

Nelson Varas-Díaz



Dr. Nelson Varas-Díaz is a Professor of social-community psychology at Florida International University's Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies. His work related to metal music addresses issues of community formation, linkages between culture and music, and metal music as a decolonial strategy in Latin America. His work has been published in multiple journals, including *Metal Music Studies*, *International Journal of Community Music*, and the *Journal of Community Psychology*, among others. He coedited the books *Heavy Metal Music and the Communal Experience* (2016), *Heavy Metal in Argentina: In Black We Are Seen* (2020), and *Heavy Metal in Latin America: Perspectives from the Distorted South* (2021). He authored the book *Decolonial Metal Music in Latin America*, which was published by Intellect Books in 2021. He produced and/or directed the award winning documentaries *The Distorted Island: Heavy Metal and Community in Puerto Rico*, *The Metal Islands: Culture, History and Politics in Caribbean Metal Music*, *Songs of Injustice: Heavy Metal Music in Latin America*, and *Acts of Resistance: Heavy Metal Music in Latin America*. His films have received 75 sets of laurels from international film festivals. He is one of the editors of the *Metal Music Studies* journal published by Intellect. He currently directs the "Heavy Metal Studies - Latin America" group, which researches metal in the Caribbean and Central and South America.