

Dr. Olmedo J. Varela, Ph.D.

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Summary of Professional and Academic Background

Dr. Olmedo J. Varela has more than twenty years of professional experience as a research scientist, adviser and faculty member at research and educational institutions in the Republic of Panama and in the United States. He has also served as a National and International Consultant for the United Nations and for other international organizations in the Latin American Region.

In the professional arena, Dr. Varela has contributed to improving processes related to planning, decision-making and evaluating local, national, and international development through design and implementation of scientific research, decision support systems, methodological guidelines and monitoring and evaluation tools. In the academic arena, Dr. Varela has contributed to the conceptual and methodological debate on the relationship between the changing spatial patterns of population characteristics, the opportunity structure and urban and regional development. Whenever possible, Dr. Varela captures and graphically illustrates the results of his contributions to science and development initiatives via digital analytic theme-maps, some of which are available through the American Geographical Society Collection. Dr. Varela makes available some of his other professional contributions in several of his presentations and publications.

As a result of his professional and academic merits, Dr. Varela has been awarded various international and academic distinctions including the Fulbright Scholarship, the Ford/MacArthur Fellowship, the Honors program of the American Sociological Association and the University of Wisconsin 2007 Scott Greer Award.

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Synthesis of Education

- 1999 Ph.D. Urban Studies, **Department of Sociology**, University of Wisconsin, United States
Area of Specialization: **Urban and Regional Development**
- 1993 M.A. Sociology, **Department of Sociology**, Western Kentucky University, United States.
- 1982 Licenciatura en Sociología, **Department of Sociology**, Universidad Santa María La Antigua, Republic of Panama.
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Synthesis of Professional Experience

- 2000-present **Independent Senior Adviser and International Consultant**
- United Nations System, Republic of Panama
 - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
 - United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
 - United Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama
 - The World Conservation Union
 - The World Bank
 - Inter-American Development Bank
- Lecturer and Research Scientist**, Universidad de Panamá, Florida State University-Panamá, School for International Training (SIT), and Conservation through Research, Education and Action (CREA), Republic of Panama, United States and United Kingdom
- 1993-2000 **Research Scientist**, Center for Urban Initiatives and Research University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, United States
- 1982-1993 **Professor and Researcher**, Universidad de Panamá and Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá
Independent Consultant, Republic of Panama
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Honors

University of Wisconsin 2007 Scott Greer Award
Fulbright Scholarship
Ford/MacArthur Fellowship
Honors Program, American Sociological Association

Main Areas of Expertise

- Social policy, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Decision Support Systems
 - Design and implementation of Integrated Indicator Solutions (IIS)
 - Design and implementation of Planning Support Systems (PSS)
- Scientific research to support theory testing, public policy design, decision making, planning, and monitoring and evaluation processes.
 - Predictive modeling development and testing
 - Temporal and spatial evaluation of contemporary development patterns

Responsibilities Related to Professional and Academic Activities

2000 - present *Independent Senior Advisor and International Consultant*

- Design and evaluate monitoring and evaluation tools to follow up on national and international objectives, including those from national development agendas and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
- Designs and implementation of social policy and institutional frameworks for poverty reduction and social capital investment.
- Advise and provide technical support to UN national counterparts on the design, monitoring and evaluation of UN supported projects
- Design and evaluate Integrated Indicators Solutions (IIS) as a tool to support planning, decision making and monitoring and evaluation activities
- Implement, monitor and evaluate individual projects
- Design and implement strategies for promoting sustainability of projects' outputs
- Evaluate indicators proposed for monitoring and evaluation of international conferences and summits and related national programs and development agendas
- Promote the establishment of networks of development information providers
- Develop and publish specialized documents and technical manuals
- Develop contents of training materials
- Provide technical assistance and training
- Design terms of reference and supervise consultants and specialists for special projects

Lecturer and Research Scientist, Universidad de Panamá, Florida State University-Panama and Conservation through Research, Education and Action (CREA), United Kingdom, Republic of Panama and United States

- Lecture undergraduate and graduate level courses on Research Methods and Urban and Regional Planning and Development
- Design, implement and evaluate scientific research and development initiatives related to Sustainable Human Development

1993-2000 *Research Scientist and Consultant, Center for Urban Initiatives and Research - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

- Designed, monitored, and evaluated research and development initiatives
- Designed and conducted scientific research in the areas of urban and regional development, migration, neighborhood transformation, poverty, environmental sustainability, environmental health, environmental vulnerability and food security
- Led research, development, and evaluation teams
- Performed demographic and statistical analysis
- Performed spatial analysis and modeling

- Designed, administered, and evaluated geographic information systems
- Implemented and evaluated decision support systems
- Served on professional councils and committees
- Authored executive reports and published research findings
- Provided technical assistance with software applications for quantitative and qualitative research design and implementation

1982-1993 *Professor and Researcher, University of Panama and Technological University of Panama, Republic of Panama*

- Taught courses in Sociology of Development, Sociology of Organizations, and Sociology of Communication
- Coordinated and participated in academic committees
- Coordinated and participated in scientific and professional meetings
- Conducted applied and scientific research and evaluation

Independent Consultant, Republic of Panama

- Directed several research and development projects for national and international organizations
- Designed and conducted survey research
- Designed and conducted social impact analysis
- Led research, evaluation, and development teams

Certified Training and Experience on Specialized Computer Applications

<i>Quantitative Analysis:</i>	SPSS PC and SPSS X
<i>Qualitative Analysis:</i>	Ethnograph
<i>Decision and Planning Support Systems:</i>	Geographic Information Systems: Arc/Info; Arc/View; Maptitude; AtlasGIS; MapInfo Community Planning and Analysis: Community 2020 Simulation and Future Scenarios Building: Smart Places; ArcView/Spatial Analyst
<i>Integrated Indicator Solutions:</i>	Redatam+SP; DevInfo

Sponsors of Research and Development Initiatives (last fourteen years)

Annie Casey Foundation	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
City of Milwaukee, Department of City Development (DCD)	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Council of Michigan Foundations	United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Population Division, United Nations	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Fannie Mae Foundation	United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)
Ford/MacArthur Program	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
Fulbright Program	United Nations System, Republic of Panama
Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)	University of Wisconsin- Center for Urban Initiatives and Research
Milwaukee Foundation	University of Wisconsin, Department of Agriculture
President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Sociology
State of Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
The Center for Youth Development and Policy Research	W.K. Kellogg Foundation
The World Conservation Union	World Bank

Outcomes from Development Initiatives and Research

(1993-present)

2000-present *Independent Senior Adviser and International Consultant*

General objective of development initiatives and research: Strengthening institutional and technical capacities and favorable conditions for sustainable development, including design and implementation of planning, monitoring, and evaluation tools.

- United Nations System, Republic of Panama
 - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
 - United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
 - United Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama
 - The World Conservation Union
 - The World Bank
 - Inter-American Development Bank
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Senior Adviser, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Republic of Panamá

Design of conceptual and strategic framework for the modernization of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Ministry coordinator of the President's Social Cabinet.

Presentation related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. *Capital, Cohesión e Institucionalidad Social para el Desarrollo (Social Capital and Social Cohesion for Development)*. A presentation delivered at the President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama, Social Cohesion Project-European Union. Hotel Panamá, January 2008.

Senior Adviser, The World Conservation Union

Design of a Strategy and Plan of Action of Sustainable Development (Local Agenda 21) for the Archipelago of Bocas del Toro, Republic of Panama

Publication related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 2006. Construyendo una Estrategia y Plan de Acción (Agenda 21 Local) de Desarrollo Sostenible en el Archipiélago de Bocas del Toro (*Building a Local Agenda 21 of Sustainable Development in the Archipelago of Bocas del Toro*). The World Conservation Union-Alianza Bocas.

Independent Senior Adviser, President's Social Cabinet/UNDP/The World Bank/IDB.

Strengthening the President's Social Cabinet and its Coordinating Ministry (MSD) to fulfill its central function as institutional sources for the design, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of Panama's Social Policy.

Design of organizational structure

Design of conceptual and methodological frameworks to support extreme poverty reduction policy and strategies

Senior Adviser, United Nations System, Republic of Panama

Fortalecimiento del Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo (SID) en el Marco de los Objetivos del Milenio (ODM) y la Gerencia Basada en Resultados (GBR) (*Strengthening the National System of Development Indicators within the context of the Millennium Development Goals and Results Based Management*)

Outcomes

- Strengthening of national capacities to promote governmental and public participation in the monitoring and evaluation of national agendas and development goals
- Second Version of the Republic of Panama's National System of Development Indicators [*Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo (SID)*] available for public use on CD and via Internet
- Pilot Educational Module for the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the SID
- Strengthening of Governmental and Non-governmental organizations in the use of the SID, including the President's Social Cabinet
- Strengthening empowerment of key actors and ownership of project's outputs

Publications related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo. 2004. "*Las Agendas Nacionales de Desarrollo y los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: relación, justificación, seguimiento y evaluación*" (*National Development Agendas and the Millennium Development Goals: relationship, justification, monitoring and evaluation*). United Nations System – President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama

Varela, Olmedo J. 2004. "*Enfoques Participativos y Tecnologías de Información al Servicio del Desarrollo: evidencias y nuevos desafíos para la sostenibilidad del Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo (SID)*" (*Participatory Approaches and Information Technologies for Development: evidence and new challenges for the sustainability of the National System of Development Indicators*). United Nations System – President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama

Varela, Olmedo J. 2004. "*Manual del Usuario del Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo (SID)*" (*SID's User Guide*). United Nations System – President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama

International Consultant, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Evaluación y Análisis Comparativo de Soluciones Alternativas para la Integración de Indicadores Como Herramienta de Apoyo a la Toma de Decisiones y a las Actividades de Seguimiento y Evaluación

(Assessment and Comparative Analysis of Integrated Indicators Solutions (IIS) as a Tool for Decision Making and Monitoring and Evaluation Activities).

Outcomes

- Assessment of UN initiatives on integrated indicators solutions
- Comparative analysis of assessed solutions
- Recommendations for improving individual solutions and developing integration and interconnectivity among solutions

Technical Report:

Varela, Olmedo J. 2004. “*Assessment of Integrated Indicators Solutions (IIS) as a tool for Decision Making and Monitoring and Evaluation Activities*”. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Technical Advisor, United Nations Development Program, (**short term project**, ended October 2003)

Democracia y Desarrollo: Estado y Sociedad Unidos por Panamá
(Democracy and Development: the State and Society together for Panama)

Outcomes

- Conceptual and methodological guidelines for the design and implementation of the “Visionómetro”
- Strengthening the “Foro Panamá 2020”- Monitoring and Evaluation Commission’s conceptual, methodological and technical capacities
- Implementation test of the “Visionómetro” by the Foro Panamá 2020’s Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
- Empowerment of key actors and ownership of project’s outputs

Publications and presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 2003. “*Consideraciones Conceptuales y Metodológicas para la Construcción y Sostenibilidad del Visionómetro: un instrumento de seguimiento y evaluación de la Visión Nacional 2020*” (*Conceptual and Methodological Considerations for the Construction and Sustainability of the “Visionómetro”: a monitoring and evaluation tool for Panama’s 2020 Vision*). Panama’s Foro 2020 – United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Republic of Panama

