

# MARISSA K. VELARDE

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## EDUCATION

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2025	PhD	Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Maternal and Child Health <i>Minor: Epidemiology</i> Graduate certificate in Latin American Studies  <i>Dissertation Title:</i> Mind the (widening) gap: a multi-method study of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Dobbs decision on abortion access Advisor: Sian Curtis, PhD
2011	MPH	Boston University School of Public Health <i>Concentrations:</i> Global Health, Maternal and Child Health
2007	BA	Connecticut College <i>Major:</i> Biological Sciences <i>Minor:</i> Gender and Women's Studies

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Research**

2025 – Present	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Public Health, San Diego State University
2024 – 2025	Research Assistant, Qualitative Research Service, North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute, UNC School of Medicine
2022-2024	Graduate Research Assistant, Data for Impact (D4I), Carolina Population Center
2021-2023	Research Consultant, Ibis Reproductive Health
2021-2022	Global Research Fellow, Program Development and Introduction, FHI 360
2018-2020	Research Assistant, Sociology Department, Brooklyn College
2014-2016	Research Associate, Universidad Diego Portales

### **Applied**

2017-2020	Program Specialist, US Programs, Open Society Foundations
2011-2013	Health Educator, MGH Charlestown Health Care Center
2007-2009	Clinical Research Coordinator, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Teaching Assistant**

Fall 2023	MHCH 724: Abortion Care and Policy Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Spring 2022 MHCH713 & MHCH713L: Research Methods in Maternal and Child Health & Lab  
Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### **Guest Lectures**

2024 *Understanding Race & Ethnicity in Qualitative Research*, Lecture, Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Public Health Research, Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2022-2024 *Understanding Race & Ethnicity in Research*, Lecture, Research Methods in Maternal and Child Health, Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

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### **External**

2023 Emerging Scholars in Family Planning, Society of Family Planning  
“Mind the (widening) gap: A bilingual, qualitative study of abortion fund clients post-*Dobbs*”

### **Internal**

2025 Student Service Award, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

2024 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

MCH-Epidemiology Doctoral Training Program, UNC Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science, and Practice

Summer Research Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2022 MCH-Epidemiology Doctoral Training Program, UNC Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science, and Practice

2020 UNC Center of Excellence Training Program, UNC Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science, and Practice

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer-viewed Manuscripts**

**Velarde M**, Hassan A. (2025). Integrating Reproductive Justice in Public Health Practice, Research, and Advocacy: An Imperative to Advance Health Equity. *American Journal of Public Health*, 115(7), 1003-1007.

Callahan, RL, Cartwright, AF, Beksinska, M, Kasaro, M, Tang, JH, Milford, C, Wong, CM, **Velarde, M**, et al. (2024). Contraceptive access and use before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: a mixed-methods study in South Africa and Zambia. *Gates Open Research*, 7(61), 61.

Cartwright, AF, **Velarde, M**, Beksinska, M, et al. (2023). Perspectives on sexual and reproductive health self-care among women, healthcare providers, and other key informants: a mixed-methods study in South Africa and Zambia. *Reproductive Health*, 20(1), 65.

Cartwright AF, Callahan RL, **Velarde M**, et al. (2023) Contraceptive continuation and experiences obtaining implant and IUD removal among women randomized to use injectable contraception, levonorgestrel implant, and copper IUD in South Africa and Zambia. *Stud Fam Plann*, 54(2), 379-401.

Callahan, RL, Burke, HM, Lawton, A, OlaOlorun, FM, Mubiru, F, Anyasi, H, Wong, CM, Bidashimwa, D, **Velarde M**, and Ruderman, LW. (2023). Service delivery considerations for introducing new injectable contraceptives lasting 4 and 6 months in Nigeria and Uganda: a qualitative study. *Global Health: Science and Practice*, 11(6).

Callahan RL, Cartwright AF, Beksinska M, Kasaro M, Tang JH, Milford C, Wong C, **Velarde M**, Maphumulo V, Fawzy M, Chinyama M. (2023) Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's contraceptive use: a mixed-methods study in South Africa and Zambia. *Gates Open Research*, 7, 61.

Braine N, **Velarde M**. (2022). Self-managed abortion: Strategies for Support by a Global Feminist Movement. *Women's Reproductive Health*, 9(3), 1-20.

**Velarde M**, Salas SP, Domínguez R, López T, Céspedes P, Furman I, Godoy A, Castro M, Zegers-Hochschild F. (2018) Percepciones y creencias sobre criopreservación embrionaria en mujeres y hombres que se realizan técnicas de reproducción asistida en Santiago, Chile. *Revista chilena de obstetricia y ginecología*, 83(1), 27-44.

**Velarde M**, Zegers-Hochschild F. (2017) Measuring the distribution of adolescent births among 15–19-year-olds in Chile: an ecological study. *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*, 43(4), 302-308.

#### ***Under Review***

**Velarde M**, Jayaweera R, Egwuatu I, Nmezi S, Zurbriggen R, Grosso B, Kristianingrum IA, Bercu C, Moseson H. Understanding the support needs and preferences of people who self-managed abortion with accompaniment group support in Argentina, Nigeria, and Southeast Asia: a prospective, observational cohort study.

**Velarde M**, Speizer I, Pettifor A, Buchbinder M, Bryant AG, Fuentes L, Curtis S. Assessing the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on abortion care utilization and delays and whether there was a differential impact among Latinas in North Carolina.

#### ***In progress***

**Velarde M**, Brugh KN, Fehringer, J. Assessment of the relationship between provider gender norms and quality of care in reproductive and maternal health services in Nigeria.

Sanderson K, Kistler C, **Velarde M**, Grewe MB, Askenazi D, O'Shea M, Flythe JE. Pediatric clinician perspectives on clinical decision support tools for pediatric kidney disease recognition.

**Velarde M**, Bravo GL, Spigel L. Mind the (widening) gap: abortion trajectories among patients using financial assistance in a post-*Dobbs* South.

#### ***Book Chapters***

Velarde, M. (2016) "Reproducción asistida. Primer informe salud sexual, salud reproductiva y derechos humanos en Chile, 99-110.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### **Oral Presentations at Conferences**

**Velarde M.** Characteristics of people receiving logistical support from an abortion fund and their time to abortion care pre- and post-Dobbs. Oral presentation, PAA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC: April 2025.

**Velarde M.** Post-Dobbs abortion trajectories of Spanish-speaking abortion patients in the US South. Oral presentation, Psychosocial Workshop, Washington, DC: April 2025.

**Velarde M.** Assessing disparities to abortion access among Latinas in North Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic. Oral presentation, PAA Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH: April 2024.

**Velarde M,** Jayaweera R, Moseson H. Understanding the needs and preferences of recipients of self-managed abortion with accompaniment in Argentina, Nigeria, and Southeast Asia. Oral presentation, PAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA: April 2023.

Braine N and **Velarde, M.** Aborto autónomo en América Latina: estrategias y redes en el context de un movimiento mundial. Oral presentation, XXXVII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Boston, MA: May 2019.

### **Poster Presentations at Conferences**

**Velarde M,** Salas S. The perception and experience of women and men who have cryopreserved embryos after assisted reproductive technology (ART) in Chile. Poster presentation, IAB 2016 Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland: June 2016.

### **Invited Talks**

*Operationalizing Reproductive Justice*, Presentation with Caitlin R. Williams, Critical Conversations, Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: March 2022.

*Reproductive Justice & Abortion: The US in a Global Context*. Invited panel presentation at the Triangle Global Health Consortium Annual Conference: November 2021.

*Mind the Gap: The Role of Abortion Funds*, Presentation, Critical Conversations, Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: October 2021.

## SPECIALIZED TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

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2024	beginR. UNC University Libraries and UNC Odum Institute.  Writing Publishable Qualitative Manuscripts: Principles and Practices. Qualitative Research Summer Intensive, ResearchTalk and UNC Odum Institute.  Advancing a Critical Ethics of Care in Research: Qualitative Inquiry and Intersectional Vulnerabilities. Qualitative Research Summer Intensive, ResearchTalk and UNC Odum Institute.  Abortion Researcher Incubator, Scholars Strategy Network and ANSIRH.
2023	Creating and Revising a Course. Course Development Institute, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Qualitative Research Methods: Semi-Structured Interviewing. North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Public Health Approaches to Abortion. Coursera, Emory University.

Introduction to Systematic Review Methods. Health Sciences Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

2022 Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling. UNC Odum Institute.

2019 Women in Racial Justice & Human Rights, Rockwood Leadership Institute.

2015 Cumbre de Latinoamérica sobre el estigma en torno al aborto, inroads.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### **Board Service**

2022-Present Secretary of the Board of Directors, Planned Parenthood Votes South Atlantic,

2021-Present Member at Large of the Board of Directors, Carolina Abortion Fund

2016-2020 Member at Large of the Board of Directors, New York Abortion Access Fund

2014-2016 Treasurer of the Board of Directors, Democrats Abroad Chile

### **Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer**

- *Contraception*
- *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*

### **University Service**

2023-Present Member, Carolina Seminar on Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

2021-2022 *Student Senator*, Department of Maternal and Child Health, Graduate & Professional Student Government

2020-2021 Student representative, Maternal and Child Health Doctoral Committee

### **Community Service**

2025-Present Clinic escort volunteer, Triangle Abortion Access Coalition

2024-Present Member, Research Community on the Equity Impacts of Dobbs, AcademyHealth

2024-Present Helpline volunteer, Carolina Abortion Fund

2016-2020 Helpline volunteer, New York Abortion Access Fund

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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AcademyHealth

American Public Health Association

inroads

Latin American Studies Association

Population Association of America

Scholars Strategy Network

Society of Family Planning

## SKILLS

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Quantitative analysis: R, SAS, STATA

Qualitative analysis: Atlas.ti, Dedoose, NVivo

Other software: Qualtrics, Salesforce

Languages: native English proficiency, fluent Spanish