

Dr Erminia Colucci, University of Melbourne

Since 2007, Dr Erminia Colucci has been a Research Fellow at the Centre for International Mental Health in the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne. Prior to this, she received training in suicidology research at the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention at Griffith University, and worked in Padua, Italy, as a clinical psychologist.

Dr Colucci's research has been instrumental to improved understandings of suicide and suicide prevention across different cultures. Most notably, her work has made a significant contribution to understandings of what is an otherwise relatively neglected area of research – the ethnocultural aspects of suicide in young people.

Dr Colucci's previous PhD research, 'The cultural meaning of suicide: A comparison between Australian, Indian and Italian students', was awarded the 2005 Dr Helen Row-Zonta Memorial Prize. Her findings have been presented at various national and international conferences, and have been published in numerous academic journals and publications.

In June 2009, she was invited by the UN to hold a technical workshop on youth mental health and self-harm at the UNICEF Adolescent Development and Participation meeting.

Dr Colucci also provides seminars on youth suicide for the University of Padua in Italy, and is a guest researcher at the Kansai University of International Studies in Japan, where she was also a guest lecturer in 2008-2009.

She continues to collaborate with international academics on the development of suicide prevention programs and Suicide First Aid guidelines, as well as improved services for Indian women living in Melbourne who experience domestic violence and human rights violations.

Dr Colucci's current exploratory work promises to also offer additional and valuable insights into the relationship of spirituality to suicidal behaviour, with particular attention to the effects of spiritual treatments on mental health and suicide prevention in Haridwar, India.