

# Mara Tissera Luna, Child Protection Specialist

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## KEY QUALIFICATIONS

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### Policy Analysis

### Qualitative Research

### Report & Proposal Writing

### MEAL (M&E) Systems Development

### Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis

### Program Evaluation

<b>Languages:</b>	Spanish (Native), English (C2), Portuguese (C2), French (B2).
<b>Technologies:</b>	MS Office (Word, Excel, PPT, MS Forms).
<b>Sectors:</b>	Child protection systems, violence against children.
<b>Regions:</b>	Latin America & the Caribbean, Southern and Eastern Europe.

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## EDUCATION

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**Master of Public Administration (full time, English-language, US-accredited),** 2015-2017  
School of Public Policy, Central European University.

- GPA: 3.66 (A-).
- Selected coursework: Qualitative research, quantitative research, the policy cycle, global governance, migrant integration, refugee law, human trafficking, leadership.
- Awarded the merit-based Excellence Fellowship, covering full tuition fees and maintenance costs.

**BA (Hons) Socio-cultural Anthropology,** Buenos Aires University. 2007-2014

- Total average grade: 85/100.
- Awarded highest grade 10/10 with merit for thesis "Disputes over the setting of 'children without parental care' as a social issue" directed by Ph.D. Carla Villalta (Argentine Legal and Political Anthropology Team).
- Areas of specialization: Social research methods; ethnographic research methodologies; Latin American history; legal and political anthropology.

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## PROFESSIONAL COURSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

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<b>Diploma in Latin American Studies.</b> CLACSO (underway).	11/2021
<b>Advanced Course Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Systems.</b> INTRAC.	03/2021
<b>Certification in Monitoring, Accountability, Evaluation &amp; Learning (MEAL),</b> PHAP.	03/2021
<b>Graduate Diploma in Migration &amp; Refugee Protection.</b> UBA.	02/2021
<b>International Refugee Law.</b> International Institute of Humanitarian Law.	10/2020
<b>Summer School EU Migration &amp; Asylum Law.</b> Odysseus Academic Network.	09/2020
<b>Open-Source Human Rights Monitoring Training.</b> OSCE, ODIHR.	09/2019

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## WORK HISTORY

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**Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant**, contract, End Violence Lab, Colombia (Remote). **03/2021-07/2021**

- Performed the documentation, process & final evaluation of the 12-week Colombia INSPIRE Coordination Course, addressed to 100+ child protection practitioners.
- This course was implemented by the End Violence Lab at the University of Edinburgh and multisectoral partners (USAID, Together for Girls & ICBF, Government of Colombia).
- Collected & analyzed qualitative data (literature reviews, 11 surveys, 10+ interviews, participant observation in 30+ meetings, two surveys and 4 focus groups).
- Drafted a contingency plan for the course, two reports to document the planning and delivery of the course, and a final process evaluation report.
- Drafted 3 short articles on forced recruitment by armed forces, physical violence and sexual violence against children in Colombia for the End Violence Lab's website.

**Project Proposal Developer**, contract, UNICEF The Netherlands (Remote). **05/2021-06/2021**

- Co-designed collaboratively and drafted the narrative proposal and needs assessment of a proposal for the European Commission DAPHNE fund about capacity-building for child protection practitioners in Aruba and Curaçao.
- Reviewed secondary sources on the EU Strategy for Children's Rights and on the child protection context in the Dutch Caribbean.
- Facilitated meetings with UNICEF staff and two workshops with its Aruban and Curaçaoan partners.

**Participatory Project Proposal Developer**, contract, CARE Colombia (Remote). **04/2021-05-2021**

- Drafted the narrative proposal, needs assessment and annexes of a proposal for the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide sexual & reproductive health services for Venezuelan migrant and refugee women and LGTBI+ populations.
- Reviewed secondary sources on the humanitarian context in Colombia and CARE's response.
- Coordinated communications and facilitated meetings with 10 CARE staff.

**Program & Fundraising Manager**, Refugee Program, Hungarian Helsinki Committee. **03/2019-03/2021**

- Wrote and developed 23 grant proposals and 23 donor reports (EU, UNHCR, etc.).
- Developed Logframe indicators, Theory of Change (ToC), and Monitoring & Evaluation frameworks for proposals and project implementation.
- Cooperated with other HHC staff and liaised with international partners to implement 10 projects on refugee protection funded by international donors.
- Performed the process evaluation of two projects.
- Wrote and presented 3 articles on refugee protection at international conferences (including at the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Annual Meeting).

**Consultant on Alternative Care for UASC**, contract, RELAF network (Remote) **12/2016-09/2018**

- Produced a handbook to integrate Central American unaccompanied and separated

migrant and refugee children (UASC) living in Mexico through foster care programs.

