

Patrice Franz Penney

University of South Carolina
College of Social Work
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Key Competencies and Experience

- * Practice and supervise trauma-informed youth and family therapy and community interventions (30+ years)
 - * Work cross-culturally in Africa since 2003
- Developed non-formal, culturally sensitive, trauma-informed curriculum for training caregivers of orphaned and vulnerable African children, used across organizations in 10 African countries
- * Established highly respected community mental health clinical internship program in Chicago area
 - * Adapted integrative treatment models for clinical work with culturally-diverse children and families in poverty
 - * Developed undergraduate and graduate level counseling and psychology programs in African international university

Professional Experience

Clinical Assistant Professor, August 2015—Present

College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

Teaching expertise:

Trauma-informed practice

Clinical mental health practice with children and families

Family therapy

Attachment relationships, parenting, caregiving (issues related to orphaning, foster care, adoption)

Courses Taught:

Family Interventions and Family Therapy

Trauma-Informed Practice

Trauma-Informed Practice with Adults and Older Adults

Trauma-Informed Practice with Children, Youth, and Families

Collective Trauma and Recovery

Advanced Theory for Social Work Practice: Children, Youth, and Families

Advanced Interventions for Social Work Practice: Children, Youth, and Families

Psychopathology and Psychodiagnostics for Children and Adolescents

Human Behavior in the Social Environment II

Advanced Theory for Health/Mental Health

Advanced Interventions for Mental Health

Loss and Grief

Service to the University

USC Title IX Task Force, 2021

USC Presidential Task Force, 2020

Dissertation Committee member, Library Science

Honors College, Director and 2nd Thesis Reader, 2023, 2024

Dissertation Committee, Library Science 2023- present

Service to the CoSW:

Coordinator, Trauma-Informed Practice Certificate, 2024
Development of Trauma-informed Certificate (CoSW and interdisciplinary)
Specialization Chair, Children, Youth and Families, 2017 – 2020, 2023 – present
MSW Committee member, 2016 – 2019; 2021—present
Faculty Council, 2019-2021
Doctoral Teaching Practicum, Summer 2020
Faculty Search Committee member, 2018, 2023-2024
Advanced Field Practicum Supervisor, Heritage Academy (Augusta, GA), 2017-2019
Developed new field practicum site in trauma-informed school social work
Field Liaison, 2015 – present

Executive Director, August 2014—Present

Initiative for Children at Risk Africa

Launched and direct non-profit organization with the mission of providing caregiver training for trauma-informed care of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs).

Provide training and training of trainers (ToT) in 10+ countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Malawi, Ghana, and Lesotho. ICARA also develops trauma counseling resources for children's care, participates in translational research and advocacy for child well-being (www.icarafrika.org). To date, over 1600 African caregivers, administrators, teachers, child welfare workers, law enforcement, pastors, and other religious leaders have been trained, reaching over 200,000 children.

Consult with African orphan caregiving organizations and NGOs, government officials, and others regarding psychosocial needs of OVCs, better care, policies and practices that support orphan care, family and community-based initiatives for care of OVCs.

*Author of Africa-based curriculum for addressing psychosocial needs of orphaned and vulnerable children through nurturing caregiving, entitled **Nurturing Hearts: Trauma-informed Caregiving for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children**. Currently self-published for use in Africa. www.icarafrika.org*

Psychotherapist, 1983 – 2015

Chicago, Illinois and Nairobi, Kenya

Areas of clinical expertise include complex trauma, loss, attachment issues, adoption and foster care, children's special needs, couple and family interventions, domestic violence, systemic challenges of poverty and community violence for children and families, refugee trauma, orphaned and vulnerable children (international)

Private Practice, Chicago, Illinois, June 2014—August 2015

Child, adolescent, marital, and family therapy

Private Practice, Karen Surgery, Nairobi, Kenya, 2003 – 2007, 2009 – 2013

Child, adolescent, marital, and family therapy

Provided psychotherapy with ex-patriates, diplomats, international aid and mission staff of diverse nationalities

Private Practice, Summit Clinical Services, Wheaton, Illinois, 2007 – 2009

Child, adolescent, marital, and family therapy

Private Practice, Tumaini Counseling Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, 2003 – 2007

Child, adolescent, marital, and family therapy
Provided training and supervision for center psychiatrists and counselors

Psychotherapist, Chicago area, 1983 – 2003
Child, adolescent, marital, and family therapy
Work with families in urban low-income community from diverse cultures (African Americans, Latinos, immigrants and refugees from over 20 countries)

