

**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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