

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Education:

2009 MPH – Yale University School of Public Health (Health Policy and Administration)
2008 PhD – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Cellular and Molecular Pathology)
2002 BS – Loras College (Biological Research - *Magna Cum Laude*)

Professional & Academic Appointments:

2002 – 2008 Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
2009 – 2011 Project Manager, Study of Latinos/Hispanic Community Health Study: Ancillary Sociocultural Study; Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, The Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
2009 – present Policy Fellow, The Edward Zigler Center for Child Development and Social Policy, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2010 – 2012 Adjunct Professor, Graduate Program on International Affairs and the Eugene Lang School for Undergraduate Studies, The New School, New York, NY
2011 – 2013 Postdoctoral Fellow, Child Study Center, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
2013 – present Associate Research Scientist, Yale Child Study Center, New Haven, CT
2016 – present Adjunct Professor, Department of Education, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

Professional Honors & Recognition:

International/National/Regional

2004 American Society for Investigative Pathology Travel Award
2006 United States Department of Defense Doctoral Training Grant
2007 Frank Porter Graham Graduate and Professional Student Honor Society
2008 Overlook Scholar: Tuition scholarship for completion of Masters at Yale University
2013 Society for Research in Child Development Early Career Travel Award
2016 Jacobs Foundation Early Career Research Fellow, Zurich, Switzerland
2016 Jacobs Foundation Marabach Castle Residence Program Recipient, Zurich, Switzerland

Grant History:

Current Grants and Consultancies

Agency: National Family Safety Program, Saudi Arabia
Title: Randomized Controlled Trial of the Mother Child Program Among Families in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Role: Senior Technical Advisor
Project period: July 2017 – July 2019

Agency: National Institute for Health Global Health Research Programme and Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation, Queen's University Belfast
Title: Multi-country study to explore the transformative role of early child development for sustainable development and peacebuilding
Role: Academic consultant
Project period: January 2017 – January 2019

Agency: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Federal University of São Paulo
Title: Randomized Controlled Trial of the Mother Child Program Among Families in São Paulo, Brazil
Role: Senior Technical Advisor
Project period: January 2017 – January 2019

Agency: UNICEF – CEE/CIS Regional Office
Title: An analytical review of governance, provision and quality of early childhood education services at the local level in Countries of Central Eastern Europe / Commonwealth of Independent States (cee/cis)
Role: Principal Investigator
Project period: August 2016 – December 2017

Agency: Ministry of Education – Colombia
Title: Development of an index to measure the quality of early childhood settings in Colombia
Role: Senior Technical Advisor
Project period: March 2015 – September 2017

Agency: UNICEF – Headquarters
Title: Development of a virtual communication platform or the Early Childhood Peacebuilding Consortium
Role: Principal Investigator
Project period: January 2015 – August 2017

Past Grants and Consultancies:

Agency: The Brookings Institute and World Bank, Managua, Nicaragua
Title: Adaptation of the Colombia Early Learning Quality Index to the Nicaragua Context
Role: Lead Consultant
Project period: May 2016 – September 2016

Agency: Grand Challenges Canada – Saving Brains
Title: Randomized controlled trial of a school readiness program in Rural Pakistan: development, implementation, and evaluation of the intervention
Role: Co-investigator
Project period: March 2014 – December 2016

Agency: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) – Headquarters
Title: UNICEF New York for Examining Barriers to Scale-Up of ‘Care for Child Development’
Role: Co-investigator
Project period: March 2014 – June 2016

Agency: UBS Optimus, the Open Road Alliance and Mother Child Education Foundation (ACEV)
Title: Impact Evaluation of the Mother Child Program Among Palestinian Refugees in Beirut: A Randomized Controlled Trial
Role: Project director
Project period: November 2013 – June 2016

Agency: Fundación Saldarriga Concha and the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, Bogotá Colombia
Title: Strengthening Social-emotional Learning and Psychosocial Development in Early Childhood Development Centers Targeting Caregivers and Educators
Role: Co-investigator
Project period: June 2015 – December 2016