Faculty, January 2004 – December 2013

Africa International University, Nairobi, Kenya

Assisted in the development of and lectured in undergraduate Psychology Programme, 2009-2013

Developed and taught all courses in Counseling Post-Graduate Diploma Programme, 2004-07

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Child Development; Counseling Children and their Families; Children at Risk; Trauma and Loss in Children; Assessment of Children; Community Strategies and Interventions for Children

Counseling Post-Graduate Diploma Courses

Ministry to Children; Trauma and Loss; Theories and Principles of Counseling; Human Growth and Development; Counseling Practice with Adults, Children, and Families

Clinical Supervisor, 1986 – current

Columbia, South Carolina, Nairobi, Kenya, and Chicago, Illinois

In SC, provide clinical supervision toward licensure for several social workers, as well as family therapy supervision

In Nairobi, provided consultation for two mental health centers, private schools, the UN, the American Embassy, and Tumaini Counseling Centre; provided clinical training for mental health professional groups

In Chicago, provided clinical supervision for all MSW and MA therapists at OCC and OCM

Faculty Lecturer, 2004 – 2007

Amani Counselling Centre and Training Institute, Nairobi, Kenya

Developed and taught courses in marital and family therapy, and advanced marital therapy in MFT Post-Graduate Diploma Programme

Adjunct Clinical Faculty, 1998 – 2003

Wheaton College Department of Graduate Psychology, Wheaton, Illinois

Courses Taught:

Child Development and Treatment

Adolescent Development and Treatment

Lectured in PsyD program

Director of Staff Training and Development, 1991 - 2003

Outreach Community Ministries, Wheaton, Illinois

Provided clinical training for staff therapists, master's and doctoral interns, on a wide range of current counseling issues, including new innovations in therapy, ethical issues, marriage and family therapy

Managed Clinical Directors' team, including facilitation, overall program planning, development of policies and best practices

Clinical Director, 1986 – 2003

Outreach Community Center, program of Outreach Community Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois

OCC serves a low-income diverse community outside of Chicago

Supervised six clinical therapists providing outpatient therapy and crisis intervention services for children, adolescents, and their families, couples and adults

Managed all aspects of OCC program, including services, grants, program development, and supervision

Co-developed and implemented major demonstration grant for untreated depression (DuPage Partnership for Behavioral Health); developed system of care; provided training to participating clinicians

Developed strong clinical internship program, provided clinical supervision for over 70 master's level interns in year-long internships, including weekly live supervision groups

Director of Counseling, 1994 – 1997

Wheaton Youth Outreach, program of Outreach Community Ministries, Wheaton, Illinois

Supervised clinical therapists and interns, providing outpatient therapy, youth crisis response, counseling for sheltered homeless women, and private school counseling

Director, 1986 – 1991

Outreach Community Center, program of Outreach Community Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois

Launched and directed Center, with multifaceted social services in low-income, multiracial community

Supervised staff, developed and implemented programs, including counseling, casework services, community outreach and development, and several children's programs

Worked with OCC Board, community agencies, schools, police, churches and government to develop community support and funding, and grow volunteer program

Clinician/Consultant, Child Specialist, 1984 – 86

DuPage County Health Department, Mental Health Division, Wheaton, Illinois

Provided therapy and consultation services to low-income couples, families and children with severe problems; consulted with Head Start and nursing program

International Projects (Other than ICARA)

Trauma Therapist and Trainer, 1999, 2006

Kigali, Rwanda

Developed and led weeklong experiential trauma healing workshop for fourteen Rwandan genocide/rape survivors

Developed and led training on trauma healing for AEE team, Rwanda, working with program directors who provide assistance to orphans and widows of 1994 genocide

Honduras CRISTO Project Team Member, 1999 – 2001

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Participated in a Wheaton College faculty team that training counselors and pastors in post-trauma support and education after Hurricane Mitch

Led workshops on trauma recovery, child and family issues; consulted with counselors, pastors and lay leaders

Certification

Approved Clinical Supervisor, South Carolina, 2017 – present
Approved supervisor, 1991-2015, Illinois

Licensed Independent Social Worker—Clinical Practice, South Carolina, 2016 – present

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Illinois, 1991 – 2016 (currently inactive)

Trauma and Loss Consultant, 2001

Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC). Clinical certificate.

Family Systems Program Externship, Chicago, Illinois, September 1989 –June 1990.

Institute for Juvenile Research

One-year post-graduate clinical training certificate in family systems and family therapy.

