty in rural and urban areas in low and middle-income countries.* DEVSEC: Conference on the Use of Secondary and Open Source Data in Developmental Science. Phoenix, Az.

April, 2017.

**Betancur, L.** Votruba-Drzal, E., & Schunn, C. *Socioeconomic Gaps in Science Achievement.* Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Austin, TX.

**Betancur, L.;** Votruba-Drzal, E., & Maldonado-Carreño, C. *Measuring Quality of Preschool Education in Developing Countries: Analysis of the Validity of the ECERS-R in Colombia.* Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Austin, TX.

April, 2013.

**Betancur, L.** & Maldonado-Carreño, C. *An Examination of Structural and Criterion Validity of the ECERS-R in Colombia*. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) biennial meeting. Seattle, WA.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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August 2017- December 2020

**Graduate Research Assistant.** Project: *Parents Promoting Early Learning*. University of Pittsburgh. PI's: Melissa Libertus, Heather Bachman, and Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal

Designed and refined a time-diary interview protocol, identified and refined themes for quantitative coding, designed codebooks. Trained and coordinated interviewers and coders of the time-diaries. Conducted data collection, including assessments of parent and child cognitive skills, observation of parent-child interactions, and completed phone interviews.

August 2018- August 2020

**Graduate Research Assistant.** Project: *Links between income dynamics and trajectories of behavioral problems*. University of Pittsburgh. PI's: Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal and Portia Miller.

Managed and analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 79, a large-scale longitudinal dataset. Estimated trajectories of behavioral problems and its associations with income dynamics using latent class growth analysis.

August 2015-August 2017

**Graduate Research Assistant.** Project: *Interventions that Matter*, University of Pittsburgh. PI's: Timothy Nokes-Malach, Christian Schunn, Nancy Kauffman, Kevin Binning and Benjamin Rottman.

Analyzed longitudinal institutional data involving thousands of college students across several cohorts. Assessed the impact of educational interventions by using statistical techniques such as mixture effects modeling, mediation analysis, and coarsened exact matching.

August 2016- August 2018

**Graduate Research Assistant.** Project: *Family Voices*. University of Pittsburgh. PI's: Daphne Henry (Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology, Boston College) and Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal.

Analyzed data for a mixed-methods research project exploring how the intersection of race and SES associated with child academic achievement. Coded survey

questionnaires and semi-structured in-depth interviews, identifying and refining themes for qualitative coding using Nvivo. Carried growth model analysis to estimate whether the magnitude of Black-White achievement gaps differed across levels of family SES.

August 2014-December 2014.

**Graduate Research Assistant.** Project: *Socioeconomic gaps in science achievement*. University of Pittsburgh. PI's: Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal and Christian Schunn.

Estimated multilevel mediation analysis with the ECLS-K 98 longitudinal dataset to explore the pathways through which socioeconomic disparities in science achievement emerge.

August 2011- June 2014

**Research Assistant.** Project: *Quality of Preschool Centers and Early Childhood Development in Bogota*. Universidad de Los Andes. PI: Carolina Maldonado-Carreño.

Recruited preschool centers and families for participation in the study in Bogota, Colombia. Administered assessment of children's cognitive, motor and social skills, assessed classroom quality using the ECERS-R and CLASS scales, coded, and analyzed data.

November 2013 - June 2014

**Research Assistant.** Project: *Playing With Gender in the Digital Era*. Colciencias and Universidad de Los Andes. PI's: Carolina Maldonado-Carreño and Javier Corredor.

Recruited families for participation in the study in Bogota, Colombia. Help developing protocols for data collection and administered assessment on children internalization of gender norms reflected in video game preferences.

January - August 2013.

**Research Assistant.** Project: *Qualitative Evaluation of a Comprehensive Educational Model that Uses Information and Communication Technology*. Inter-American Developmental Bank and Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia. PI's: Carolina Maldonado-Carreño and Javier Corredor.