- Documented global inter-agency tools on child protection principles and good practices for the alternative care of migrant and refugee UASC.
- Interviewed 12 UASC experts from European non-profits working in Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Spain, and the Netherlands.
- Documented protection policies for UASC in the Northern Triangle, Mexico, and Italy.
- Represented RELAF in the inter-agency design process of the MOOC Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children (University of Strathclyde).

**Blue Book Trainee**, European Commission, Portugal

**11/2017-03/2018**

- Performed background research and drafted 15 political briefings for the Political Reporting and Policy Analysis Department.
- Drafted communications directed to the European Commission Presidency.

**External Collaborator**, International Labor Organization (ILO), Hungary

**06/2017-07/2017**

- Drafted briefings in Spanish, French, and English.
- Liaised between ILO and the Argentine government's senior managers before and during the Consultation workshop for Alliance 8.7 for Child Labor Prevention.

**Youth Suicide Prevention Researcher (intern)**, UNICEF Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan

**06/2016-08/2016**

- Evaluated the government and UNICEF's child and adolescent suicide prevention program.
- Conducted bibliographic research and ethnographic field research (in depth-interviews with Kazakh government officials, health services providers, and focus groups with children, their families and school teachers).
- Supervised a research assistant.
- Drafted and published an evaluation report.

**Coordinator of International Relations**, RELAF network, Latin America

**03/2009-08/2015**

- Represented RELAF in the children's rights networks NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Better Care Network, and Better Volunteering.
- Built partnerships with global agencies and collaborated on advocacy and capacity-building initiatives with UNICEF, Hope and Homes for Children, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Lumos, Plan International, and USAID.
- Collaborated with agency partners in the development of global advocacy campaigns and policy tools (e.g., the handbook 'Moving Forward: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children' and the 'Alternative Care MOOC').
- Managed partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including national child protection NGOs, governmental authorities, and international organizations.
- Provided training for governmental authorities and middle management (Argentina, British Guyana, and Guatemala) based on international advocacy tools.

**Researcher**, RELAF, Latin America

**11/2009-08/2015**

- Performed qualitative research (literature reviews, interviews, ethnographic field research, participatory methods, and focus groups) to evaluate child protection policies

and programs in Argentina, British Guyana, Mexico, and the US-Mexico border.

- Drafted advocacy papers and reports to ensure child protection systems complied with international children's rights legislation, eight of them published by UNICEF.
- Trained practitioners and governmental authorities in Argentina, Guyana, and Guatemala.
- Carried out in-depth interviews and focus groups with children and adolescents.
- Carried out participatory methods (workshops) with children and adolescents living in orphanages and other alternative care settings.
- Presented research findings at international conferences.
- Coordinated and trained 2 researchers (2014).

**Junior Academic Researcher**, Buenos Aires University, Argentina

**07/2011-07/2014**

- Awarded the 18-month merit-based 'Stimulus Grant for the young researchers' grant, University of Buenos Aires (2012-2014).
- Designed and carried out a research project under the leadership of Ph.D. Carla Villalta and as part of the research team "Governance of children and families by State and non-governmental actors".
- Performed ethnographic fieldwork (literature review, observation-participation at inter-agency meetings, in-depth interviews) involving children's rights experts in Argentina, England, Mexico, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.
- Produced a 120-page thesis, published in 2 academic articles and a book chapter.

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## REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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### AUTHORED ARTICLES, REPORTS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2021, RELAF, UNICEF. *Guide of standards for foster care programs for unaccompanied and separated migrant and refugee children in Mexico* [in press].
- 2021, Tissera Luna, M. A crisis within a crisis: Risks, challenges and adaptation strategies of humanitarian aid workers in the COVID-19 in the North-West of Colombia. *Revista Periferia*. 27(1), December 2021. Universidad de Barcelona [under review].
- 2018, Tissera Luna, M. Article. Child and youth participation in Latin America: the Brazilian case. *IINfancia*, 6. Inter-American Children's Institute, Organization of American States.
- 2018, Tissera Luna, M. Article. The hegemonic role of international non-governmental organizations and agencies as regards to the conceptualization of childhood. *Journal Sociedades e Infancias*. 2, 2018: 39-57. Universidad Complutense de Madrid.
- 2018, Tissera Luna, M. Book chapter. A deconstruction of the legitimizing discourses of NGOs and international agencies. In: Villalta, Carla (comp.). *Childhood, family and State. Political and legal anthropology studies*. Buenos Aires: Antropofagia.
- 2017, Tissera Luna, M. Article. Children living in institutions: a serious human rights issue. The Activist. 2017 Edition. *HRSI*, Budapest, Central European University.
- 2016, Tissera Luna M. Report. *The government and UNICEF- led suicide prevention program in Kyzylorda Oblast, Kazakhstan*. UNICEF Kazakhstan Country Office.

## CO-AUTHORED REPORTS

- 2021, Tissera Luna, M.T., Maternowska, M. C., Fry D. *Colombia INSPIRE Coordination Course Evaluation - Final report*. End Violence Lab at the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh.
- 2021, Tissera Luna, M.T., Maternowska, M. C., Fry D. *Colombia INSPIRE Coordination Course Documentation and Process Guide*. End Violence Lab at the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh.
- 2017, Tissera Luna, M., Totino, E., Zsoldos, A. Report. *Assessment of RELAF's organizational structure and bottlenecks that limit its impact*. School of Public Policy, Central European University (contact me for the full report).
- 2015, RELAF, UNICEF. Report. *Forgotten children: Macro-institutions in Latin American and the Caribbean*.
- 2015, RELAF, Save the Children, UNICEF. Report. *Migrant Children and Adolescents: An Analysis of the Contexts and Responses of the Services and Protection Policies*.
- 2015, RELAF, UNICEF. Report. *Early childhood and family life. Guide of good practices for the right of young children to live in a family and a community*.
- 2014, Hope and Homes for Children, RELAF, UNICEF. Report. *The experience of de-institutionalization in Eastern Europe (Romania)*.
- 2013, RELAF, UNICEF. *Report on Discrimination against children in Residential Care Institutions*.
- 2013, RELAF, UNICEF. *Handbook Children's voices*.
- 2011, RELAF. *Report on the situation of foster care in Argentina. Preliminary report*.
- 2011, RELAF. Report. *Institutionalized childhood and adolescence: making serious Human Rights violations visible*.

## BLOG ARTICLES

- Tissera Luna, M., Maternowska, M. C. Using legal frameworks to address sexual violence. *Knowledge Platform*. The Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, 2021.
- Tissera Luna, M., Maternowska, M. C. Physical violence within the home in the Amazon. *Knowledge Platform*. The Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, 2021.
- Tissera Luna, M., Maternowska, M. C. Forced recruitment and use of children by armed forces. *Knowledge Platform*. The Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, 2021.
- Tissera Luna, M. Putting together the Hungarian puzzle (original in Spanish). *Migration & (Im)mobility Magazine Routed*. 24 October 2020.
- Tissera Luna, M. Xenophobic policies in the COVID-19: an analysis of the Hungarian case. *Social Observatory of the Coronavirus of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences*. 19 July 2020.
- Tissera Luna, M. Exclusion as politics: The reform of the Hungarian asylum system. *MigraMundo blog*. 21 July 2020.

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

- Presenter at the Virtual Symposium Broadening Humanitarianism: shifting perspectives, realities, and theorizations: “La economía política de la migración forzada, más allá de la “crisis

humanitaria” de la frontera entre EE.UU. y México”. Anthropology of Humanitarianism Network (AHN), European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (online, 11 June 2021).

- Presenter at the Eötvös Loránd University's (Hungary) talk Migration and Human Rights in Latin America: “Forced Displacement and Children's Rights in Colombia” (online, 24 March 2021).
- Presenter at The Conference at the Alternative Academia UK's End of the World: “The political uses of xenophobia: an ethnography of Hungary in the context of the COVID” (online, 14 July 2020).
- Presenter at the Annual Meeting of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: Lessons from Hungary's civil society: “Protecting asylum-seeking children amidst the 2015 ‘migrant crisis’ and the asylum system reform” (Geneva, 14 October 2019).
- Speaker at Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies: “The dismantling of an asylum system. Anti-immigration policies and NGO resistance in Hungary” (National Center of Competence in Research, University of Neuchâtel, September 2019).
- Presenter at the 8th Latin American and Caribbean Conference of CLACSO, Latin American Council of Social Sciences: "Child participation and citizenship in Latin America" (Buenos Aires, October 2018).
- TEDx talk "Find your purpose in the world's injustices" (Budapest, March 2018).
- Invited speaker, the International Consortium for the Study of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Reconciliation of the University of Nottingham: "Power relationships in the field of NGOs Aand international agencies devoted to the care and protection of children without parental care" (Nottingham, 3 September 2014).

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#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Countries of work experience:** Argentina (2008-2015), Aruba and Curaçao (remotely, 2021), British Guyana (2012), Brazil (2010), Colombia (remotely, 2021), Hungary (2017 and 2019-2021), Kazakhstan (2015), Mexico (including the Mexico-US border, 2014), Panama (2017), Portugal (2017), Romania (2014), Paraguay (2014).

**Languages:** Spanish (native), English and Portuguese (Full professional proficiency), French and Italian (intermediate level).