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## Velasco Mogollón, Ermel Neptalí



Born *Quito, (Ecuador), 21 August, 1912*

Died *Quito, (Ecuador), 27 October, 1990*

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Son of Manuel Velasco and Victoria Mogollón. Married to Blanca Margarita Abad Grijalva. He had two children, Margarita and Fernando, the latter known as *El Conejo* (The Rabbit), a young leftist intellectual and father – along with Rosa María Torres – of the Ecuadorian singer, Juan Fernando Velasco Torres (Margarita Velasco Abad, personal communication, April 8, 2020).

Velasco entered *Escuela de los Hermanos Cristianos* (Christian Brothers School) elementary school, then he transferred to *Escuela Leopoldo Chávez* (Leopoldo Chávez School, 1922–1925) and finished his studies there. He completed his high school studies at *Colegio Normal Juan Montalvo* (Juan Montalvo Normal School, 1925–1931) where he graduated as a normalist teacher (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.). He

studied to become a professor of psychology at the *Universidad Central del Ecuador* (Central University of Ecuador, UCE, 1932–1936) (Pérez-Pimentel, 1996). In 1947, he obtained the degree of *Profesor de Enseñanza Secundaria en la Especialización de Psicopedagogía* (Professor of Secondary Education in the Specialization of Psychopedagogy) by the *Ministerio de Educación Pública* (Ministry of Public Education), and in 1958 he graduated as *Profesor de Educación Superior en la especialización de Estadística* (Professor of Higher Education in the specialization of Statistics) in the *Facultad de Filosofía, Letras y Ciencias de la Educación* (Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Education Sciences) of the UCE (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.).

Since the 1930s and for several decades, he worked with some renowned educators such as Fernando Chávez Reyes (1902–1999), Gonzalo Abad Grijalva (1910–2009), Gonzalo Rubio Orbe, and especially, with his friend Edmundo Carbo Bravo (1907–2004). At *Reformatorio de Menores de Quito* (Quito Juvenile Reformatory, 1932–1935), he worked together with Gonzalo Abad Grijalva (Pérez-Pimentel, 1996). Since 1933, he was a member of the *Sociedad de Profesores Grupo Cuadernos Pedagógicos* (Society of Teachers Pedagogical Notebooks Group) (Margarita Velasco Abad, personal communication, April 8, 2020); it was the place of reflection on educational issues; furthermore, he collaborated in the journal *Cuadernos Pedagógicos* (Pedagogical

Notebooks) founded the same year by Fernando Chávez Reyes (Rubio-Orbe, 1957).

He was *Profesor de Psicopedagogía de la Dirección de Higiene Escolar del Ministerio de Educación Pública* (Professor of Psychopedagogy at the Department of School Hygiene of the Ministry of Public Education, 1936), where, under the command of Celso Jarrín, he worked with Bolívar Drouet in mental tests, which were applied at the elementary school of Quito (Rubio Orbe, 1957); they used the Ballard Collective Test (Carbo-Bravo & Velasco-Mogollón, 1976). This was the beginning of his interest in educational research; over the years, he trained as a quantitative researcher, especially in educational statistics.

He was also professor of psychology and overseer at the *Escuela Normal Urbana Juan Montalvo* (Juan Montalvo Urban Normal School, 1936–1937) in Quito, professor at the *Colegio Normal Juan Montalvo* (Juan Montalvo Normal School, 1939–1942) (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.). In the middle of World War II, he became *Secretario-Ayudante de la Dirección de Prioridades y Distribución de Importaciones del Ministerio de Hacienda* (Secretary-Assistant of the Department of Import Priorities and Distribution of the Ministry of Finance, 1943) and *Ayudante de la Sección Técnica de la Dirección de Comercio Exterior del Ministerio de Economía* (Assistant of the Technical Section of the Department of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economy, 1944) (Margarita Velasco Abad, personal communication, April 8, 2020).

Later, he was *Jefe de la Sección Estadísticas y Escalafón del Ministerio de Educación Pública* (Head of the Statistics and Ranking Section of the Ministry of Public Education, 1944–1963) (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.); during this time, he specialized even more in statistics applied to education and worked for the benefit of teachers through the application of the teacher ranking (Velasco-Abad, 2010). Later, UNESCO awarded him a scholarship to observe for several months (1952) the statistical directorates and the school statistics offices of Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Spain, and Brazil (Velasco-Mogollón, 1955). When he came back, he innovated the

department he was in charge of. He was *Subdirector de Planeamiento de la Educación del Ministerio de Educación Pública* (Vice principal of Educational Planning of the Ministry of Public Education 1963–1968). In 1968, he retired from the Ministry of Public Education and received the *Condecoración al Mérito Educativo de Primera Clase* (First Class Educational Merit Award).

He was a professor of statistics at UCE for many years. He collaborated with the founding of the *Escuela de Psicología y Orientación Vocacional* (School of Psychology and Vocational Guidance) of the *Facultad de Filosofía, Letras y Ciencias de la Educación* (Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Educational Sciences, 1955). He was a professor of statistics at the *Escuela de Pedagogía* (School of Pedagogy, 1955–1960) and at the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Educational Sciences (1960–1980) (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.). He also collaborated in the *Escuela de Servicio Social* (School of Social Service) founded by Graciela Escudero (Margarita Velasco Abad, personal communication, April 8, 2020). He was an honorary professor at UCE from 1975 until his death.

He attended to various meetings related to education and statistics on behalf of Ecuador: *Conferencias Culturales de Lima* (Cultural Conferences of Lima), Peru (1956); *Seminario Regional Latinoamericano sobre Normalización de las Estadísticas relativas a la Educación* (Latin American Regional Seminar on Standardization of Statistics Related to Education), Tucumán, Argentina (1960); *Conferencia Mundial de Población* (World Population Conference), Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1965); *IV Reunión Técnica del Comité Consultivo Intergubernamental del Proyecto Principal sobre Extensión y Mejoramiento de la Educación Primaria en América Latina* (IV Technical Meeting of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee of the Major Project on the Extension and Improvement of Primary Education in Latin America), Buenos Aires, Argentina (1966); and *Reunión Técnica sobre Mejoramiento de las Estadísticas en la Educación* (Technical Meeting on the Improvement of Statistics in Education), Washington, USA (1966) (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.).

He was a member of the *Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana* (House of Ecuadorian Culture, 1946) and directed the *Sección Académica de Ciencias de la Educación y Disciplinas Filosóficas* (Academic Section of Educational Sciences and Philosophical Disciplines, 1969) (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.). Additionally, he was an honorary member of the *Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Psicólogos Educativos* (Ecuadorian Society of Educational Psychologists, 1977) and a founding member of the *Academia Ecuatoriana de la Educación* (Ecuadorian Academy of Education, 1978) (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.).

One of his interests was mental tests and educational achievement tests that he, together with Edmundo Carbo Bravo, introduced in Ecuador. One of his most important works together with Gonzalo Abad Grijalva and Edmundo Carbo Bravo (1942) was *Pruebas de instrucción ACV: guía para su corrección, valoración e interpretación de sus resultados*. The House of Culture section Azuay awarded him a medal for his book: *La investigación del niño en la edad escolar* (1965) (Velasco-Mogollón, n.d.). In 1971, he published the first volume of *Estadística para educadores y psicólogos*, and in 1976, his last book, together with Edmundo Carbo Bravo, *Antecedentes y realizaciones de la investigación Psicopedagógica en el Ecuador*. He also published several works related to educational statistics in the *Revista Ecuatoriana de Educación* (Ecuadorian Journal of Education) of the House of Ecuadorian Culture.

He contributed to the development of psychology and education in Ecuador, through quantitative research about mental and educational achievement tests, and showed the importance of using statistics to have relevant information and guide decision-making.

## 1 Cross-References

► [Segundo Edmundo Carbo Bravo](#)

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