Administered assessment to children about the knowledge of fractions pre and post intervention in Barranquilla, Colombia. Data coding and analysis after intervention.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Courses taught**

**Spring 2020 & Fall 2020.**

*Research Methods, laboratory section.* Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.

**Summer 2018.**

*Introduction to Developmental Psychology.* Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.

**Summer 2015.**

*Learning and Motivation laboratory.* Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.

**Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Summer 2012, & Fall 2012.**

*Writing Academic Texts.* Department of Languages and Socio-Cultural Studies, Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia).

**Teaching Assistant for doctoral-level courses**

**Fall 2018 & Fall 2019.**

*General Linear Modeling: Course I (Regression).* Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.

**Teaching Assistant for undergraduate courses**

**Spring 2019.**

*Introduction to Developmental Psychology.* Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.

**Spring 2018.**

*Introduction to Social Psychology.* Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.

**Spring 2015.**

*Introduction to Psychology.* Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.

**Fall 2011.**

*Foundations of Psychology.* Department of Psychology, Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia.

**RESEARCH MENTORSHIP**

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**2018-19 Undergraduate, University of Pittsburgh**

Jocelyn Huges, Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Morgan Lemmon, Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Junyi Gong, Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Sydney Gordner, Undergraduate Research Assistant

**2018-19 Graduate. Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh**  
Statistics mentor for Psychology graduate students

### INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS

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- 2020** Guest lecturer, “**Doing research with secondary data**”  
Course: *Advanced Research Design for Causal Inference* class. University of Delaware.
- 2019** Invited panelist, “**Teaching support for international students and faculty**”  
University Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2016** Invited panelist, “**Cross-cultural implementation experiences**”  
Course: *Implementation Science*, University of Pittsburgh

### DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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- 2019** **Graduate Student Member**, Faculty Search Committee  
Department of Psychology and the Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2018** **Tutor**, Graduate Research Assistants Orientation.  
University Center for Teaching and Learning.
- 2017-18** **Coordinating Committee Member**, VIPitt Recruitment Weekend for Underrepresented Minorities.  
Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2016-Present** **Member**, Department of Psychology Student Diversity Committee,  
University of Pittsburgh.

### ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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- 2020** **Certificate in Latin American Studies.**  
Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2019.



Project: *Early Childhood Education in Latin America: rates, research, and legislation.*

**2020 Achievement in Pedagogy Badge.**

University Center for Teaching and Learning. University of Pittsburgh, 2019.

**2013 Mixed Methods for Research: A Practical Introduction.**

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.

**2012 Care of Children in Vulnerable Conditions.**

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.

**2011 Democracy and Peace in the Classroom: Climate, Discipline and Curriculum.**

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Society for Research in Child Development, Latino caucus
- American Psychological Association – Division 7 (Developmental Psychology)

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**SKILLS**

**Languages:** English, Spanish.

**Classroom quality scales:** ECERS-R, CLASS.

**Child assessment scales:** Woodcock-Johnson, Woodcock-Muñoz, Preschool Self-Regulation Assessment, Motor Performance Test BOT-2.

**Quantitative methods:**

- *Course work:* Multiple Regression Analysis, Multilevel or Mixed Effects Modeling, Causal Inference in Educational Research, Structural Equation Modeling, Mixture Modeling.
- *Statistical software:* SPSS, Stata, Mplus, R.

**Qualitative methods:**

- *Course work:* Advanced qualitative methods (grounded theory, narrative analysis, phenomenological analysis) and Mixed Methods for Research.
- *Analysis software:* Nvivo.

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**PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, PhD  
Professor of Psychology  
Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh  
evotruba@pitt.edu

Melissa Libertus, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh  
libertus@pitt.edu

Carolina Maldonado-Carreño, PhD  
Associate Professor  
School of Education, Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)  
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Daphne Henry, PhD.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology, Boston College  
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