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Appointments

2019- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, University of Florida

Past

2016-2019 Research Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, University of Florida

2014-2019 Research Associate, Clinical and Translational Science Institute and Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

2017 Visiting Professor, Department of Education, Psychology and Communication, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

2014-2016 Research Assistant Professor, Department of Family, Community and Health System Science, University of Florida

2013-2014 Post Doctoral Associate, Clinical and Translational Science Institute and Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

Education

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Milan-Bicocca (2013)

M.S., Economic and Social Sciences, Bocconi University (2009)

B.S., Economic and Social Sciences, Bocconi University (2006)

Other Training

Visiting Scholar, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida (2012)

Research Assistant, Observatoire Sociologique du Changement, Department of Sociology, Sciences Po Paris, France (2008)

Exchange Graduate Student, Department of Sociology, Sciences Po Paris, France (2007)

Research and Teaching Interests

Migration; Health disparities; Social networks; Science and scientific collaboration; Quantitative methods.

Publications

* Graduate student co-author † Equal contributors

Articles Under Review

Vacca, R., Stacciarini, J. M. R., & Tranmer, M. Cross-classified multilevel models for personal networks: Detecting and accounting for overlapping actors. *Sociological Methods & Research*. (Revise and resubmit.)

Vacca, R. Structure in personal networks: Constructing and comparing typologies. *Network Science*. (Revise and resubmit.)

Leone Sciabolazza, V.,† Vacca, R.,† & McCarty, C. Connecting the dots: Implementing and evaluating a network intervention to foster scientific collaboration and productivity. *Social Networks*. (Revise and resubmit.)

Leone Sciabolazza, V., Vacca, R., & De Benedictis, L. The effect of network ethnic segregation on wage formation: The case of Sri Lankan immigrants in Milan, Italy. *Journal of Population Economics*.

Books

McCarty, C., Lubbers, M., Vacca, R., & Molina, J. L. 2019. Conducting personal network research. A practical guide. *Guilford Press*.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Stacciarini, J. M. R., Vacca, R., & Mao, L. 2018. Who and where: A socio-spatial analytic approach for community-based health research. *The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15(7), 1375.

Vacca, R. 2018. Multilevel models for personal networks: Methods and applications. *Italian Journal of Applied Statistics*, 30(1), 59–97.

Vacca, R., Solano, G.*, Lubbers, M. J., Molina, J. L., & McCarty, C. 2017. A personal network approach to the study of immigrant structural assimilation and transnationalism. *Social Networks*, 53:72–89.

Leone Sciabolazza, V., Vacca, R., Kennelly Okraku, T.*, & McCarty, C. 2017. Detecting and analyzing research communities in longitudinal scientific networks. *PLoS One*, 12(8), e0182516.

Kennelly Okraku, T.*, Vacca, R., Jawitz, J. W., & McCarty, C. 2017. Identity and publication in non-university settings: Academic co-authorship and collaboration. *Scientometrics*, 111(1), 401–416.

Hamilton, C.*, Vacca, R., & Stacciarini, J. M. R. 2017. The emergence of team science: Understanding the state of adoption research through social network analysis. *Adoption & Fostering*, 41(4):369–90.

Tradigo, G., Vacca, R., Manini, T., Bird, V., Gerke, T., Veltri, P., & Prosperi, M. 2017. A new approach to disentangle genetic and epigenetic components on disease comorbidities: Studying correlation between genotypic and phenotypic disease networks. *Procedia Computer Science* 110:453–58.

Stacciarini, J. M. R., Vacca, R., Wiens, B., Loe, E., LaFlam, M., & Pérez, A. 2016. FBO leaders' perceptions of the psycho-social contexts for rural Latinos. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 37(1), 19–25.

Bosma, L. M., Vacca, R., Martinez, J. L., Boyle, R. J., & Lew, R. 2016. Developing capacity, skills, and tobacco control networks to address tobacco-related disparities: Leadership and Advocacy institute to Advance Minnesota's parity for Priority Populations (LAAMPP). *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice*, 9(1).

Vacca, R., McCarty, C., Conlon, M., & Nelson, D. R. 2015. Designing a CTSA-based social network intervention to foster cross-disciplinary team science. *Clinical and Translational Science*, 8(4), 281–289.