Agency: Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla Colombia

Title: Evaluation of the Early Childhood Development Program *Pisotón*: Strengthening the Evidence Base for Holistic Development in Fragile Contexts in Colombia
Role: Research Advisor
Project period: January 2015 – June 2016

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – Rwanda
Title: Development of the Early Child Development Action Plan 2015 – 2020
Role: Lead consultant
Project period: February 2014 – December 2015

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) -Timor Leste
Title: Development of a costed 5-year Action Plan of the National Policy Framework for Pre-school Education (2015-2019) in Timor Leste
Role: Principal Investigator
Project period: January 2015 – September 2015

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Headquarters
Title: Early Childhood Development and Peace Building: Global Knowledge Brokering Activities
Role: Principal Investigator
Project period: November 2013 – August 2015

Agency: Fetzer Institute
Title: Early Childhood Development and Global Communication Strategies
Role: Principal Investigator
Project period: November 2013 – August 2015

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Laos
Title: Early Childhood Development, Plan of Action, Laos
Role: Co-investigator
Project period: May 2012 – November 2013

Agency: Office of the President of Colombia and Fundación Saldarriaga Concha
Title: Analysis of the Implementation and Sustainability of the National Early Childhood Strategy *De Cero a Siempre*
Role: Principal Investigator
Project period: October 2013 – February 2014

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Bernard van Leer Foundation
Title: Young Children: International Conventions and Development Frameworks
Role: Co-investigator
Project period: February 2011 – November 2012

Agency: World Bank, Washington, DC
Title: Feasibility Study for the National Ethiopian Early Childhood Development Program
Role: Co-investigator
Project period: April 2012 – August 2012

** Note: My UNICEF involvement began in 2009. These are service agreements where I provided technical guidance, expertise and support for several aspects of global early childhood policy and programming.*

Agency: Innocenti Research Center (IRC)
Title: Governance and Finance of Early Childhood Systems: Ensuring Equal Access to Quality Early Childhood Services
Project period: August 2009 – August 2012

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Headquarters
Title: Systematic Review of Early Childhood Development Parenting Programs
Project period: June 2011 – December 2011

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Angola
Title: Development of the Early Childhood Development Policy in Angola
Project period: November 2010 – August 2011

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Kosovo
Title: Situation Analysis and National Recommendations for the Early Childhood Development and Education Sector in Kosovo
Project period: August 2010 – August 2011

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Laos
Title: Early Childhood Development, Plan of Action, Laos
Project period: September 2007 – November 2011

Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Palestine
Title: Early Childhood Development Policy Framework, Palestine
Project period: October 2009 – December 2009

Academic and Student Advising

2015 - 2016 Yale-UNICEF Student Club Faculty Advisor

2015 - 2016 Yale Global Health Leadership Institute, Early Childhood Health and Development Internship Advisor
(Advised and oversaw 5 summer internship projects)

Invited Speaking Engagements, Presentations, Symposia & Workshops:

International/National

- 2016 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Elements of the Early Childhood System and their Impact on Learning and Development*. Invited speaker: National Conference on the Determinants of Educational Performance in Colombia, sponsored by ICFES (National Institute for Educational Assessments).
- 2016 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Early Childhood, Adolescent and Family Mental Health in the Post-Conflict Era in Colombia -- Implications for Research, Intervention and Policy*. Invited Speaker: Global Mental Health Series, Yale School of Medicine.
- 2016 **Ponguta, L.A.** Featured Panelist. National Conference featuring National and International Leaders on Education, sponsored by *Semana Educación* Magazine.
- 2015 **Ponguta, L.A.** *The Biology of Peace: How biodevelopmental sciences link Early Childhood Development to Peacebuilding*. Invited speaker: Cross-border Workshop on Early Childhood Education and Peacebuilding in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Osh, Kyrgyzstan.
- 2015 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Integrated Services in the Context of Early Childhood Education Systems*. Meeting hosted by the Municipal Office of Education of the city of Cali. Keynote speaker. Cali, Colombia.
- 2014 **Ponguta, L.A.** *New frontiers in quality early childhood development: from epigenetics to sustainable development*. Keynote speaker: National meeting on the expansion of preschool education in Montenegro. Podgorica, Montenegro.
- 2014 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Evaluation of the implementation, governance, finance and sustainability of the national early childhood development strategy*. Panelist and invited speaker: National meeting on the evaluation agenda for Colombia's national early childhood development policy. Bogota, Colombia.
- 2014 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Early Childhood Development in the Global Context: Gaps and Opportunities at the Policy, Program, and Research Levels*. Panelist: 4th World Congress and 14th International Meeting on Early Childhood Education. Monterrey, Mexico.
- 2014 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Local and subnational governance of early childhood development systems in Peru and Colombia: a comparative analysis*. Panelist: Global Health Leadership Institute. Yale University, New Haven, CT.

- 2013 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Global Early Childhood Development: Findings, Perspectives, and Knowledge Gaps*. Invited speaker: Expert Consultative Meeting on Psychosocial and Socioemotional Early Childhood Programming in Colombia, Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia.
- 2013 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Early Childhood Development: A Mechanism towards Social Transformation*. Invited speaker: Fondazione Child: Empowerment and Resilience in Children Everywhere Conference, Florence, Italy.
- 2013 Britto, P.R., & **Ponguta, L.A.** *Taking Integrated Interventions to Scale: An Analysis of Governance*. Invited participant and paper coauthor: The New York Academy of Sciences: Interventions to Promote Early Childhood Development. New York, NY.
- 2010 **Ponguta L.A.** *Applications of Global Reproductive Health in International Development*. Guest Speaker: Global Health Student Association Symposium. New York, NY.
- 2009 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer Recurrence*. Distinguished Alum Speaker: Loras College, Dubuque, IA.

Selected Peer-Reviewed Presentations & Symposia Given at Meetings:

International/National

- 2017 **Ponguta, L.A.** Global Challenges and Child Development: Program Implementation, Evaluation and Sustainability. Paper Symposium: Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.
- 2017 Ballesteros, L.M., Hoyos, A.M., Oramas, A., Bolivar, F., Flores, J. and **Ponguta, L.A.** Parenting Intervention to Build Resilience Amongst Caregivers of Young Children Living in Fragile Contexts in Colombia. Oral presentation: SRCD Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.
- 2017 Issa, G., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Aoude, L. et al. Impact Evaluation of the Mother and Child Education Program (MOCEP) Among Children and Families in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Beirut, Lebanon. Oral presentation: SRCD Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.
- 2017 Hoyos, A.M., Ballesteros, L.M., Oramas, A., Bolivar, F., Flores, J. and **Ponguta, L.A.** Primary Caregiver Mental Health and its Impact on Very Early Socioemotional Development of Children Living in Fragile Settings in Colombia. Poster presentation: SRCD Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.
- 2017 Hanoz, S., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Issa, G. et al. Structural Disadvantages Among Palestinian Refugee and Marginalized Communities in Beirut: Impact Evaluation of a Parenting Intervention. Oral presentation: Pathways to Resilience IV, Resilience Research Center. Cape Town, SA.
- 2017 Flores, J., Ballesteros, L.M., Hoyos, A.M., Oramas, A., Bolivar, F., and **Ponguta, L.A.** Psychometric Evaluation of the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale among Primary Caregivers of Young Children Displaced by Armed Conflict in Colombia. Oral presentation: Pathways to Resilience IV, Resilience Research Center. Cape Town, SA.
- 2017 Ballesteros, L.M., Flores, J., Hoyos, A.M., Oramas, A., Bolivar, F., and **Ponguta, L.A.** Improving Resilient Capacities in Caretakers of Children from Areas in Colombia severely affected by the Armed Conflict. Oral presentation: Pathways to Resilience IV, Resilience Research Center. Cape Town, SA.
- 2016 **Ponguta, L.A.** et al. *Associations Between Adverse Conditions and Social and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood Amongst Palestinian Refugee and Marginalized Lebanese Communities in Beirut*. The Early Experience and Sensitive Periods in Development Conference. Sicily, Italy.
- 2015 **Ponguta, L.A.**, Yoshikawa, H., Britto, P.R., Nieto, A.M., van Ravens, J. *Characterization of Subnational and Local Governance of Early Childhood Development Systems in Peru and Colombia*. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Poster presentation on the special session for the focus on the Strategic Plan. Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Early Childhood Development Systems in Kenya*. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Paper Symposium: Governance and Finance of Early Childhood Services in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Achieving Equity, Access, and Quality. Seattle, WA
- 2013 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Feasibility Study for the Implementation of the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy Framework in Ethiopia*. Poster presentation: Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Seattle, WA
- 2007 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Emergent Therapies in Recurrent Cancer*. Poster presentation: International Cancer Microenvironment Society. Florence, Italy
- 2004 **Ponguta, L.A.** *Molecular Mechanisms of Hormone-Dependent Cancer Pathways*. Oral Presentation:

Journal Service:

- 2017 Reviewer for the Early Childhood Research Quarterly Journal
2016 Reviewer for the Social Sciences and Medicine Journal

Bibliography:

Peer-Reviewed Original Research

1. **Ponguta, L.A.**, Rasheed, M.R., Reyes, C.R. (Accepted for Publication) A Conceptual Model for Youth-Led Programs as a Promising Approach To Early Childhood Care and Education. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*.
2. Merz, E.L., Roesch, S.C., Malcarne, V.L., Penedo, F.J., Talavera, G.A., Castaneda, S.F., Daviglus, M.L., Giachello, A.L., Gonzalez, F., Perreira, K.M., **Ponguta, L.A.**, and Gallo, L.C. (2016) Social Support, Simpatia and Hypertension Prevalence in Hispanic/Latinos: Findings from the HCHS/SOL Socialcultural Ancillary Study. *Journal of Latina/o Psychology*, Vol 4(3), 131-141.
3. Britto, P. R., Yoshikawa, H., **Ponguta, L. A.**, Reyes, M., et al. (2014). Strengthening systems for integrated early childhood development services: A cross-national analysis of governance. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 1308, 245-255.
4. Merz, E.L, Roesch, S.C., Malcarne, V.L., Penedo, F.J., Liabre M.M., Weitzman, O.B. Navas-Nacher, E.L., Perreira, K.M., & Gonzalez, F., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Johnson, T.P. Gallo, L.C. (2014). Validation of the Interpersonal Support Evaluation List-12 (ISEL-12) among English and Spanish-Speaking Hispanic Americans from the Sociocultural Study of Latinos. *Psychological Assessment*. 26(2), 384-394.
5. Britto, P.R., Yoshikawa, H., Van Ravens, J., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Oh, S.S., Dimaya, R., & Seder, R.C. (2013). Understanding the governance of early childhood development and education systems in low-income countries (*UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre Working Paper 2013-07*). Florence, Italy: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

Agency Reports, Policy Briefs and Book Chapters

1. Kagan, S.L., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Yoshikawa, H., Maldonado, C. (2017) Colombia Early Learning Quality Instrument (CELQI): Observational Measure and Stakeholder Surveys (Center Directors, Parents, and Teachers). Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
2. **Ponguta, L.A.**, Yoshikawa, H., Kagan, S.L., Ponguta, L.A. Current Global Initiatives to Develop Population-level Indicators of Development for Children 0 to 3 years. Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
3. **Ponguta, L.A.**, Yoshikawa, H., Kagan, S.L., Ponguta, L.A. Alignment of the Quality Management System (*Sistema de Gestión de Calidad* or SGC) and the Colombia Early Learning Quality Instrument (CELQI). Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
4. Yoshikawa, H., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Kagan, S.L. (2017) Analytic Plan for the Colombia Early Learning Quality Instrument (CELQI) and MELQO Child Development and Learning (CDL) Assessment. Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
5. Yoshikawa, H., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Kagan, S.L. (2017) Quality in Family Modality Services in Early Childhood Development in Colombia: A Draft Conceptual Framework. Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
6. Yoshikawa, H., Kagan, S.L., **Ponguta, L.A.** (2017) Quality in Family Modality Services in Early Childhood Development: A Literature Review. Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
7. Kagan, S.L., Yoshikawa, H., **Ponguta, L.A.** (2017) Examining Early Childhood Transitions in Context: an Analytic Review of the Literature. Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
8. Kagan, S.L., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Yoshikawa, H., (2017) Improving Transition (*Transición*) in Colombia: A Preliminary Analysis of the CELQI Adaptation. Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
9. Kagan, S.L., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Yoshikawa, H., Maldonado, C. (2017) Colombia Early Learning Quality Instrument (CELQI): Observational Measure and Stakeholder Surveys (Center Directors, Parents, and Teachers). Ministry of Education, Bogota, Colombia.
10. Leckman, J.F., do Rosário, M.C., **Ponguta, L.A.** (2016) Mental Health and early Childhood Development. In São Paulo Carinhosa: o que grandes cidades e políticas intersetoriais podem fazer pela primeira infância. São Paulo, Brazil. pp. 26-42.

11. Yoshikawa, H., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Nieto, A.M, Van Ravens, J., Portilla, X.A., Britto, P.R., and Leyva, D. (2014) *Evaluating Mechanisms for Governance, Finance and Sustainability of Colombia's Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Policy De Cero a Siempre*. Office of the President and the Intersectoral Commission for Early Childhood. Bogota, Colombia.
12. Chavan, M., Yoshikawa, H., and Bahadur, C. (2014) Sriraman, A., Nieto, A.M., **Ponguta, L.A.**, and Grindal, T. Thematic Group 4 on Early Childhood Development, Education and Transition to Work. The Sustainable Solutions Development Network. New York, NY.
13. Britto, P.R., **Ponguta, L.A.** & Reyes, M.R. A Systematic Review of Early Childhood Parenting Programs in Low and Middle-income Countries (2014) UNICEF, New York.
14. **Ponguta, L.A.**, Britto, P.R., & Adams, L. (2012) *ECCE National Feasibility Study for the Country of Ethiopia: a Policy Brief*. The World Bank. Washington, D.C.
15. Britto, P.R., van Ravens, J., & **Ponguta, L.A.** (2011) *Joining Forces for the Integration of Early Childhood Development Policies and Services in Kosovo*. UNICEF Report. Prishtina, Kosovo.
16. **Ponguta, L.A.**, & van Ravens, J., (2010) *Governance and Finance of Early Childhood: Achieving Equity, Access and Quality*. Kenya: Country Case Study Report. UNICEF Report. New York, NY.
17. Britto, P. R., Yoshikawa, H., **Ponguta, L.A.**, Oh, S.S., & Reyes, M.R. (2010) *Governance and Finance of Early Childhood: Achieving Equity, Access and Quality*. Bernard van Leer Foundation Report. The Hague, The Netherlands.
18. Britto, P.R., & **Ponguta, L.A.** (2009) *Creating a National Policy for Early Childhood in the Occupied Territory of Palestine*. UNICEF Report. New York, NY.

Scholarship in Progress

1. Early Childhood as a Strategic Investment for the Promotion of Positive Peace and Sustainable Development: A Call for Interdisciplinary and Multi-sectoral Partnerships (Book Chapter).
2. Effects of Custodial Grandparenting on Child and Youth Outcomes: A Systematic Review.
3. Association Between Parental Mental Health Profiles and Early Childhood Socioemotional Development in Fragile Contexts in Colombia.
4. Impact evaluation of a Community-Based Intervention Targeting Resilience Amongst Primary Caregivers of Children Enrolled in Early Childhood Development Centers in Colombia.
5. Psychometric Evaluation of the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale in Primary Caregivers of Young Children Living in Fragile Contexts in Colombia.
6. Impact Evaluation of a Parenting and School Readiness Program Amongst Palestinian Refugee and Marginalized Lebanese Communities in Beirut.