

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Felicia Casanova

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): CasanovaF

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion MM/YYYY
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL	BA	07/2004
University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL	MA	12/2008
University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL	PhD	12/2021
University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL	Postdoctoral Fellowship	2024

A. Personal Statement

My research focuses on understanding how environmental and climate-related disruptions affect human health, healthcare access, and disease management, particularly among highly mobile populations. Trained as a medical sociologist, I study how extreme weather events, displacement, and infrastructure instability shape health outcomes across the life course, with a focus on chronic disease management, mental health, and healthcare continuity.

My work also examines occupational health pathways through which environmental exposures—such as heat, flooding, and disaster response—affect physical and mental health among mobile and frontline workers. I have led and collaborated on interdisciplinary projects examining the health impacts of natural disasters in coastal and climate-exposed settings, including work on HIV care continuity, cancer survivorship, and community health system resilience. My research integrates social and environmental determinants of health using mixed methods, social network analysis, and community-engaged approaches to inform strategies that protect human health in climate-exposed and marine-influenced regions.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

Positions and Employment

2025-Present Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Health Studies, University of Miami
 2022-2024 Post-Doctoral Fellow (T32), Culturally focused HIV Advancements through the Next Generation of Equity (CHANGE) Training Program
 University of Miami, Department of Public Health Sciences and Department of Psychology, and the Center for HIV and Research in Mental Health (CHARM), Miami, FL
 2022- Research Fellow (R25), Clinical and Community Training Program in HIV Disparities
 Brown University, School of Public Health
 2019- Instructor Quantitative Research Methods, University of Miami, Department of Sociology,
 Miami, FL
 2020-2019 Instructor, Introduction to Sociology, University of Miami, Department of Sociology, Miami,
 FL

2016-2017 Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Sociology, Medical Sociology, and U.S. Health Disparities, University of Miami, Department of Sociology, Miami, FL
2012-2016 Master of Public Health Capstone Program Manager, University of Miami, Department of Public Health Sciences, Miami, FL

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

2022- National Hispanic Science Network
2020-2021 University of Miami, Programming Subcommittee Member, Standing Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
2019- Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science
2020-2021 American Public Health Association
2018- International Sociological Association
2019- Sociologist for Women in Society
2019-2020 Latin American Studies Association
2016- Sub-committee chair of Community Research, Society for the Study of Social Problems
2018-2019 Southern Sociological Society
2016-2019 Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction
2016-2020 Association for Black Sociologist
2015- American Sociological Association

C. Contributions to Science

1. Socio-Environmental Determinants of HIV and Cancer Outcomes

My research has focused on health disparities among highly mobile communities in the areas of global health, the HIV care continuum research, and cancer screening and risk factors. My previous cancer research used community-based participatory research to develop community health worker (CHW) training and outreach materials on the early detection of breast cancer in the farmworker community. My HIV research examines multiple forms of displacement and how displacement (gentrification, forced and labor migration, natural disaster-based displacement, and others) impact people living with HIV and HIV healthcare services and access namely early detection of breast cancer. My research demonstrates how social and structural factors drive conditions that create displacement and elucidates the healthcare access issues faced by mobile communities.

- a. Ashad-Bishop, K. C., Casanova, F. O., Cruz, M., Muse, N., Bassuk, E., Chery, M. J., ... & George, S. H. (2025). *"When it comes to heat, I retreat": Heat impacts and adaptation practices among people with cancer*. Manuscript under review
- b. Casanova, F., Ashad-Bishop, K., Londono, E., Strom, E., Ghartey, D., Green, N., Greer, A., Bailey, Z. 'Improve the System.' Tenant Experiences with COVID-19 Era Housing Policies in Three Florida Counties." Revise and Resubmit in *The Journal of Urban Affairs*.
- c. Ashad-Bishop, K., Casanova, F., Strom, E., Ghartey, D., Green, N., Baeker Bispo, J.A., Goo, I., Londono, E., Greer, A., Bailey, Z. "Eviction prevention policies catalyze housing justice through community organizing: Findings from a key informant investigation in Florida." Revise & Resubmit in *Urban Affairs Review*.
- d. Casanova, F., G. Puchi, A. Bahraini, E. Ramirez, Z. Bailey, K.M. Nowotny. "Structures of Survival: Syndemic Pathways to Care Among Formerly Incarcerated People with HIV." Revise & Resubmit in *Social Science & Medicine*.
- e. Kenya, S., Young, B., Richards, L., Casanova, F., Rodriguez, A., Blackmon, J., Carrasquillo, O., Pan, Y., & Jone-Weiss, D. (2024). Can Community Health Workers in Miami Disrupt Disparities among Black People Living with HIV: A Qualitative Analysis. *The Open AIDS Journal*, 18.10.2174/0118746136309444240425061403
- f. Casanova, F. O., Stoler, J., Prasad, S., & Riopelle, C. (2023). A pilot study of hurricane vulnerability, risk, and wellbeing perception among mobile home residents in South Florida. *The Journal of Weather, Climate, and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-23-0001.1>
- g. Casanova, F., Beaker Bispo, J., & Bailey, Z. (2023, November). *Gentrification in Miami-Dade: Impact on mental health and health disparities in HIV positive patients*. Poster presented at the Miami Center