Vacca, R., & Boffi, M. 2009. The residential trajectories of immigrants in Milan in the 1990's: A spatial analysis of census data. (In Italian.) *Cheiron – Materiali e strumenti di aggiornamento storiografico*, 52(2), 109-138.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Cañarte, D.*, Vacca, R., & Vitale, T. Determinants and contexts of multiplex social support among Roma immigrants in France.

Bilecen, B., & Vacca, R. The isolation paradox: A comparative study of social support among migrant and native-born residents in the U.S.

Professional Presentations and Talks

(* Graduate student co-author)

Invited Lectures and Talks

The structure, evolution and interaction of multiplex networks of scientific collaboration at a research university. *12th Meeting of the Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society (Cladag2019)*. University of Cassino, Cassino, Italy. (With Leone Sciabolazza, V., and Krenz, T.). September 2019.

Using non-hierarchical multilevel models to analyze overlapping personal networks. Invited talk. Institute of Health and Society, Catholic University of Louvain (Brussels, Belgium). June 2017.

Personal social networks: Data, analytic methods, and applications. Invited lecture. Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Trieste (Trieste, Italy). June 2017.

Using non-hierarchical multilevel models to analyze overlapping personal networks. ARS '17 International Workshop. University of Naples Federico II (Naples, Italy). May 2017.

Social Network Analysis: History, methods and research applications. Invited lecture. Puerto Rico Clinical and Translational Research Consortium, University of Puerto Rico (San Juan, Puerto Rico). May 2016.

Social Network Analysis: Applications to migration studies and disaster research. Invited lecture. Department of Political Science, University of Bari Aldo Moro (Bari, Italy). December 2015.

Conference Presentations

- 2019 The isolation paradox: a comparative study of social support among migrants and natives. *114th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*. New York, New York. (With Bilecen, B.)
- Determinants of social support in racialized immigrant networks: the case of the Roma in France. *114th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*. New York, New York. (With Cañarte, D.*, & Vitale, T.)
- Gender inequality, PhD social capital and employment prestige in sociology departments. *114th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*. New York, New York. (With Adams, J.*)
- Contexts and determinants of cross-university collaboration: extracting and analyzing networks from grant acknowledgement texts. *XXXVIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Montreal, Canada. (With Adams, J.*)
- Collaboration ego-networks and their influence on scientific productivity and impact in academia. *XXXVIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Montreal, Canada. (With Krenz, T., & McCarty, C.)
- Assembling the A(cademic) Team: analyzing semantic similarity between researchers to map research topic networks. *XXXVIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Montreal, Canada. (With Smith, T.*, & McCarty, C.)
- Cross-university network intervention using targeted topic models. *XXXVIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Montreal, Canada. (With McCarty, C., Labianca, J., & Smith, T.*)
- 2018 Identifying structural typologies in large collections of personal networks. *XXXVIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands.
- Determinants of health-related social support among Sri Lankan and Roma immigrants in Europe. *68th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (With Cañarte, D.*, & Vitale, T.)
- The isolation paradox: A comparative study of social support among migrants and natives. *UC Berkeley Social Networks Study (UCNets) Conference*. University of California, Berkeley, California. (With Bilecen, B.)

The structure, evolution and interactions of multiplex networks of scientific collaboration at a research university. *XXXVIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands. (With Leone Sciabolazza, V.)

Adoption team science: A way forward. *2018 International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR 6)*. Montreal, Canada. (With Hamilton, C.*, & Stacciarini, J. M. R.)

Using network science to identify and bridge scientific communities at a research university. *2018 Annual Meeting of the Association for Clinical and Translational Science*. Washington, D.C. (With Leone Sciabolazza, V., & McCarty, C.)

2017 The effect of network ethnic segregation on wage formation: The case of Sri Lankan immigrants in the City of Milan, Italy. *Immigration in OECD Countries - 7th Annual International Conference*. Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales (CEPII) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris, France. (With Leone Sciabolazza, V., & De Benedictis, L.)

Social structure and cultural meaning of a local food movement: Tallahassee, FL, 2012-2016. *77th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology* (abstract). Santa Fe, New Mexico. (With Szurek, S., Boston P. Q., McClendon, B., Mitchell, M. M., & Gravlee, C.)

Using social network analysis to design and evaluate CTSA pilot programs. *2017 Annual Meeting of the Association for Clinical and Translational Science*. Washington, D.C. (With Kennelly Okraku, T.*, Leone Sciabolazza, V., & McCarty, C.)

A mixed method approach for identifying emerging fields and building collaborative teams: Leveraging network ethnography to design experimental interventions. *2017 Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference (EPIC)* (proceedings). Montréal, Canada. (With Kennelly Okraku, T.*, Leone Sciabolazza, V., & McCarty, C.)

A new approach to disentangle genetic and epigenetic components on disease comorbidities: Studying correlation between genotypic and phenotypic disease networks. *BioNet 2017 International Workshop on Algorithms, Tools and new Frontiers on the use of Networks in Biology and Clinical Science*. Leuven, Belgium. (With Tradigo, G., Manini, T., Bird, V., Gerke, T., Veltri, P., & Prospero, M.)

- 2016 A personal network approach to the study of structural assimilation and transnationalism in international migration. *Annual Meeting of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS)*. Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands. (With Solano, G.*, Lubbers, M. J., Molina, J. L., & McCarty, C.)
- Integrating ethnographic perspectives and personal network data in the study of vicarious racism and hypertension among African Americans. *XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Newport Beach, California. (With D'Ingeo, D.*, & Gravlee, C.)
- Using non-hierarchical multilevel models to analyze social support in overlapping egocentric networks. *XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Newport Beach, California. (With Stacciarini, J. M. R., & Tranmer, M.)
- Identifying emerging research fields through community detection in scientific collaboration networks at a research university. *XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Newport Beach, California. (With Kennelly Okraku, T.*, & McCarty, C.)
- The effect of network segregation on wage formation: The case of the Sri Lankan immigrant community in Milan, Italy. *XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Newport Beach, California. (With Leone Sciabolazza, V., & De Benedictis, L.)
- Using network analysis to evaluate leadership development: The LAAMPP Institute. *XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Newport Beach, California. (With Bosma, L. M., Martinez, J. L., Boyle, R. J., & Lew, R.)
- Vicarious racism, social networks, and racial inequalities in health. *76th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology* (abstract). Vancouver, Canada. (With Gravlee, C., D'Ingeo, D.*, & McCarty, C.)
- Network methods for evaluating the impact of a cross-disciplinary institute on scientific collaboration at a research university. *2nd European Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Sciences Po, Paris. (With Leone Sciabolazza, V., & McCarty, C.)
- 2015 Inefficient hubs in a daily Twitter @ mention network. *Viszards Session, XXXV Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Brighton, UK.

- Social networks, social isolation and mental health inequalities among rural Latinos in Florida. *XXXV Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (Abstract). Brighton, UK. (With Stacciarini, J. M. R.)
- 2014 A method for rapid detection of typical personal network structures. *113th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association* (URL). Washington, D.C.
- A social and spatial network approach to migrant mobility and transnationalism. *1st European Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- The network origin of plural identities: structural brokerage, diversity and cultural holes in international immigrants' networks. *1st European Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. (With Vitale, T.)
- A network intervention on scientific networks: design and reactions. *XXXIV Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. St Pete Beach, Florida. (With McCarty, C.)
- Using social networks to evaluate the impact of a CTSA on research at a university. *XXXIV Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. St Pete Beach, Florida. (With McCarty, C.)
- 2013 Cohesion and segregation in transnational migrant networks: An ego-network approach to transnationalism and assimilation. *XXXIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
- How do people know each other? Categories of knowing across cultures using a two-mode personal network approach. *XXXIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (abstract). University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany. (With Al-Kuwari, S.*, Bernard, H. R., & McCarty, C.)
- 2012 Using ego-network structure to assess migrants' transnationalism and ethnic segregation. *International Seminar "Personal networks in times of economic hardship and political discontent"*. Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- Activity spaces and personal networks of transnational migrants in Milan, Italy. *XXXII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*. Redondo Beach, California.

- 2011 Are there ethnic enclaves in Milan? Spatial analyses and maps from 1991 and 2001 census-tract data. *Spaces and Flows: An International Conference on Urban and ExtraUrban Studies* (abstract). Monash University Prato Centre, Prato, Italy.
- 2010 Esistono *enclaves* etniche a Milano? Un'analisi della popolazione dei "quartieri etnici" milanesi nel 2001. *Flussi migratori e crisi economica: questioni globali e riflessi locali* (abstract). Bocconi University, Milan, Italy.

Research Support

Externally Funded

- 2018-2019. Using social networks to map and evaluate team science across CTSA hubs (3UL1TR001427-04S1). Co-Investigator (PI: Nelson, D.). National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. \$814,977.
- 2018-2020. Intersections: Animating conversations with the humanities. Co-Investigator (PI: Mennel, B., Co-PI: Acord, S. K.). Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. \$400,000
- 2018-2020. Multilevel approaches for embracing dyadic, egocentric and two-mode networks which address substance use disorders and HIV risk in Latina seasonal workers (4R01DA041494-03). Subcontract PI (PI: Kanamori, M.). National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse. \$484,127
- 2017-2019. PrEParados: A social network study of Latino MSM for facilitating progress in the PrEP cascade (CFARAdelante.2017.Kanamori). Subcontract PI (PI: Kanamori, M.). National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. \$150,000
- 2015-2019. Together: Transforming and translating discovery to improve health (Clinical and Translational Science Award UL1TR001427, Network Science Module). Co-Investigator (PI: Nelson, D.). National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. \$22,345,460.
- 2014-2015. UF Clinical and Translational Science Award (UL1RR029890-01, in funded cost extension). Co-Investigator (PI: Nelson, D.). National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

Internally Funded

- 2018-2020. Implications of shifting migration trends: Comparative assessment of social networks, health status, and productivity of Hispanic and non-Hispanic migrant farm workers. Co-Investigator (PI: Onel, G.). University of Florida Office of Research. \$99,324.
2016. The “migrant Roma”: From exclusionary processes to resources for social integration (REPIN). Co-Investigator (PI: Vitale, T.). The Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po). €60,000.
2015. Mobilità precaria. L'accesso alla città delle persone in situazione di precarietà lavorativa a Milano e Lione. Co-PI (PI: Daconto, L.). Fondazione Roberto Franceschi and Bocconi University. €6,166.
- 2014-2015. Immigrant self-employment and transnational practices: the case of Moroccan entrepreneurs in Amsterdam and Milan. Co-PI (PI: Solano, G.). Fondazione Roberto Franceschi and Bocconi University. €6,000.
- 2011-2012. Social networks and immigrant integration: The case of Sri Lankans in Milan. PI. Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Economics, Psychology and Social Sciences (University of Milan-Bicocca) and Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano. €6,000.

Submitted, Pending

- 2019-2023. Together: Transforming and translating discovery to improve health (Clinical and Translational Science Award, Network Science Module). Co-Investigator (PI: Nelson, D.). National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.
- 2019-2021. A social network approach to evaluating social behavior as a novel metric of animal welfare. Co-PI (PI: Miller-Cushon, E.). United States Department of Agriculture.

Submitted, Not Funded

- 2018-2021. Senegalese hometown associations and development interventions: The impact of new communication technologies. Co-PI (PI: Kane, A.). National Science Foundation (Cultural Anthropology and Sociology Programs).
- 2017-2022. VOCES Comunitarias: Developing networks to reduce social isolation and promote mental well-being with and for rural Latino families. Co-Investigator (PI: Stacciarini, J.-M.). Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

- 2017-2022. Developing and extending EgoWeb 2.0 to support social network based studies of substance use and HIV. Subcontract PI (PI: Kennedy, D.). National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse.
- 2017-2022. A social and phylogenetic network approach to 'precision' modeling of HIV prevention, with integration into surveillance systems. Co-investigator (PI: Prosperi, M.). National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
- 2017-2019. Characterization of longitudinal behavioral endotypes of underage drinking using Twitter. Co-investigator (PI: Prosperi, M.). National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.
- 2015-2017. SONDA: The Social Observatory for Network Data and Analysis. Co-investigator (PI: Johnson, J.). National Science Foundation, Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences.

Consultancies

2017. The Willmar Community Health Initiative. BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota. \$56,775.
2014. Leadership and Advocacy Institute to Advance Minnesota's Parity for Priority Populations (LAAMPP). Evaluation and Advisory Panel. ClearWay Minnesota. \$175,000.

Teaching

University Courses

- Methods of Social Research (SYA 4300). University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law. Fall 2019. Undergraduate.
- International Migration (SYA 4930). University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law. Spring 2019. Undergraduate.
- Advanced Quantitative Methods (SYA 7933). University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law. Fall 2016, Fall 2018. Graduate.
- Social Network Analysis (SYA 7933). University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law. Spring 2017. Graduate.
- Health Disparities (SYA 6407). University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law. Spring 2018. Graduate.
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods (SYA 7933). University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law. Fall 2017. Graduate.

International Migration. University of Bari Aldo Moro, Department of Education, Psychology and Communication. Summer 2017. Undergraduate.

Advanced Quantitative Methods for Social Research. University of Bari Aldo Moro, Department of Education, Psychology and Communication. Summer 2017. Graduate.

Applied Statistical Analysis II (NGR 6845). University of Florida, College of Nursing. Summer 2015. Graduate.

Applied Statistical Analysis I (NGR 6840). University of Florida, College of Nursing. Spring 2015. Graduate.

Social Network Analysis (ANG 5420). University of Florida, Department of Anthropology. Spring 2014. Graduate.

Invited Short Courses

Sociocentric and Egocentric Network Analysis with R. Invited workshop at the Institute of Health and Society, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. June 2017.

Theory, Methods and Applications of Personal Networks. Summer School at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain. July 2015; July 2017.

Social network analysis: Research design, data collection and analysis. National Science Foundation Ethnographic Field School in Cultural Anthropology. University of Florida, USA. July 2015; July 2016.

Social Network Analysis with UCINET and R. Invited workshop at the University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico. May 2016.

Conference Workshops

Workshop series: Introduction to R for the Social sciences. University of Florida Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law and Informatics Institute. Fall 2017; Fall 2018.

Introduction to Ego-network Analysis with R.

* Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis. June 2015; April 2016; June 2018.

* The European Conference on Social Networks (EUSN). July 2014; June 2016.

Introduction to Social Network Analysis. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC. December 2014.

Professional Service

Conferences

Member of the Program Committee for the ASONAM 2018 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Advances in Social Network Analysis and Mining. Barcelona, Spain. August 2018.

Member of the Technical Program Committee for the 4th International Conference on Computational Social Networks (CSoNet 2015). Beijing, China. April 2015.

Reviewer for the 2015 International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling & Prediction (SBP15). Washington, DC. March 2015.

Organizer of the panel “Social Networks in Clinical and Translational Science” for the University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute. XXXIV Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis. St Pete Beach, Florida. February 2014.

Journals

Ad hoc reviewer for Ethnic and Racial Studies; Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication; Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology; Network Science; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS); Social Inclusion; Social Networks; Social Problems; Societies; Sociological Forum; Sociological Methods & Research.

University of Florida

Founder and coordinator of the UF R Social Sciences Interest Group (RSSIG). 2017 - To date.

Member of the UF Research Computing Advisory Committee. 2016 - 2018.

Reviewer for the UF Informatics Institute Fellowship Program. 2016.

Reviewer for the UF Informatics Institute SEED Fund Program. 2015.

Member of the Evaluation Panel of the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute. 2015.

Other universities

Primary mentor for the Center for Stroke Disparities Solutions Training and Mentoring Institute, Department of Population Health, New York University School of Medicine. 2016 - 2017.

Honors and Awards

2018. *National Scientific Qualification (ASN)* as Associate Professor in Demography and Social Statistics. Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR).
2014. *Outstanding Visualization Award*. 1st European Conference on Social Networks (EUSN). Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. (Visualization video and code.)
2010. *Roberto Franceschi Award for M.A. dissertations in Economics and Social Sciences*. Fondazione Roberto Franceschi and Bocconi University.
- 2006-2008. *Bocconi Graduate Merit Award*. Bocconi University graduate scholarship, a.y. 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. Bocconi University.