

David F Suárez

Colleen Willoughby Endowed Professor in Philanthropy & Civil Society
Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington

[ORCID](#)

dsuarez@uw.edu

Academic Positions

Professor of Public Management, Evans School, University of Washington (2025-)
Associate Dean for Research, Evans School (2025-)
Associate Professor of Public Management, Evans School (2013-2025)
Assistant Professor of Public Management, Price School, University of Southern California (2007-2012)
Social Sciences Education Master's Program Director, Stanford University (2005-2006)

Education

PhD Education, Stanford University (2006)
MA Sociology, Stanford University (2002)
BA International Relations, University of California, Davis (1996)

Research Interests

Organization Theory; Institutional Theory; Nonprofit Management; Philanthropy; Advocacy, Human Rights, and Civic Engagement; Collaboration; Professionalization; Comparative Education

Publications

Edited Books

Cynthia Gibson, Chris Cardona, Jasmine McGinnis Johnson, and David Suárez, eds. 2025. *Participatory Grantmaking in Philanthropy: How Democratizing Decision-Making Shifts Power to Communities*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Suárez, David. 2026. "Foundations, Participatory Grantmaking and the Commons." In *Understanding Our Philanthropic Commons*, edited by Brent Never, Robert Christensen, and Brenda Bushouse. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

Gibson, Cynthia, Chris Cardona, Jasmine McGinnis Johnson, and David Suárez. 2025. "Participatory Approaches to Philanthropy: The Distinct Role of Participatory Grantmaking." In *Participatory Grantmaking in Philanthropy*, edited by Cynthia Gibson et al., 1-31. Georgetown University Press.

- Finchum-Mason, Emily, Kelly Husted, and David Suárez. 2025. "Institutional Change or Shooting Star? Foundations and Participatory Grantmaking." In *Participatory Grantmaking in Philanthropy*, edited by Cynthia Gibson et al., 35-61. Georgetown University Press.
- Cardona, Chris, Cynthia Gibson, Jasmine McGinnis Johnson, and David Suárez. 2025. "Future Directions for Participatory Grantmaking Research and Implementation." In *Participatory Grantmaking in Philanthropy*, edited by Cynthia Gibson et al., 354-364. Georgetown University Press.
- Park, Gowun, and David Suárez. 2024. "The Publicness of Private Foundations: Internet Presence and Web-Based Accountability." *Nonprofit Management and Leadership* 35(2): 307-327.
- Brandtner, Christof, Krystal Laryea, Gowun Park, Wei Luo, Michael Meyer, David Suárez, Hokyu Hwang, and Walter W. Powell. 2024. "Organizational Practices for Community Integration in Five Global Cities." *Nature Cities* 1: 853-860.
- Mosley, Jennifer, David Suárez, and Hokyu Hwang. 2023. "Conceptualizing Organizational Advocacy Across the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector: Goals, Tactics and Motivation." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 52(1S): 187-211.
- Suárez, David and Gowun Park. 2022. "Resilient but Frayed: The Civic Threads of the Puget Sound Nonprofit Sector." *Global Perspectives* 3(1): 363-42.
- Brandtner, Christof, and David Suárez. 2021. "The Structure of City Action: Institutional Embeddedness and Sustainability Practices in U.S. Cities." *American Review of Public Administration* 51(2): 121-138.
- Finchum-Mason, Emily, Kelly Husted, and David Suárez. 2020. "Philanthropic Foundation Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 49(6): 1129-1141.
- Suárez, David, and Hokyu Hwang. 2020. "Collaborations and Networks." In *Routledge Companion to Nonprofit Management*, edited by Helmut Anheier and Stefan Toepler, 317-334. Routledge.
- Suárez, David. 2020. "Advocacy, Civic Engagement, and Social Change." In *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, edited by Walter W. Powell and Patricia Bromley, 487-506. Stanford University Press.
- Hwang, Hokyu, and David Suárez. 2019. "Beyond Service Provision: Advocacy and the Construction of Nonprofits as Organizational Actors." *Research in the Sociology of Organizations* 58: 87-109.
- Suárez, David, Kelly Husted, and Andreu Casas. 2018. "Community Foundations as Advocates: Social Change Discourse in the Philanthropic Sector." *Interest Groups & Advocacy* 7(3): 206-232.
- Suárez, David, and Nicole Esparza. 2017. "Institutional Change and Management in Public-Nonprofit Partnerships." *American Review of Public Administration* 47(6): 648-660.
- Russell, Susan Garnett, and David Suárez. 2017. "Symbol and Substance: Human Rights Education in Historical Context." In *Human Rights Education: Theory, Research & Praxis*, edited by Monisha Bajaj, 19-46. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Suárez, David, and Mary Kay Gugerty. 2016. "Funding Civil Society? Bilateral Government Support for Development NGOs." *Voluntas* 27(6): 2617-2640.

- Suárez, David, and Patricia Bromley. 2015. "Institutional Theories and Levels of Analysis: Diffusion, History, and Translation." In *World Culture Re-Contextualized*, edited by Jurgen Schriewer, 139-160. Routledge.
- Suárez, David. 2015. "Creating Public Value through Collaboration: The Restoration and Preservation of Crissy Field." In *Creating Public Value in Practice*, edited by John Bryson and Barbara Crosby, 293-310. Taylor & Francis.
- Marshall, Jeff, and David Suárez. 2014. "The Flow of Management Practices: An Analysis of NGO Monitoring and Evaluation Dynamics." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 43(6): 1033-1051.
- Suárez, David, and Jeff Marshall. 2014. "Capacity in the NGO Sector: Evidence from a National Survey of Cambodia." *Voluntas* 25(1): 176-200.
- Suárez, David, and Hokyu Hwang. 2013. "Resource Constraints or Cultural Conformity? Nonprofit Relationships with Businesses." *Voluntas* 24(3): 581-605.
- Suárez, David, and Patricia Bromley. 2012. "Professionalizing a Global Social Movement: Universities and Human Rights." *American Journal of Education* 118(3): 253-280.
- Suárez, David. 2012. "Grantmaking as Advocacy: The Emergence of Social Justice Philanthropy." *Nonprofit Management and Leadership* 22(3): 259-280.
- Suárez, David, and Youngmi Lee. 2011. "Participation and Policy: Foundation Support for Civic Engagement and Community Organizing in the United States." *Public Management Review* 13(8): 1117-1138.
- Suárez, David. 2011. "Collaboration and Professionalization: The Contours of Public Sector Funding for Nonprofits." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 21(2): 307-326.
- Suárez, David. 2010. "Street Credentials and Management Backgrounds: Careers of Nonprofit Executives in an Evolving Sector." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 39(4): 696-716.
- Suárez, David, Francisco O. Ramirez, and Jeong-Woo Koo. 2009. "UNESCO and the Associated Schools Project: Symbolic Affirmation of World Community, International Understanding, and Human Rights." *Sociology of Education* 82(3): 197-216.
- Suárez, David. 2009. "Nonprofit Advocacy and Civic Engagement on the Internet." *Administration & Society* 41(3): 267-289.
- Suárez, David, and Hokyu Hwang. 2008. "Civic Engagement and Nonprofit Lobbying in California." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 37(1): 92-112.
- Suárez, David. 2008. "Rewriting Citizenship? Civic Education in Costa Rica and Argentina." *Comparative Education* 44(4): 485-503.
- Suárez, David. 2007. "Human Rights and Curricular Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean." *Comparative Education Review* 51(3): 329-352.
- Suárez, David. 2007. "Education Professionals and the Construction of Human Rights Education." *Comparative Education Review* 51(1): 48-70.

Suárez, David, and Francisco Ramirez. 2007. "Human Rights and Citizenship: The Emergence of Human Rights Education." In *Critique and Utopia: New Developments in the Sociology of Education*, edited by Carlos Torres, 43-64. Rowman and Littlefield.

Ramirez, Francisco, David Suárez, and John Meyer. 2006. "The Worldwide Rise of Human Rights Education, 1950-2005." In *The Changing Contents of Primary and Secondary Education*, edited by Aaron Benavot and Cecilia Braslavsky, 35-57. CERC.

Reprinted (2006) in Spanish as "El Ascenso Mundial de la Educación en la Esfera de Derechos Humanos," in *El Conocimiento Escolar en una Perspectiva Historica y Comparativa*, edited by Aaron Benavot and Cecilia Braslavsky, 75-98. Ediciones Granica.

Suárez, David. 2006. "The Institutionalization of Human Rights Education." In *The Impact of Comparative Education Research on Neoinstitutional Theory*, edited by David Baker and Alex Wiseman, 95-120. Elsevier Science.

Hwang, Hokyū, and David Suárez. 2005. "Lost and Found in the Translation of Strategic Plans and Websites." In *Global Ideas: How Ideas, Objects and Practices Travel in the Global Economy*, edited by Barbara Czarniawska and Guje Sevón, 71-93. Copenhagen Business School Press.

Reports / Other Publications

Suárez, David. 2025. *Power Shifting and Participatory Philanthropy: A Comparative Analysis of Four Surdna Foundation Initiatives*. Report prepared for the Surdna Foundation.

Suárez, David. 2022. "Advancing Public Administration Research and Theory through Nonprofit Studies." Introduction to *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* virtual issue.

Husted, Kelly, Emily Finchum-Mason, and David Suárez. 2021. *Sharing Power? The Landscape of Participatory Practices & Grantmaking Among Large U.S. Foundations*. Report prepared for the Ford Foundation and the Nancy Bell Evans Center (NBEC).

Mosley, Jennifer, and David Suárez. 2019. "Government-Nonprofit Relations in Evolving Cross-Sectoral Collaboration." Introduction to *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* virtual issue.

Manuscripts Under Review and Working Papers

Suárez, David. "Participatory Grantmaking and the Historical Legacy of Social Justice Philanthropy." Book chapter in preparation for *Handbook of Nonprofits & Social Inequality: Research, Practice, and Power*, edited by Lindsey McDougale. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Brandtner, Christof, Meyer, Michael, David Suárez, and Hokyū Hwang. "Organizational Rationalization Across Nonprofit Regimes: A Comparative Study of Seven Metropolitan Areas." Under review.

Suárez, David. "Democratizing the Plutocracy? Participatory and Trust-Based Philanthropy Among Large Foundations." Working paper.

Suárez, David. "Foundation Advocacy and Participatory Philanthropy: Convergent or Divergent?" Working paper.

Park, Gonnée, and David Suárez. “Nonprofits and Government Funding: Diversity, Conformity, or Diverse Conformity?” Working paper.

Suárez, David. “Marketization and Social Embeddedness in the Nonprofit Sector.” Working paper.

Recent Academic Presentations and Conference Participation

- “Foundation-Public Agency Collaboration and Foundation Engagement in Public Policy.” PMRC, Washington, D.C., June, 2026.
- “Participatory Grantmaking: Fostering Self Governance & Social Capital.” ARNOVA, Indianapolis, IN, November, 2025.
- “Nonprofits and Government Funding: Diversity, Conformity, or Diverse Conformity?” APPAM, Seattle, WA, November, 2025.
- “Getting Your Book Published: From Idea to Proposal.” ARNOVA, Washington, D.C., November, 2024.
- “Democratizing the Plutocracy? Foundations and the Emergence of Participatory Grantmaking.” Invited presentation (Online), Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indianapolis, Indiana, February, 2024.
- “Unequally Embedded: Examining Neighborhood Effects on Organizational Resources for Social and Systemic Integration Across Five Global Cities.” European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS), Cagliari, Italy, July, 2023.
- “Neighborhood Effects and Organizational Resources for Community Integration in Five Cities.” West Coast Data Conference, Eugene, OR, April 2023.
- “Theory Seeking Method or Method Seeking Theory? Exploring the Relationship Between Theory and Machine Learning in the Digital Age of Nonprofit Scholarship.” ARNOVA, Raleigh, NC, November, 2022.
- “Participatory Grantmaking, Institutions, and the Philanthropic Commons.” Understanding Our Philanthropic Commons Conference, BYU Aspen Grove, UT, September, 2022.
- “Publishing in JPART, Editor Perspectives.” Public Management Research Conference, Phoenix, AZ, May, 2022.
- “Conceptualizing Organizational Advocacy Across the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector: Goals, Tactics and Motivation.” ARNOVA, Virtual Convening, November, 2020.
- “The Management of Accountability in Philanthropic Foundations.” Invited Presentation, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, December, 2019.
- “Advocacy, Civic Engagement, and Social Change.” ARNOVA, San Diego, CA, November, 2019.
- “Strategic Philanthropy? Foundation Management and Organizational (In)Visibility.” Public Management Research Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, June, 2019.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Professional / External

- Future Leaders of Schools of Public Service (FLSPS) Invited Participant, Volcker Alliance (2025)
- Effective Participatory Grantmaking Grant, Surdna Foundation (2023)
- Democracy and Participatory Grantmaking Grant, Ford Foundation (2020)
- SSK Human Rights Forum Grant, Korea National Research Foundation (2016)
- Early Learning Education Research Center Sub-Grant, B&M Gates Foundation (2016)
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, National Academy of Education / Spencer Foundation (2010)

William Diaz Faculty Fellowship, Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (2007)
Gail P. Kelly Award for Best Dissertation, Comparative and International Education Society (2006)
Nonprofit and Philanthropy Sector Fellowship, Aspen Institute (2004)

University

Leadership Excellence Program (LEP) Invited Participant, UW (2020)
Colleen Willoughby Endowed Professorship in Philanthropy & Civil Society, UW Evans (2017-)
Hubert G. Locke Diversity Award, UW Evans (2014)
Graduate Policy Administration Community (GPAC) Professor of the Year, USC Price (2012, 2013)
Bedrosian Center on Governance and Public Enterprise Faculty Grant, USC Price (2011)
Sterling Franklin Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, USC Price (2010)
Advancing Humanities and Social Sciences Initiative Faculty Grant, USC (2010)
Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy Faculty Grant, USC Price (2009)
Outstanding Performance Citation in International Relations Program, UC Davis (1996)

Service

Professional / External

Public Impact Research Accelerator Coordinating Committee, PIRA Network (Member, 2026-)
Research Advisory Committee: Independent Sector (Member, 2025-)
Editorial Board: Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (Member, 2019-); Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (Member, 2024-); Public Administration Review (Member, 2014-16); Sociology of Education (Member, 2011-13)
Editor Search Committee: Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (Chair, 2023)
Associate Editor: Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (2019-23)
Governing Board: ARNOVA (Member, 2013-19); Nominations Committee (Chair, 2017-19); Conference Committee (Co-Chair, 2014-16); Publications Committee (Member, 2016-19); ARNOVA-Asia Conference Committee (Member, 2016-17).
Conference Organizer: “The Future of World Society Theory” (2016); “West Coast Nonprofit Data” (2016)
Reviewer: Administration & Society; American Journal of Sociology; American Review of Public Administration; American Sociological Review; Comparative Education Review; Human Service Organizations; International Sociology; Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory; Journal of Urban Studies; Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly; Nonprofit Management and Leadership; Nonprofit Policy Forum; Public Administration Review; Public Management Review; Sociology of Education; Voluntas; World Development.

University

UW Governance: Population Health Initiative, Executive Council (Member, 2026-); Faculty Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) (Member, 2025-); Office of Research Central, Research Advisory Board (Member, 2025-)
UW Evans School Governance: Faculty Affairs Committee (Member, 2018-19, 2022-23; Ex Officio 2025-); Research Committee (Member, 2022-23; Ex Officio 2025-); Committee on Curriculum & Student Affairs Committee (Member, 2013-15; Chair, 2016-18, 2024-25); MPA Admissions Committee (Member, 2024-25); Promotion & Tenure Review Committee (Member, 2021-22; Chair, 2023-24); PhD Workgroup (2019-24); Faculty Search Committee (Member 2015-16, 2023-24); