

# Laura Gauer Bermudez, M.S.W., M.I.P.P.

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## Education

### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

School of Social Work, New York, N.Y. (September 2015 – December 2018 anticipated)

- Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work – Dissertation: *Addressing the intersection of economic agency and relationship power to reduce HIV risk among adolescent girls in Zambia*

### **JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**

School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C. (January 2012 – December 2013)

- Master of International Public Policy

### **UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Department of International Development, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford, United Kingdom (July 2010)

- Certificate in Forced Migration

### **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS**

George Warren Brown School of Social Work, St. Louis, Missouri (August 2003 - May 2005)

- Master of Social Work

### **TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

Fort Worth, Texas (August 1999 - December 2002)

- Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Health Concentration, Summa Cum Laude
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## Professional Experience

### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY – School of Social Work & Mailman School of Public Health**

Research Associate, New York, N.Y. (SSW: September 2015 – December 2017; MSPH January 2018 - present)

- Lead the development of manuscripts for publication - manage teams of co-authors to collectively produce papers on child protection and well-being in low-resource environments
- Present research findings to interdisciplinary audiences including academics, practitioners, and policymakers
- Co-lead the Cash Task Force working to build the evidence base on cash transfers in humanitarian settings

### **FIDUCIAM, LLC**

Managing Partner, New York, NY (August 2015- present)

- Provide consulting services to NGO and UN clients on child protection (assignments detailed on p. 2-3)

### **WORLD VISION**

Deputy Director, Child Development and Protection, Resource Development and Management Unit, Washington, D.C. (December 2014 – August 2015) Past Positions: Senior Program Management Officer/Acting Deputy Director (March 2013 – December 2014), Program Management Officer (March 2011- March 2013)

- Progressively responsible for the programmatic and financial oversight of U.S. Government funded grants addressing child protection and child development – annual revenue \$28 million
- Offered technical guidance on performance monitoring including Theory of Change articulation, indicator development, baseline measurement, data collection, reporting, endline surveys, and evaluations
- Provided direct oversight to the successful implementation of five USDOL-funded grants to reduce child labor

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS**

International Relations Analyst, Washington D.C. (December 2008-January 2010)

- Managed cooperative agreements with the International Labor Organization (ILO) for research on child labor
- Advised international agencies on social science research methodologies to assess child labor and forced labor
- Drafted sections and provided editorial review on the Annual Report on the Worst Forms of Child Labor
- Conducted in-country data collection on government efforts to combat child labor in Jamaica and El Salvador

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**

Program Specialist, Washington, D.C. (January 2005-April 2007)

- Managed grants and cooperative agreements for the Unanticipated Arrivals and Technical Assistance Programs
- Conducted on-site monitoring of federally-funded projects to Hmong and Somali Bantu community organizations

## Affiliations

### **COLUMBIA GROUP FOR CHILDREN IN ADVERSITY**

Associate, New York, NY (March 2017 – present)

- Selected as a member of CGCA to offer technical support to governments, operational agencies, and policymakers on the protection and well-being of children in adversity
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## Consultancy Assignments

### **UNICEF HAITI**

Consultant, New York, NY (Jan 2018 – present)

- Lead qualitative data analysis and serve as lead author on study examining violence against children in Haiti

### **CHILDFUND UGANDA**

Consultant, New York, NY (December 2017 – present)

- Lead the development of three learning briefs to showcase findings on ChildFund's deinstitutionalization and reintegration program for vulnerable children in Uganda

### **SAVE THE CHILDREN & THE CHILD PROTECTION IN CRISIS (CPC) LEARNING NETWORK**

Consultant, New York, NY (August 2017 – present)

- Lead participatory exercise to identify and rank research priorities on child protection in humanitarian contexts

### **WORLD VISION U.S.**

Consultant, New York, NY (April 2017 – June 2017)

- Provide technical support to the revision of a gender analysis for a USAID Title II Development Food Assistance Program in Bangladesh
- Develop concept note to reduce child marriage and FGM/C in rural Senegal

### **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

Doctoral Researcher, New York, NY/Lancaster, PA (November 2016 – March 2017)

- Design and implement qualitative Photovoice pilot study to obtain client-centered outcomes for refugee youth

### **THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE**

Consultant, New York, NY/Lebanon/Jordan (June 2016 – March 2017)

- Carry out FGDs and KIIs with refugee clients and key stakeholders in Lebanon and Jordan
- Develop guidance note on implementing integrated livelihoods and protection programming in urban settings

### **UNICEF INNOCENTI and COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Consultant, New York, NY (May 2016 – November 2017)

- Author briefing paper on the multidimensional effects of economic strengthening for adolescents in LMICs

### **FHI360, SEEP NETWORK**

Consultant, New York, NY (May 2016 – present)

- Produce briefing papers on the effect of economic strengthening interventions for vulnerable children

### **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN - UNIFEM**

Senior Research Consultant, Occupied Palestinian Territories/Washington D.C. (March 2010–December 2010)

- Designed small scale rapid assessment research methodology to gather information on sex work, violence against women, and HIV in East Jerusalem and the West Bank

### **WORLD VISION**

Proposal Development Consultant, Washington D.C. (May 2010-September 2010)

- Developed proposals on counter-trafficking and humanitarian assistance in Mozambique, Bangladesh and Gaza

### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION – IOM**

Research Associate/Consultant, South Africa (March 2008-October 2008)

- Conducted qualitative rapid assessment research and analysis on internal human trafficking within South Africa

### **THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE**

Refugee Processing Caseworker (Short-Term), Thailand/Myanmar Border (January 2007-March 2007)

- Counseled refugee applicants for the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP) in Tham Hin and Mae La camps

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## Publications – Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- 2018 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Rubenstein, B., Williams, M., Stark, L. *Convergent drivers of intimate partner violence and violence against children: Lessons from qualitative research in Coteaux, Haiti*. Manuscript in preparation.
- 2018 Stark, L., **Bermudez, L.G.**, Meyer, S. *Development of an index to measure the strength of child protection systems: Conceptual and practical considerations*. Manuscript in preparation
- 2018 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Stark, L., Williamson, K. *Global research priorities for child protection in humanitarian contexts: Results from an adapted CHNRI exercise*. Manuscript under review at PLoS.
- 2018 Karimli, L., Ssewamala, F., **Bermudez, L.G.**, Wells, C. *Child poverty, children's work, and mental health outcomes among AIDS orphaned children in Uganda: parallel multiple moderated mediation in longitudinal experimental study*. Manuscript under review at JAMA.
- 2018 Ssewamala, F., **Bermudez, L.G.** et al. *Suubi4Her: A study protocol to examine the impact and cost associated with a combination intervention to prevent HIV risk behavior among adolescent girls in Uganda*. Manuscript under review at BMC Public Health.
- 2018 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Bahar, O., Dako-Gyeke, M., Boateng, A., Ibrahim, A., Ssewamala, F., McKay, M. Understanding female migrant child labor within a cumulative risk framework: The case for combined interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. *International Social Work*. (in press)
- 2018 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Jennings, L., Ssewamala, F., Nakigozi, G. Does economic strengthening improve adherence to ART among adolescents?: Results from a randomized controlled trial in Uganda. *AIDS & Behavior*. (in press)
- 2018 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Yu, G., Lu, L., Falb, K., Eoomkham, J., Abdella, G., & Stark, L. HIV risk among displaced adolescent girls in Ethiopia: The role of gender norms and self-esteem. *Prev Science*. (in press)
- 2018 Wang, J.S.H., Ssewamala, F., Neilands, T., **Bermudez, L.G.**, et al. The effect of child savings accounts on family material hardship: Findings from a randomized trial in Uganda. *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*. (in press)
- 2018 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Parks, L., Meyer, S., Stark, L. Safety, trust, & disclosure: A transgenerational examination of violence against children in Kiziba Camp, Rwanda. *Social Science & Medicine*, 200, 83-91.
- 2018 Ssewamala, F.M., **Bermudez, L.G.**, & Santelli, J. The power of financial inclusion: Reporting on the efficacy of economic strengthening interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 62(1).
- 2018 Ssewamala, F. M., Wang, J. S. H., Neilands, T. B., **Bermudez, L. G.**, Garfinkel, I., Waldfoegel, J., ... & Kirkbride, G. (2018). Cost-Effectiveness of a Savings-Led Economic Empowerment Intervention for AIDS-Affected Adolescents in Uganda: Implications for Scale-up in Low-Resource Communities. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 62(1), S29-S36.
- 2017 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Grilo, S.A., Santelli, J., Ssewamala, F. Informing health choices in low-resource settings. *The Lancet*, 390(10092), 336-338.
- 2016 **Bermudez, L.G.**, Jennings, L., Ssewamala, F., et al. Equity in adherence to antiretroviral therapy among economically-vulnerable adolescents living with HIV in Uganda. *AIDS Care*, 28 (Suppl 2), 83.
- 2009 Castro, C. "An Overview of Child Labor Statistics". *Child Labor: A Public Health Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Contributor: **Bermudez, L.G.**)

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## Publications – Guidance Notes & Policy Briefs

- 2017 **Bermudez, L.G.** *Integrating Protection and Livelihoods Interventions for Displaced Persons in Urban Humanitarian Response*. New York, NY: International Rescue Committee.
- 2017 Ssewamala, F.M. & **Bermudez, L.G.** *Innocenti Working Paper: Translating Research to Evidence – Methodologies to Capture the Multidimensional Effects of Economic Strengthening Interventions*. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- 2017 **Bermudez, L.G.** *Understanding the Effects of Micro-Savings on Vulnerable Children in Sub-Saharan Africa*. FHI 360/SEEP Network. (in press)
- 2017 **Bermudez, L.G.** *Understanding the Effects of Cash Transfers on Vulnerable Children in Sub-Saharan Africa*. FHI 360/SEEP Network. (in press)
- 2017 **Bermudez, L.G.** *Understanding the Effects of Economic Strengthening Programs on Adolescent Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa*. FHI 360/SEEP Network. (in press)
- 2017 **Bermudez, L.G.** *Youth Entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa*. FHI 360/SEEP Network. (in press)

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## Fellowships & Advisory Committees

- 2016 National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH). Global Fellow: Child Behavioral Health in Sub-Saharan Africa. Research Partnerships for Scaling Up Mental Health Interventions in Low-and Middle-Income Countries.
- 2016 U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)/National Academies of Sciences (NAS). Expert Panelist and Planning Committee. Research Strategy Development on Child Labor and Forced Labor. Washington, D.C.
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