

Wendy Castillo

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA 2014 –August 2018
Ph.D. in Education Policy
Dissertation: Measurement and Policy Implications for Diverse Students
Awarded the Mathematica Policy Research Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000)

University of Miami Coral Gables, FL, 2011-2013
Master's of Science in Education and Social Change, *Award of Academic Merit*

Brown University Providence, RI, 2007-2011
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, emphasis in Political and Economic Development
Università di Bologna: Study Abroad Program in International Relations in Italian Bologna, Italy, 2010

Appointments:

Harvard's Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR), *Strategic Data Project (SDP) Data Fellow* 2018-2020
Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs, *Lecturer* 2018- Present

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Harvard Strategic Data Fellow at Overdeck Foundation New York, NY September 2018- Present
Research and Evaluation Analyst

- Lead the foundation in efforts to identify metrics to evaluate grantee impacts
- Review and evaluate grant proposals for rigor and potential

CPRE Research Center at Penn GSE Philadelphia, PA Summer 2016- Present
Graduate Research Assistant, Principal Investigator: Abigail Gray, Ph.D.

- Implementing and evaluating a literacy kindergarten curriculum in 20 schools using a cluster RCT with [an Institute of Education Sciences three-million-dollar efficacy grant](#)
- Leading the research team's efforts to focus more thoughtfully on the cultural appropriateness of the study's instruments and processes
- Leading a study on kindergarten students' motivation to read by creating, piloting, and validating a new scale that will be administered to about 1800 students
- Collaborating with a team of eight researchers and practitioners to develop instruments to measure and analyze short-term and long-term outcomes
- Collaborate with a team of five researchers to evaluate implementation by interviewing and observing teachers as well as analyzing student outcome data

University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA Fall 2014- Present
Graduate Research Assistant, Advisor: Rebecca Maynard, Ph.D.

- Leading a meta-analysis on the impact of mindfulness and character programs that target intrapersonal skills for elementary-aged students with the aim of increasing academic achievement
 - Managing a team of two doctoral students

- Conducting a meta-analysis on the effectiveness of college access programs to inform policy;
 - Leading a cost-effectiveness study on results from the meta-analysis
- Evaluated the Structured Active In-class Learning program for effective teaching in a higher education setting using a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) design (n=500); the program teaches calculus in an innovative way in efforts to increase STEM achievement for disadvantaged populations
- Collaborated in a team of six to qualitatively evaluate the higher education policy agenda in Tennessee
 - Interviewed 15 top policy experts in the state to inform findings

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE:

Princeton University's WWS of International and Public Affairs **Princeton, NJ Fall 2018- Present**
Lecturer in International and Public Affairs

- Undergraduate level course WWS403, WWS404: Research methods
 - Lectured a course with 35 students
 - Guided and consulted students on completing junior research projects
- Masters level course WWS515: Program Evaluation

University of Pennsylvania **Philadelphia, PA Fall 2016- Spring 2018**
Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer

- Masters and doctoral level course: EDUC545: Mixed Methods in Educational Research
- Masters and doctoral level course: EDUC591 Applied Research Methods to Inform Policy & Practice
 - Two section course with a total of 55 students
- Doctoral level course: EDUC900: Research Synthesis Methods
 - Course was divided into two sections, led students from one section through an entire research project submitted proposal to conference
- Maintained web-course management system
- Led review sessions, grade, class assignments, and guide students to complete course projects

ZLR Valeon Mentoring **New York, NY, Fall 2016- Present**
Graduate School Mentor

- Serve as a mentor and guide mentees the graduate school application process for Ph.D., M.P.A., and M.S.Ed. Education Policy programs, and provide personal statement feedback through Skype

Fulbright Commission **Aguascalientes, Mexico, Fall 2013- Spring 2014**
Fulbright-Garcia Robles Scholar

- Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes:
 - Created and implemented lesson plans to facilitate the instruction of college English courses
 - Lectured at University-wide conferences
- Escuela Normal Superior Federal de Aguascalientes:
 - Taught English teacher candidates strategies to be effective educators, such as classroom management skills

- Observed & provided feedback to English teacher candidates at their practicum locations
- Education USA:
 - Guided Mexican Students through the college admission process both graduate and undergraduate including standardized testing, statements of purpose, and logistics

Teach for America, Miami-Dade Public Schools

Miami, FL, Summer 2011- Spring 2013

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 4th grade, and After-School Hip-Hop Teacher

- Utilized Excel to make data-driven decisions based on learning standards and student needs
- Impacted Learning Gains in positive growth:
 - 2nd grade Math from 52% to 82% average student proficiency
 - 2nd grade Science 70% to 85% average student proficiency; sample science lesson [here](#)
 - 2nd grade 1.3 years of growth in reading
- Founded a hip-hop dance club that culminated in three dance performances; sample lesson [here](#)

Brown Arts Mentoring Program

Providence, RI, Fall 2007- Spring 2011

Dance Teacher

- Volunteered to teach children in grades 3rd-5th at local Title I elementary schools the art of dance

PUBLICATIONS

Finney, J., Leigh, E. W., Ruiz, R., **Castillo, W.**, Smith, E., & Kent, D. C. (2017). *Driven to perform: Tennessee's higher education policies and outcomes—A Case Study*. Philadelphia, PA: Institute for Research on Higher Education, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania.

Castillo, W. Maynard., R. and Collins., G (In Press). The effectiveness of place-based programs aimed at promoting college access. In Perna L. (Eds.) *Improving Research-Based Knowledge of College Promise Programs*. American Educational Research Association

Castillo, W. (Revise & Resubmit). Does early reading motivation matter? an exploratory analysis of the relationship between reading motivation and reading achievement. *Reading Psychology*

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Castillo, W., & Gray, A. (2018, April). *The impact of zoology one on reading motivation and reading interests by gender*. Paper present at American Educational Research Association (AERA). New York, NY

DuBois, T., Patel, A. & **Castillo, W.** (2018, April). *Using assessments in evaluation: A mission-critical balancing act*. Paper presented at American Educational Research Association (AERA). New York, NY

Castillo, W. (2018, March). *Do reading motivation levels differ for children of immigrants?* Paper presented at American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE). Irvine, CA.

Castillo, W. & Gray, A. (2018, March). *A validation of a kindergarten reading motivation instrument*. Poster presented at Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE). Washington D.C.

Castillo, W., Maynard., R., & Collins, G. (2017, October). *The effectiveness of college access programs, with an*

emphasis on place-based programs, on college enrollment. Paper presented at College Promise Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Collins, G., **Castillo, W.**, & Ruiz, R. (2017, April) *Hispanic teachers in the united states: Recent past, present, and near future.* Poster presented at American Educational Research Association (AERA). San Antonio, TX

Finney, J., **Castillo, W.**, Kent, D., Leigh, E.W., Ruiz, R., & Smith, E. (2016, November) *The drive to college attainment: state-level policy influences on tennessee higher education performance.* Paper presented at Annual Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Columbus, OH

Castillo, W., & Maynard. R. (2016, October). *A systematic review of the effectiveness of college access programs.* Poster presented at Regional Education Laboratory's (REL) Research to Policy and Practice Conference. Philadelphia, PA

Castillo, W., Maynard, R., Ruiz, R., & Collins, G. (2015, November). *A systematic review of cost and cost-effectiveness of college access programs.* Paper presented at Annual Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM). Miami, FL

Orosz, K. Maynard., R., Anderson., S., & **Castillo, W.** (2014, November). *The effectiveness of college access programs in improving college readiness and enrollment.* Paper presented at Annual Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM). Albuquerque, NM

Castillo, W. (2014, May) *How to use whole brain teaching in the classroom.* Lecture presented at the Annual Universidad Autonoma de Aguascalientes' Forum on Teaching English as a Second Language. Aguascalientes, Mexico

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Manhattan College's School of Education and Health
Mathematica Policy Research
Montclair State University's College of Education and Human Service
New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

PUBLIC POLICY EXPERIENCE

Office of Colorado State Senator Mike Johnston

Denver, CO Summer 2015

Urban Policy Fellow

- Drafted legislation to attach scholarships to public service with the goal of increasing college access
- Created an evaluation framework and logic model for the Mental Health Center of Denver's new Dahlia Community Campus in Northeast Park Hill in order to monitor progress and impact

White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics

Washington DC, Summer 2014

Policy Fellow

- Drafted Obama's proclamations for Hispanic Heritage Month and Hispanic Serving Institutions Week
- Researched the state of Hispanic teachers by gathering raw data and reading the current literature surrounding the topic; led conference calls to discuss issues pertaining to "Teacher Equity"
- Wrote a brief that included current statistics, goals, and policy recommendations to increase the

number of Hispanic teachers; [available here](#)

Educational Excellence School Advisory Councils

Miami, FL, Fall 2011- Spring 2013

Member

- Consulted on the implementation of the school improvement plan, accountability, and the annual budget; allocated fund for special activities, field trips, and school events
- Analyzed school test scores to implement strategies in order to meet Adequate Yearly Progress

AWARDS

American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Fellow (AAHHE)	2018
Mathematica Policy Research Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000)	2017
Fontaine Fellow, Dean Fellow, and Tyree-Taylor Named Scholar (4 years full doctoral funding)	2014-2017
City of Commerce Scholarship (awarded over \$25,000 in scholarship)	2007-2017
Leadership for Educational Equity Policy and Advocacy Fellowship	2014
Fulbright Garcia-Robles Becaria	2013-2014
Nominated for Rookie Teacher of the Year	2012
Yale Law School Liman Legal Fellowship	2010
Brown University: Hanoian Memorial Award in Labor Relations and Social Justice	2009

INSTITUTIONAL, LOCAL, AND NATIONAL SERVICE

Brown University Alumni Interviewer	2011-2018
Invited Speaker at Montebello Unified School District (Montebello, CA)	2007-2018
Session Chair at American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Annual Meeting	2018
Reviewer for American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting Division L	2017-2018
Reviewer for Urban Perspectives Student Journal at Penn GSE	2017-2018
Invited Speaker for Imagination Lecture Series at Yleana Leadership Academy at Colgate University	2017
Mentor for PUENTE Latin American Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (LAGAPSA)	2015-2016
Discussant at Association for Public Policy and Analysis (APPAM) Annual Meeting	2015
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Education Policy Student Representative	2014
Teach for America Alumni Interviewer	2013-2014

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

What Works Clearinghouse Group Study Design Certified Reviewer	2017
Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Graduate Student Policy Seminar	2016
American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Education Policy Academy selected attendee	2016
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Postsecondary Data Institute selected attendee	2016
Aspiring School Systems Leader Fellowship selected attendee	2016
SREE: Obtaining and Using Data from Districts or States for Research Use	2016
Institute of Educational Sciences (IES): Cost Analysis Training	2015

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE)
American Educational Research Association (AERA)
Association for Public Policy and Analysis (APPAM)
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Intermediate knowledge of statistical software: STATA, and “R”
- Native Spanish speaker; academic Spanish; Intermediate academic and conversational Italian
- Hobbies: dancing, wine tasting, and eating exotic meats