Varela, Olmedo J. *Lineamientos Metodológicos para la Construcción del Visionómetro como instrumento de seguimiento y evaluación de la Visión 2020. (Methodological Guidelines for the Construction of the “Visionómetro” as a tool for monitoring and evaluation Panama’s 2020 Vision)*. Presented at the First Workshop for the Construction of the “Visionómetro”. Panama’s Foro 2020 / United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Republic of Panama, January 14-15, 2003

Technical Adviser, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Fortalecimiento de la Sostenibilidad del SID Mediante la Conformación de la Red Nacional de Usuarios y Colaboradores
(Strengthening the SID’s sustainability through a Network of Users and Collaborators)

Outcomes

- Strategy and plan of action to conform the SID’s National Network of Users and Collaborators
- Conceptual and methodological strengthening of the SID’s support teams

Publications related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 2003. *Lineamientos para el Desarrollo de una Estrategia y Plan de Acción para la Conformación de la Red Nacional de Usuarios y Colaboradores del Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo (SID) de la República de Panamá (Guidelines for the Development of a Strategy and Plan of Action to conform the SID’s National Network of Users and Collaborators)*. United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - President’s Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama

Technical Adviser, United Nations Population Fund

Fortalecimiento de las Contrapartes Nacionales del UNFPA- Panamá en Procesos de Diseño, Seguimiento y Evaluación de Proyectos
(Strengthening the United Nations Population Fund’s National Counterparts on the Design, Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects)

Outcomes

- Strengthening national capacities on monitoring and evaluation activities through results based management, including the logic frame
- Training module, including methodological guidelines to support monitoring and evaluation activities

Presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. *El Marco Lógico como Instrumento de Planificación, Seguimiento y Evaluación de Proyectos y Programas de Desarrollo Social (The Logic Frame as a tool for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Social Development Projects and Programs)*. Presented at the Results Based Management Workshop for the United Nations Population Fund’s National Counterparts in the Republic of Panama. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Republic of Panama, August 8-10, 2002

Senior Technical Advisor, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Population Division (CELADE), United Nations

Apoyo a la Gestión del Gabinete Social en Materia de Población y Desarrollo y Diseño e Implementación del Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo (SID)

(Support the President's Social Cabinet Agenda on Population and Development and in the Design and Implementation of the National System of Development Indicators)

Outcomes

- Organization and training of teams at the President's Social Cabinet and at the Census Bureau for the design, implementation and use of the SID
- Agreements and mechanism for the production and integration of development indicators according to the norms of the National Statistical System and the identified needs and resources
- Empowerment of the SID's support teams
- Ownership of the SID by support teams and users
- Methodological guidelines for the production of the SID's metadata
- Conceptual and methodological strengthening of the President's Social Cabinet and the SID's support teams on monitoring and evaluation activities

Publications and presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 2002. *“Procesos y Experiencias en el Diseño e Implementación del Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo (SID) de la República de Panamá: el camino recorrido y los desafíos para su sostenibilidad” (Processes and Experiences in the Design and Implementation of the Republic of Panama's National System of Development Indicators: accomplishments and challenges)*. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - President's Social Cabinet, Republic of Panama

Varela, Olmedo J. *Procesos y Actores Claves en el Diseño e Implementación del Sistema Integrado de Indicadores para el Desarrollo de la República de Panamá (Processes and Key Actors in the Design and Implementation of Panama's National System of Development Indicators)*. Presented at the “Sub-regional Workshop on Indicators for Monitoring Goals of the International Conference on Population and Development. UN-ECLAC, Population Division, Managua, Nicaragua, February, 2001

1993-2000

Research Scientist and Consultant, Center for Urban Initiatives and Research - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- Designed, monitored, and evaluated research and development initiatives
- Designed and conducted scientific research in the areas of urban and regional development, migration, neighborhood transformation, poverty, environmental sustainability, environmental health, environmental vulnerability and food security
- Led research, development, and evaluation teams
- Performed demographic and statistical analysis
- Performed spatial analysis and modeling

- Designed, administered, and evaluated geographic information systems
- Implemented and evaluated decision support systems
- Served on professional councils and committees
- Authored executive reports and published research findings
- Provided technical assistance with software applications for quantitative and qualitative research design and implementation

Research and Development Initiatives:

The Milwaukee's Menomonee River Valley Sustainable Development and Redevelopment Project

Research Scientist and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consultant, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research

Co-sponsors

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
City of Milwaukee, Department of City Development (DCD)
16th Street Community Health Center
State of Wisconsin

Outcomes

- Socioeconomic and environmental profile of the City of Milwaukee's industrial valley and neighboring communities
- Strategy for the redevelopment of Milwaukee's industrial valley and neighboring communities
- Urban development and redevelopment design proposals for Milwaukee's Industrial Valley and neighboring communities
- Geo-relational database with socioeconomic, environmental and cadastral indicators for Milwaukee's Industrial Valley and neighboring communities to facilitate decision making and monitoring and evaluation activities with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling
- Empowerment of key actors and ownership of project's outputs

Presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. *Integrating Spatial Analysis in Decision Modeling for Smart Growth Initiatives*. Presented at the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) Winter Meeting, Washington, D.C. February 7, 2000

Varela, Olmedo J. *GIS Applications in Sustainable Development Initiatives: From Environmental Distress to Sustainable Development, the Menomonee River Valley*. Presented at *GIS Day 1999*, American Geographical Society, Milwaukee, WI, November 19, 1999

Varela, Olmedo J. *Technically All Together: Smart Places in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley*. Co-presented at the "Tools for Sustainable Development and Brownfield's

Redevelopment” Seminar sponsored by The Federation of Environmental Technologists, Inc., Milwaukee, WI October 29, 1998

Varela, Olmedo J. *Applying Spatial Data Analysis in Urban Development and Redevelopment Initiatives*. Co-presented at the XVIII Annual Conference of the North American Cartographic Information Society, Milwaukee, WI, October 9, 1998

The Milwaukee Green Map Project: Mapping Milwaukee’s Sustainable Resources

Research Scientist and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consultant, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research

Co-sponsors

Milwaukee Foundation
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
City of Milwaukee, Department of City Development (DCD)
Other Sponsors

Outcomes

- The “Milwaukee Green Map” including among other layers the spatial distribution of population, parks and other green spaces, environmental data, sites with ecological meanings, roads and public transportation routes
- Geo-relational database and indicator system containing demographic, environmental, infrastructure, and green related sites in the City of Milwaukee with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling

Presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. *GIS Applications in Sustainable Development Initiatives: The Milwaukee Green Map Project*. Presented at *GIS Day 1999*, American Geographical Society, Milwaukee, WI, November 19, 1999

Urban Ecological Theory and Neighborhood Change: A Test of Classic and Contemporary Ecological Models

Research Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research

Co-sponsors

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Fulbright Program
Ford/MacArthur Program

Outcomes

- Scientific evaluation of explanatory models derived from urban ecological theory in explaining neighborhood change
- Identification and graphic representation of spatial patterns of neighborhood change
- Recommendations for the design and evaluation of urban and regional development policy
- Geo-relational database and specialized indicator system on neighborhood change at the census tract level, emphasizing variables from classic and contemporary ecological theory with capacities for citywide and regional spatial modeling and analysis

Dissertation and presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 1999. *Examining Patterns of Neighborhood Change in the City of Milwaukee, 1980-1990: an ecological approach*. University of Wisconsin, Department of Urban Studies. Ph.D. Dissertation.

Varela, Olmedo J. *Consideraciones Metodológicas y Prácticas sobre la Dimensión Espacial en la Interpretación del Desarrollo Social (Methodological and Practical Considerations on the Spatial Dimension in Understanding Social Development)*. Presented at the “Annual Faculty Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Panama, Republic of Panama.. February 6, 2001

Varela, Olmedo J. *Teoría Social, Realidad y Método: relaciones y desafíos para descubrir y comunicar la realidad social (Social Theory, Reality and Research Methods: relationships and challenges for discovering and communicating social reality)*. Presented at the Annual Faculty Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Panama, Republic of Panama. March, 2003

From Social Distress to Sustainable Development: A Community Assessment of Selected Milwaukee Neighborhoods

Research Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research and Department of Architecture and Urban Planning

Co-sponsors

M-7 Community Development Corporation
 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 State of Wisconsin

Outcomes

- Identification and evaluation of spatial patterns of problems and resources within targeted neighborhoods experiencing social and economic distress
- Recommendations for redevelopment strategies within targeted neighborhoods
- Urban redevelopment design proposal
- Geo-relational database and indicator system containing quality of life, organizational, cadastral and economic indicators for targeted neighborhoods with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling

Publications and presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 1998. *Examining Neighborhood Dynamics for Sustainable Development Initiatives: A Community Assessment of Selected Milwaukee Neighborhoods*. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, Milwaukee, WI

Varela, Olmedo J. "Mapping Our Communities' Assets" Workshop. Co-presented at the "A Home for Everyone: Affordable Housing for the New Millennium" Conference, La Crosse, Wisconsin, August 19, 1999

Neighborhood Transformation and Family Partnerships Project

Research Scientist and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consultant, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research

Co-sponsors

Annie Casey Foundation
Neighborhood Data Center

Outcomes

- Assessment of resources, problems and social organization in selected communities at the City of Milwaukee
- Recommendations for the development of strategies related to urban development and redevelopment
- Geo-relational database and indicator system containing quality of life indicators, emphasizing social organization indicators with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling

Presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. *GIS: An Overview and Applications in Urban Planning and Evaluation*. Presented at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Community Development Work Study Program, Milwaukee, WI, April 1998

Population Dynamics and Urban and Regional Development in the Republic of Panama: Considerations on Urban and Regional Planning and Policy

Research Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Joint Center for International Studies

Co-sponsors

Fulbright Program for Latin America and the Caribbean
Ford/MacArthur Program for the Social Sciences in Central America

Outcomes

- Assessment of population distribution and migratory movements at the national and metropolitan levels in the Republic of Panama

- Identification and graphic representation of changes in spatial patterns of population distribution
- Recommendations for the design and evaluation of urban and regional development policy
- Methodological approach for the development of explanatory models of migration
- Geo-relational database and specialized indicator system containing socioeconomic and demographic indicators, emphasizing migration variables from the push-pull perspective on internal migration with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling at the metropolitan, regional and national levels

Publications and presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 1998. *The Panama Canal, Migration Streams, and the Changing Patterns of Human Settlement in the Republic of Panama*. University of Wisconsin Joint Center for International Studies, Milwaukee, WI

Varela, Olmedo J. *Housing Characteristics and the Net Rate of Interchange in the Republic of Panama: Preliminary Findings on Urban and Regional Developments*. Presented at the "Seminar Series of the Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies at Michigan State University," East Lansing, Michigan, April 21, 1999

Varela, Olmedo J. *Modeling the Changing Urban Landscape of a Latin American City: Lessons from the Past and Considerations for the Future of Metropolitan Panama City*. Presented at the XXI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, 24-26 September 1998 Chicago, Illinois

Varela, Olmedo J. *Migration Streams, Changes in Spatial Structure, and New Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning and Policy in the Republic of Panama*. Presented at "The Impact of Migration on Urban Life in Developed and Developing Countries" conference sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Joint Center for International Studies, Milwaukee, WI, May 1998

The Food System Assessment Study

Research Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research and Department of Architecture and Urban Planning

Co-sponsors

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
University of Wisconsin-Department of Agriculture
State of Wisconsin
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Outcomes

- Qualitative, quantitative and ecological assessment of food systems and security in the City of Milwaukee

- Recommendations for the development of strategies aimed at improving urban food delivery systems and food security
- Proposal for the design of formal and informal mechanisms for the production and distribution of food in areas of high food insecurity
- Geo-relational database and indicator system containing indicators related to food security and vulnerability with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling
- Empowerment of key actors and ownership of project's outputs

Publications and presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. 1996. "*Socio-spatial relationships and Food Programs in Milwaukee's Food System*". University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, Milwaukee, WI

Varela, Olmedo J., Donald P. Haider-Markel, y Stephen L. Percy. 1998. "*Perceptions and Experiences of Consumer Access to Food in Milwaukee's inner-city Neighborhoods*". University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, Milwaukee, WI

Varela, Olmedo J., Karl Johnson, y Stephen L. Percy. 1998. "*Food Insecurity in Milwaukee: A Qualitative Study of Food Pantry and Meal Program Users.*" University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, Milwaukee, WI

Varela, Olmedo J. *Examining Geographical Patterns of Retailer Access and Food Coupon Redemption in Milwaukee*. Presented at the Images of the City: Instruments, Inquiries and Investigations Conference sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Urban Studies Programs, Milwaukee, WI, March 15, 1997

The Milwaukee Youth Mapping Project

Research Scientist and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consultant, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research

Co-sponsors

The Center for Youth Development and Policy Research, Washington, D.C.
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Milwaukee Foundation

Outcomes

- Assessment of resources and problems in selected communities with emphasis on issues related to children and youth
- Recommendations for development strategies that incorporate a youth perspective
- Geo-relational database and indicator system containing quality of life indicators, emphasizing resources and social services available for youth in selected communities with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling
- Empowerment of the project's key actors and ownership of project's outputs

Presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo J. *Mapping with Community 2020 for Neighborhood Strategic Planning Initiatives*. Co-presented at the "White House Community Empowerment Conference: Opening Doors for the New Economy," Washington, D.C. July 14-16 1998

Varela, Olmedo J. *Using GIS in the Milwaukee Youth Mapping Project*. Presented at the Milwaukee Area Donors GIS Reception-Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Applications for Community Groups and Nonprofit Organizations, School of Architecture and Urban Planning-University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, November 20, 1997

Varela, Olmedo J. *Using GIS in Urban Research*. Co-presented at the Images of the City: Instruments, Inquiries and Investigations Conference sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Urban Studies Programs, Milwaukee, WI, March 15, 1997

The Environmental Health and Education Project

Researcher and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consultant, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research

Co-sponsors

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
City of Milwaukee, Department of City Development (DCD)
Milwaukee Foundation
State of Wisconsin
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Outcomes

- Assessment of resources, problems and residents' awareness related to health and environmental vulnerability
- Recommendations for the development of strategies related to urban development and redevelopment, including special considerations on children's environmental education and health
- Geo-relational database and indicator system containing quality of life indicators, emphasizing environmental vulnerability and health with capacities for spatial analysis and modeling
- Empowerment of key actors and ownership of project's outputs

Publications and presentations related to the project:

Varela, Olmedo y Thomas Longoria. 1995. *Environmental Health and Awareness of Near Southside Milwaukee Residents*. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Urban Research Center, Milwaukee, WI

Varela, Olmedo J. 1995. *Spatial Demographic and Socioeconomic Dynamics in the Environmental Health and Education Project Target Area*. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Urban Research Center, Milwaukee, WI

Varela, Olmedo J. *Analytic GIS Mapping by Nonprofits for Empowerment in Urban Development*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Social Science Computing Association, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 13-15, 1996

Varela, Olmedo J. *Housing and Spatial Patterns of Deprivation in the City of Milwaukee*. Presented at the Urban Prospects in Theory and Practice Conference sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Urban Studies Programs, Milwaukee, WI, April 20, 1996

Varela, Olmedo J. *Housing and Locality in Contemporary Urban Science*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Washington, D.C. August 21, 1995