Recent Continuing Education

Trauma and developmental trauma trainings (ongoing)

Theraplay®, Level 1 and Level 2 Training and Sunshine Circles training

Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy, Level 1 training

EMDR, Level 1 training

ARC training (Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency framework)

TF-CBT, 11-hour training certificate

Education

Master of Social Work, June 1983

University of Illinois, Jane Addams College of Social Work, Chicago, Illinois

Child and Family specialization (scholarship)

Clinical Internship, DuPage County Health Department, Wheaton, Illinois (1982-1983)

Clinical Internship, Court Diversion Program, DuPage County, Wheaton, Illinois (1981-1982)

Graduate study in Music Theory and Composition, 1978 - 1980

University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, June 1978

Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois

Scholarship

Farber, N., & Penney, P. (2020). Essential and neglected: Transforming classroom learning through relationship. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 40*(2), 95-113.

Penney, P. (2013). Nurturing their hearts: The significance of an attachment paradigm for understanding the psychosocial needs of African orphaned children. In S. Greener, et al. (Eds.). *Christian perspectives and research on child development in the African context*. Daystar University.

Penney, Patrice. (2011). Child sexual abuse survivors as parents: Navigating a difficult path. In Schmutzer, A. (Ed). *The long journey home: Understanding and ministering to the sexually abused*. Wipf and Stock.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

Penney, 2024.

Penney, P. & White, M. (2023, December). *Understanding and addressing disruptive youth*. Presenting to SC School Social Work Conference, SC.

Penney, P. & Farber, N. (2019, November). *Essential and neglected: Relational capacities in the social work classroom*. Workshop presentation, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), 66th Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.

Penney, P., Wright, M., and DiNovo, R. (2018, March). *Using case studies to discuss social work*. Workshop presentation to the South Carolina NASW Annual Conference, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (2016, November). *Addressing Trauma and Attachment Loss in African Orphans: A Case Study of Community-Based Caregiving*. Oral presentation, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) International Conference, Dallas, TX.

Penney, P., Farber, N., Mitchell, M., DiNovo, R. (2016, November). *Essential and neglected: Transforming classroom learning through relationship*. Panel presentation, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 62nd Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Penney, P. (2016, July). *Non-formal training curriculum for African orphan caregivers incorporates Theraplay® interventions*. Invited Poster Presentation, 7th International Theraplay Conference, Evanston, Illinois.

Penney, P. (2011, November). *Nurturing their hearts: The significance of an attachment paradigm for understanding the psychosocial needs of African orphaned children*. Peer-reviewed paper presented to the DayStar University Child Development Symposium, Nairobi, Kenya.

Invited Presentations

Penney, P. (2024, June-July). Consensus Family Therapy intensive training. Lexington Department of Mental Health.

Penney, P. (2024, May). *The impact of trauma on youth*. Presented to KinCarolina caregivers.

Penney, P. (2023, September). *Self-care in a pediatric primary health setting for high need, low-income families*. Workshop presented to Christ Community Primary Health Care, Augusta, GA.

Penney, P. (2023, July). *Trauma-informed caregiving*. Presented to Catholic Charities, Mississippi.

Penney, P. (2023, May). Invited MSW and BSW commencement speaker, College of Social Work, USC.

Penney, P. (2023, April). *5 big ideas: Transforming our understanding of the foster and adoptive kids in our care*. Presented to the Bair Foundation, SC.

Penney, P. (2022, December). *ECSMH Graduate Training 16: Trauma-informed practices*. Presented to Psychology Department, USC.

Penney, P. (2022, November). *Crisis intervention in school: Challenges and best practices*. Presented to Richland One school social workers, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (2022, February). Invited presentation to adoptive and foster parent group, First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, GA.

Penney, P. (2022, November). *Disruptive behavior problems in school*. **Invited training** for Richland One social workers.

Penney, P. (2021, May). *How to reclaim self-care in a time of overload*. Presented to Richland One principals and administrators.

Penney, P. (2020, December). *Module 2: Trauma-sensitive interventions in the schools*. *Trauma-sensitive school training*. Invited video training created and produced for Richland One School District, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (2020, October). *Module 1: Understanding complex trauma in children*. *Trauma-sensitive school training*. Invited video training created and produced for Richland One School District, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (2020, October). *Self-care during the pandemic—and beyond*. Invited seminar for employees of Southern Mutual Life Company, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (2020, May). *Response to COVID-19: Care for self and others*. Invited webinar presentation for VISTAGE, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (2019, November). *Strategies to foster trusting relationships in crisis settings*. Webinar presentation to South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) member organizations.

