

Synthesis of Education

- 1999 Ph.D. Urban Studies. University of Wisconsin, United States
Area of Specialization: **Urban and Regional Development**
- 1993 M.A. **Sociology**, Western Kentucky University, United States.
- 1982 Licenciatura en **Sociología**. Universidad Santa María La Antigua, República de Panamá.

Synthesis of Professional Experience

- 2000-present **Senior Adviser and International Consultant**
- United Nations
 - The World Conservation Union
 - The World Bank
 - Florida State University
- Director, International Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning**
- Florida State University, United States
Graduate students from the United States travel to Panama to receive specialized instruction and to conduct, under the direction of Dr Varela, their final project toward their degree.
- 1993-2000 **Research Scientist and Policy Analyst**, Center for Urban Initiatives and Research
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, United States
- 1982-1993 **Faculty and Researcher**, Universidad de Panamá
Independent Consultant, Republic of Panama

Honors

- High-Level Expert for Consultation on the Implementation of the Right to Development, **Harvard** Kennedy School of Government-**UN** High Commissioner for Human Rights
University of Wisconsin 2007 **Scott Greer Award**
Fulbright Scholarship
Ford/MacArthur Fellowship
Honors Program, **American Sociological Association**

Main Areas of Expertise

- **Development 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 public policy design, decision making, planning, and monitoring and evaluation processes.
 - **Predictive modeling** development and testing
 - Temporal and spatial evaluation of **contemporary development patterns**