

Mary Theresa Rodriguez

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EDUCATION

University of Florida

PhD. in Agricultural Extension

Department of Agricultural Education & Communication

Emphasis in Food Security, Gender, & Community Development

Dissertation: *"An Investigation of the impact of social capital, gender, and innovation characteristics on adoption of the hydraulic injector fertigation technology in the Jordan Valley"*

Advisor: Dr. T. Grady Roberts

Gainesville, FL

August 2015

University of Florida

M.S. in Agricultural Education

Department of Agricultural Education & Communication

Emphasis in International Agricultural Education

Thesis: *"Identifying best practices for a successful study abroad program"*

Advisor: Dr. T. Grady Roberts

Gainesville, FL

May 2010

Texas A&M University

B.S. in Agricultural Education

Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

Teacher Certification

College Station, TX

May 2008

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Community Leadership – The Ohio State University 2015- Present

- Instructor- COMLDR 5330- Methods of Teaching in Non-formal Learning Environments
- Conducting community based research

Graduate Research Assistant - University of Florida

2012 - 2015

- Developing surveys through Qualtrics and conducting data collection
- Planning, conducting, and analyzing interviews and focus groups
- Managing data sets and conducting preliminary analysis
- Managing and completing human subject research submissions

Graduate Teaching Assistant - University of Florida 2008 - 2010; 2012 – 2013, 2014- 2015

- Co-Instructor – AEC 3073- Intercultural Communication, Fall 2014- present
- Graduate Assistant – CALS Dean’s office- Supporting probationary students, 2012-present
- Teaching Assistant – AEC 3073- Intercultural Communication, Fall 2013
- Teaching Assistant – AEC 4465- Global Leadership, Fall 2013
- Teaching Assistant – AEC 3033- Business Writing, Fall 2012- Spring 2013
- Teaching Assistant – AEE 3073- Intercultural Communication, Spring 2010
- Lab Instructor – AEE 3030- Effective Oral Communication, Spring 2009
- Lab Instructor – AEE 3030- Effective Oral Communication, Fall 2008
- Teaching Assistant – Teaching Resource Center, Teacher’s College, Fall 2008

USAID Africa Bureau Intern – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia May- August 2013

- Intern for the Assets and Livelihoods Transition program of USAID Ethiopia.
- Conducted qualitative research to investigate barriers and opportunities for livelihood diversification of Ethiopian nationals participating in direct food aid programs.
- Prepared a full report of findings for USAID and presented to stakeholders and government officials.
- Participated in site visits around Ethiopia to conduct program and product evaluation for the direct food aid programs supported by USAID.

U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer - Cameroon, Africa Sep 2010 - June 2012

- Worked and lived in rural village
- Conducted community needs assessments
- Developed life skills program for women
- Developed income generating activities
- Taught and implemented improved agro-forestry and agricultural skills with local farmers
- Teaching partner at the Agricultural Technical School of Garoua

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CYFAR-Red Clay Garden Project- Center for Public Issues Education (PI: Dr. Alexa Lamm)
May 2014

- Analyzed focus group data from participating students to gauge their perceptions of their school gardens and began identifying possible attitude and behavioral changes that could ultimately lead to better food security.
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Role of Women in Household Food Security in Trinidad & Tobago- Global Education Lab, UF (PI: Dr. Amy Harder) March 2014

- As part of a NIFA Higher Education Challenge Grant, traveled to Trinidad & Tobago to understand the role that women play in household food security. We conducted

personal interviews with various groups of people to determine how women affect household nutritional security.

Climate Change and Hardiness in Belize- Global Education Lab, UF (PI: Dr. Amy Harder)
March 2013

- As part of a NIFA Higher Education Challenge Grant, traveled to Belize to look at hardiness by local people in the face of climate change. We conducted personal interviews and collected data pertaining to perceptions of climate change and their level of hardiness and ability to cope with crisis.

Rural Participatory Research- Peace Corps, Cameroon September 2010- June 2012
Participatory mapping exercises to identify water resources. Needs assessments to identify needed interventions pertaining to agro-forestry. Conducted transect walks to map resources within the village.

PUBLICATIONS

Roberts, T. G., **Rodriguez, M. T.**, Gouldthorpe, J. L., Stedman, N. L. P., Harder, A., & Hartmann, M. (in press). Exploring outcomes two years after an international faculty abroad experience. *Journal of Agricultural Education*.

Roberts, T. G., & **Rodriguez, M. T.** (2015). *An overview of climate change and impacts on food security in small island developing states*. In Ganpat, W. G., & Isaac, W. P. (Eds.), *Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security in Small Island Developing States*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global. doi:10.4018/978-1-4666-6501-9

Rodriguez, M. T., Lamm, A.J., Odera, E., Owens, C.T. (In press). Evaluating impacts of school-based extension garden programs from a child's perspective. *Journal of Extension*.

Roberts, T. G., Ganpat, W. G., Narine, L., Heinert, S. B., & **Rodriguez, M. T.** (in press). Agricultural producers' knowledge of food security issues in Trinidad: Implications for extension programming. *Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education*.

Moore, A., **Rodriguez, M.**, Harder, A., & Roberts, T. G. (2013). Exploring attitudes and beliefs of current and future agricultural teaching faculty prior to an international professional development experience. *NACTA Journal*, 57(3a), 59–68.

Coers, N., **Rodriguez, M. T.**, Roberts, T. G., Emerson, H. C., Barrick, R. K. (2012). Examining the student impacts of three international capstone experiences. *NACTA Journal*, 56(2), 55–62.

Unruh-Snyder, L., Lamm, A. J., Brendemuhl, J., Irani, T., Roberts, T. G., **Rodriguez, M. T.**, & Navarro, J. (2011). Enhancing student cultural awareness and international engagement

through an agricultural sustainability course in Costa Rica. *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education*, 40(1), 191–198. doi 10.4195/jnrlse.2010.0033u

Lamm, A. J., Cannon, K. J., Roberts, T. G., Irani, T., Snyder, L., Brendemuhl, J., & **Rodriguez, M. T.** (2011). An exploration of reflection: Expression of learning style in an international experiential learning context. *Journal of Agricultural Education*, 52(3), 122–135. doi 10.5032/jae.2011.03122

Rodriguez, M. T., & Roberts, T. G. (2011). Identifying best practices for a successful study abroad program. *Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education*, 18(1), 19–33. doi 10.5191/jiaee.2011.18102

AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Association of Leadership Educators (ALE), 2015- present
- American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE), 2007- 2010, 2012- Present
- Association for International Agriculture and Extension Education (AIAEE), 2008- 2010, 2012- Present
- North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA), 2008- 2010