Penney, P. (2019, November). *Neuroscience foundations for understanding interpersonal trauma*. Presented to SisterCare, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. & Merrell, M. (2019, October). *Adverse Childhood Experiences in rural communities: Addressing ACEs in children*. Presented at Upper Midlands Rural Health Network School Health Workshop: Trauma, Triage, and Treatments, Rock Hill, SC.

Penney, P. (2019, July). *Trauma-informed relational strategies for parents and caregivers*. Presented at Wired for Connection Weekend Conference, Augusta, GA.

Penney, P. (2018, October). *Trauma-informed care in emergency foster care setting*. Presentation to Palmetto Place Shelter.

Penney, P. (2018, March). *Trauma-informed clinical practice with children and families experiencing DV or SA*. Presentation to the clinical staff of South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Penney, P. (2018, February). *From Concept to Practice Considerations: Trauma- Informed Social Work with Children*. Presented to Professional Development Series, College of Social Work, USC.

Penney, P. (2017, October). *Active learning in the MSW classroom*. Training for instructors, College of Social Work, USC.

Penney, P. (2016, April). *Traumatic stress in children and adolescents: becoming trauma-informed in our practice*. Presented to Sumter Social Work Conference, Sumter, South Carolina.

Penney, P. (2016, February, May). *The impact of trauma on homelessness: how shelter staff and volunteers can help*. Family Promise of the Midlands, Columbia) volunteers.

Penney, P. (2015, June). *The humanitarian disaster of African orphaned children: Caregiving to build resilience*. Invited presentation, Humanitarian Disaster Institute Conference, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

Penney, P. (2015, April). *Child trauma, attachment and trauma healing*. Invited plenary presentation and workshop, Trauma Healing Institute's Global Community of Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Penney, P. (2015, December). *Self-care for emerging health professionals*. Invited presentation, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

Penney, P. (2015, October). *Understanding traumatic stress: Helping our young children in the aftermath of the flooding*. Workshop presented to childcare directors and coordinators across South Carolina through the USC Child Development and Research Center, Columbia, South Carolina.

Penney, P. (2015, October). *Understanding traumatic stress: Helping our children in the wake of the flooding*. Presented to EdVenture after-school and museum staff, Columbia, South Carolina.

Penney, P. (2015, October). *Understanding traumatic stress*. Presented to College of Social Work students, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

Penney, P. (2015, October). *Understanding traumatic stress: Helping our children in the wake of the flooding*. Presented to Richland One School District, Columbia, South Carolina.

Penney, P. (2013, September). *Trauma recovery: The school context and trauma recovery: Parents and children*. Invited presentation to International School of Kenya (ISK) faculty, staff, and parents in the week following the Westgate terrorist attack, Nairobi Kenya.

Penney, P. (2013). *Trauma of torture: treatment in counseling and community contexts*. Invited three-day training workshop, sponsored by IMLU (Independent Medico-Legal Unit which responds to torture survivors), Nairobi, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2013). *Supporting the attachment needs of children with special needs in school*. Invited presentation to network of private school special needs support staff and directors across Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2009). *Addressing the heart needs of vulnerable children*. Invited keynote speaker, VIVA Conference (organizations working with orphaned and vulnerable children across Kenya), Nairobi, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2009). *Systemic and relational psychotherapy*. Presented to network of professionals in psychology, medicine, and social work, Nairobi, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2005). *Understanding the psychosocial needs of orphans*. Invited keynote speaker, VIVA Conference, Nairobi, Kenya.

Invited Presentations with Initiative for Children at Risk Africa (ICARA)

Penney, P. (2024, January). Trauma-informed care in contexts of gender-based violence. Three-day training for NGO and community leaders. Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Penney, P. (2024, January). Trauma-informed care in contexts of incarceration. Three-day training for outreach workers in adult and juvenile prisons. Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Penney, P. (2024, January). Trauma-informed caregiving for vulnerable children. Weeklong training for national staff and leaders, invited by Christ's Hope, Tanzania.

Penney, P. (2022, August). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Weeklong training and consultation, invited by Adelante Africa and regional Western Ugandan leadership.

Penney, P. (2021, May). *Trauma-informed caregiving for trafficked and vulnerable children*. Weeklong training and consultation, invited by International Justice Mission, Ghana.

Penney, P. (2019, June). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Three-day training with various organizations serving orphaned and vulnerable children in Nairobi, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2019, May). *Understanding trauma-informed practices with trafficked women and children*. Three-day training, invited by Herzwerk and a coalition of anti-trafficking organizations, Vienna, Austria.

