

YESENIA MERINO, PhD, MPH

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EDUCATION

- 2019 **Doctor of Philosophy** Chapel Hill, NC
Health Behavior
Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2013 **Master of Public Health** Atlanta, GA
Behavioral Sciences & Health Education
Rollins School of Public Health
Emory University
- 2002 **Bachelor of Science** Fairfax, VA
Biology
George Mason University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019-present **Adjunct Assistant Professor**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Teach new or dramatically redesigned courses to graduate students across health science disciplines.
- SPHG 690: Critical History of Public Health
SPHG 701: Leading from the Inside Out
- 2019-2022 **Director of Inclusive Excellence Education and Training**
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
Develop, deliver, and evaluate diversity, inclusion and antiracism training sessions for faculty and staff. Assist faculty throughout the school with inclusive curriculum development. Develop, coordinate and perform research projects relating to diversity, inclusion and academic public health. Write grants to fund educational and research initiatives.
- 2020-present **Investigator**
Community-engaged project working with Community Ambassadors to provide outreach and education to Latinx and Black businesses in the Durham, NC area. Led development of bilingual team and data management systems.
- A study of structural racism in redesigning the MPH core curriculum at a southern university. I used a mixed methods design to understand how the process of developing the new core curriculum both challenges and reinforces structural biases. I performed factor analyses of three scales tested in a health sciences student population: (1) paternalism, (2) social dominance, and (3) motivations to suppress prejudice scales. Additionally, I conducted an institutional ethnography of the process and products of the curricular redesign.

2017-2019

Instructor

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Teach new or dramatically redesigned courses to graduate students across health science disciplines.

HPM 965: Cultural Competence for the 21st Century

PUBH 890: The Public Health Impact of Criminalizing the Marginalized

HB 600: Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health

HB 704: MPH Professional Development

HB 812: PhD Professional Development

HB 860: Proposal Development

2018-2019

Senior Teaching Fellow

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Train and manage team of 18 MPH Core teaching assistants to deliver core content to first-year graduate students. Conduct evaluation of core courses, including TA performance. Develop systems for continuous quality improvement of instruction and professional development of students on teaching team. Organize meetings and communication across members of teaching team.

2016-2017

Outreach Coordinator

UNC Office for Undergraduate Research

Advised undergraduate students interested in research and assist with the maintenance and analysis of program data. Wrote and published newsletter, blog posts, and social media content. Coordinated outreach events around campus. Managed and analyzed data for program evaluation and quality improvement.

2013-2016

Curriculum Developer

National Hispanic Council on Aging

Developed online courses for community health workers on topics related to aging. Wrote grants to secure additional funding to expand course offerings to other non-profit organizations. Conducted evaluations with community partners.

- 2014-2016 **Graduate Research Assistant**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Working on multiple teams, conducted five research studies including a community-engaged intervention study to reduce anti-Latino implicit bias among physicians, a call center study to improve employee productivity, and a national homeless youth population study. Designed studies, managed study team, monitored and analyzed study data, co-authored papers, presented at professional conferences, co-wrote grant proposals.
- 2013 **Research & Evaluation Associate**
Community Science, Inc.
Collected and analyzed evaluation data on multiple health and social programs, including the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) and farmer's market extension programs.
- 2008-2011 **Clinical Data Coordinator**
Outreach & Recruitment Specialist [promoted]
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Conducted outreach and recruitment for Phase I and II HIV and emerging infectious disease vaccine clinical trials. Promoted to Data Coordinator after developing and implementing evaluation plan for outreach and recruitment efforts. Coordinated HIV vaccine screening study, managed data for multiple HIV vaccine clinical trials.
- 2005-2007 **Clinical Research Coordinator**
Clinical Alliance for Research & Education – Infectious Diseases
Coordinated up to 16 simultaneous HIV and infectious disease clinical trials, including maintaining regulatory documents and managing clinical data.
- 2004-2005 **Account Coordinator**
Bilingual Information Specialist [promoted]
Matthews Media Group
Promoted from Bilingual Information Specialist after demonstrating project leadership in call center. In addition to working on multiple long-term research studies as part of a team of Account Coordinators, led three simultaneous research study recruitment teams.
- 2003 **Health Counselor**
Alexandria Health Department
Worked with Nurse Case Managers throughout the entire spectrum of disease, with particular emphasis on community outreach. Provided case management services to Spanish-speaking community.

PUBLICATIONS

- Merino, Y.,** Thomas, T., Thatcher, K., Simán, F., Lightfoot, A., Eng, E., Chapman, M. (2020) “They were just waiting for me to mess up”: A critical discourse analysis of immigrant Latino teens’ perceptions of power dynamics. *Journal of Community Psychology*. 48, 605– 622. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22276>.
- Merino, Y.** (2018) What do schools of public health have to say about diversity and inclusion? *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*, 5(4), 233–240. doi: 10.1177/2373379918811820.
- Merino, Y.,** Barrington, C., Villa-Torres, L., Carcano, J., Hightow-Wiedman, L. (2018). Negotiating control of HIV: A qualitative analysis of HIV-positive Latino MSM in North Carolina. *AIDS & Behavior*. doi: 10.1007/s10461-018-2228-9.
- Merino, Y.,** Adams, L., Hall, W.J. (2018). Implicit bias and mental health professionals: Priorities and directions for research. *Psychiatric Services*, 69(6), 723-725. doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.201700294
- Chapman, M.V., Hall, W.J., Lee, K. Colby, R., Coyne-Beasley, T., Day, S., Eng, E., Lightfoot A.F., **Merino, Y.,** Simán, F., Thomas, T., Thatcher, K., Payne, K. (2018). Making a difference in medical trainees' attitudes toward Latino patients: A pilot study of an intervention to modify implicit and explicit attitudes. *Social Science & Medicine*, 199, 202-208. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.05.013
- Cobran, E.K., **Merino, Y.,** Roach, B., Bigelow, S.M., Godley, P.A. (2017). The independent specialty medical advocate model of patient navigation and intermediate health outcomes in newly diagnosed cancer patients. *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship*, 8(10), 454.
- Dunlap, S., Taboada, A., **Merino, Y.,** Heitfeld, S., Gordon, R., Gere, D. & Lightfoot, A. (2017). Sexual health transformation among college student educators in an arts-based HIV prevention intervention: A qualitative cross-site analysis. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 12(3), 215-236. doi: 10.1080/15546128.2017.1298065
- Lightfoot, A., Thatcher, K., Simán, F., Eng, E., **Merino, Y.,** Thomas, T., Coyne-Beasley, T., Chapman, M. (2017). ‘What I wish my doctor knew about my life’: Using photovoice to explore barriers to health equity with immigrant Latino adolescents. *Qualitative Social Work*. doi: 10.1177/1473325017704034
- Merino, Y.** (2016). Stress and personality development among US-immigrating youth. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 18(2), 289-291. doi: 10.1007/s10903-015-0226-9.
- Hall, W., Chapman, M., Lee, K., **Merino, Y.,** Thomas, T., Payne, K., Eng, E., Day, S., Coyne-Beasley, T. (2015). Implicit racial/ethnic bias among healthcare professionals and its influence on healthcare outcomes: A systematic review. *American Journal of Public Health*, 105(12), e60-76. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2015.302903
- Gazmararian, J., Dalmida, S., **Merino, Y.,** Blake, S., Thompson, W., Gaydos, L. (2013). What new mothers need to know: Perspectives from women and providers in Georgia. *Maternal & Child Health Journal*, 18(4), 839-851. doi: 10.1007/s10995-013-1308-8.