for AIDS Research Annual HIV Symposium: Science Driving Strategy Ending the HIV Epidemic, Miami, FL.

- h. Casanova, F. O., Rodriguez-Diaz, C., Bailey, Z., Nowotny, K., Feaster, D., Malave-Rivera, S., & Dale, S. (in progress). *Natural disasters and HIV care: A scoping review*. Unpublished manuscript.
- i. Casanova, F. O., Hamblett, A., Brinkley-Rubinstein, L., & Nowotny, K. (2021). Epidemiology of coronavirus disease 2019 in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities. *JAMA Network Open*, 4(1), e2034409. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.34409>
- j. Casanova, F. O., Rodriguez, N. M., & Knaul, F. M. (2021). "Harvesting community knowledge": Perceptions of breast cancer among Hispanic farmworkers and community health workers—Community and clinical considerations. *Qualitative Health Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323211003542>
- k. Casanova, F., & Ocasio, M. (2016, June). *HIV testing in the U.S. workforce*. Paper presented at the Epidemiological Congress of the Americas, Miami, FL.
- l. Knaul, F. M., Doubova, S. V., Gonzalez Robledo, M. C., Durstine, A., Pages, G. S., Casanova, F. O., & Arreola-Ornelas, H. (2020). Self-identity, experiences, and challenges of breast, cervical, and prostate cancer survivors in Mexico: A qualitative study. *BMC Cancer*, 20, 577. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-020-07076-w>

2. Qualitative and Community-Based Participatory Research

Another area of my research employs team science to develop and implement CBPR, CHW led interventions, and mixed method approaches to address multilevel health differences. I have published several manuscripts and book chapters on CBPR where I have collaborated with local community organizations to create meaningful partnerships and involvement for culturally appropriate research design, implementation, management, and dissemination. I have led research that consisted of qualitative and mixed methods designs and analysis, generally in the areas of women's health, minority stress, social vulnerability, health outreach workers, structural racism, and immigrant illness experience.

- a. Ramirez, E., McKenna, M., Casanova, F., Seide, K., Cepeda, A., & Nowotny, K.M. "Minority Stress Narratives Among Mexican American Women: A 6 Week Diary Study." Under review in *Archives of Sexual Health*
- b. Dale, S. K., Willie, P. R., Shahid, N. N., Silva, M. F., St Juste, R., Ponce, A., Gardner, N., & Casanova, F. O. (2025). 'Doing what I need to do': sustaining mental health, medication adherence, and engagement in care among Black women living with HIV during the COVID-19 onset of 2020. *Ethnicity & Health*, 1–25. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2025.2482625>
- c. Casanova, F. O., Seide, K., Ramirez, E., Treviño, A., McKenna, M., Cepeda, A., & Nowotny, K. M. (2025). *Piloting a flexible solicited diary study with marginalized Latina women during the COVID-19 pandemic*. *Qualitative Health Research*. Manuscript under review.
- d. Murphy, J. W., & Casanova, F. O. (2022). Community-based work and participatory budgeting. *American Behavioral Scientist*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027642221086952>
- e. Rodriguez, N. M., Casanova, F. O., Pages, G. P., Pedreira, M., Claire, L., & Knaul, F. M. (2020). The process of engaging community health workers in the early detection of breast cancer for the South Florida farmworker community. *PLOS ONE*, 15(10), e0240827. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240827>
- f. Iesue, L., Casanova, F. O., & Piquero, A. R. (2021). Domestic violence during a global pandemic: Lockdown policies and their impacts across Guatemala. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 37(4), 588–606. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862211044867>
- g. Casanova, F. O., & Murphy, J. W. (2021). Culture and community-based work. In J. W. Murphy & A. P. Mann (Eds.), *Community-based service delivery: Theory and implementation* (pp. xx–xx). Routledge.