

You are kindly invited to the public defense to obtain the degree of

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

of Ms. Miryam Cristina Fernández Cediel

Which will take place on **October 3, 2023** at **5:30 PM CET**

Promotiezaal (Building D, room D.2.01)

VUB Main Campus Brussels - Pleinlaan 2 – 1050 Brussel

Or if you wish to attend online, [click here to join the meeting](#)

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH PLAYING MUSIC. MEANINGS AND NARRATIVES OF/ABOUT MUSIC IN YOUNG PEOPLE AT SOCIAL RISK WHO PERFORM MUSIC IN A SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA IN COLOMBIA

JURY

INTERN:

Prof. dr. Sarah Dury (chair - VUB)

Prof. Dr. Els Dumortier (VUB)

Prof. Dr. Jenneke Christiaens (VUB)

PROMOTOR(S)

Prof. dr. Gerrit Loots (VUB)

Prof. dr. Sylvie Gadeyne (VUB)

EXTERN:

Prof. dr. Marcela Losantos (Universidad Católica Boliviana San Pablo)

Prof. Dr. Gloria Zapata (Universidad de Bogotá)

Coming by car? Please [register your licence plate](#) in advance to have access to the campus.

You are also invited to the reception afterwards.

Please confirm your attendance before September 29 via Miryam.Cristina.Fernandez.Cediel@vub.be.

How to reach the VUB? Click for [directions](#).

SUMMARY

This PhD study on the meaning of playing music and, more specifically, on performing music in an orchestra by young people affected by the socio-economic situation and armed conflict in southern Colombia contributes to the current situation of community restoration and peacebuilding in which the use of sports and arts are strongly emphasized for the reintegration of young people into society. By being actively involved as young musicians in a collaborative and narrative research process, 52 children and young participants of a symphony orchestra shared their musical experiences and showed how their performance in the orchestra initiated a self-transformation process that has changed their lives in their family, social, and educational contexts.

The research findings demonstrate that the symphonic orchestra can be considered as a social space in which the performance of music produces identity transformations that contributes to the daily-life contexts of these young Colombian people living in situations at social risk. The findings also show that joined musical practice and the relational context of the orchestra not only strengthen musical skills but also provide positive social experiences, a space for self-reflection, a possibility to identify and process emotions, and to realize identity changes because of a process of self-transformation.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Miryam Cristina got a master in psychology and in conflict, territory, and culture. She is professor in Psychology at the Universidad Surcolombiana (Nieva, Colombia). From a social constructionist approach, she conducts research with children, young people, and families related to topics as political violence, trauma, psychosocial problems, citizen participation, collaborative, narrative and community therapy, collective memory, peacebuilding, forgiveness and reconciliation.