Penney, P. (2019, May). *Trauma-informed child welfare support for maltreated children*. Two-day training with national leadership of Ministry of Social Development, Maseru, Lesotho.

Penney, P. (2019, May). *Trauma-informed social work practice with children and families*. Three-day training of 80+ undergraduate social workers and faculty, National University of Lesotho, Lesotho.

Penney, P. (2019, May). *Trauma-informed policing*. Four-day invited training of 60+ police leadership, Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), Maseru, Lesotho.

Penney, P. (2018, May). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Two-day training with Uganda Christian University Department of Social Work and community field partners, Mukono, Uganda.

Penney, P. (2018, June). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Three-day training with Teule Kenya, Oloitokitok, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2018, June). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Weeklong training with various NGOs, schools, and orphanages in Nairobi, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2018, June). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Weeklong training with 20+ organizations serving orphaned and vulnerable, trafficked, and street children in Moshi, Tanzania.

Penney, P. (2017, May). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Three 3-day trainings for teachers, administrators, social workers, and community outreach workers. Family Legacy Mission International, Lusaka, Zambia.

Penney, P. (2017, June). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Three-day training with various NGOs, orphanages, street child projects, and feeding projects. Nairobi, Kenya.

Penney, P. (2016, May). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Four-day training and consultations with 125 caregivers, school counselors, and administration of Family Legacy Mission International, Lusaka, Zambia.

Penney, P. (2016, May). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Four-day training with Trust for Africa and community collaborators.

Penney, P. (2015, July). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Weeklong training and consultation with Children's Rescue Center and community collaborators, Bo, Sierra Leone.

Penney, P. (2015, January). *Trauma-informed caregiving for orphaned and vulnerable children*. Weeklong training with Compassion International Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya.

Media Interviews

Penney, P. (6/26/24). Televised interview: SC expert weighs in on Surgeon General's social media warnings. WYFF-TV.

Penney, P. (4/11/23). Interview with SC Public Radio regarding preparation for potential trauma of hurricane season.

Penney, P. (5/17/22). Interviewed for Kindel, L. *Student shares sex trafficking story to raise awareness, help victims*. USC website.

Penney, P. (4/30/20). Televised WIS-TV interview with Judi Gatson on helping children through the pandemic, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (2/17/20). Televised WIS-TV Interview with Judi Gatson *regarding how parents can support their kids after abduction and death of Columbia child*, Columbia, SC.

Penney, P. (12/10/19). Interviewed in Schiferl, J. *Charleston students bring violent neighborhood trauma into class. New mental health support could help*. Post & Courier, Charleston, SC.

Penney, P. (9/26/16). Interview with Anderson-Independent Mail, in response to the Townville Elementary School shooting in SC.

Penney, P. (9/23/16). *How the flood of 2015 changed the lives of children in Columbia*. Filmed interview with Matt Walsh, from The State (SC) newspaper.

Penney, P. (9/12/16). South Carolina NPR Interview with Tut Underwood, anniversary of the 2015 flood.

Penney, P. (7/21/16). *Taking a stand for our kids*, Town Hall Meeting. Participated in a panel discussion organized by Columbia Councilwoman Tameika Devine, focused on helping community members address the recent police shootings of unarmed Black men. Aired on nightly news and one-hour presentation.

Penney, P. (7/8/16) Televised interview with WOLO, ABC-TV. Interview regarding how to talk to young children and adolescents about violence (shootings of unarmed Black men and police shootings).

Unfunded Research (in process)

Robinson, B., Frisbee, S., Principal Investigators. Penney, P. Co-investigator and lead on intervention implementation. *Assessing the effectiveness of Theraplay® interventions in a Kenyan orphanage*.

Memberships in Professional Societies

National Association of Social Workers, 2004 – present

International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, 2009 – 2011, 2016, 2022 – present

Penney, 2024.

Theraplay Institute, 2011 – 2017

Kenya Association of Professional Counselors, 2012 – 2014

Council on Social Work Education, 2016 – 2017

Teaching Grant

de Zeeuw Wright, M., Penney, P., & DiNovo, R. (2017-18). *The case study project*, Dean's Teaching Innovation Award, University of South Carolina, College of Social Work.

Honors

Teacher of the Year. (2024). College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Teacher of the Year. (2023). College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Thank a Teacher (2023). University of South Carolina.

Teacher of the Year. (2022). College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Teacher of the Year. (2020). College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Two Thumbs Up Award (2019). University of South Carolina.

Teacher of the Year. (2018). College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Phi Alpha Honor Society inductee. (2018). College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia.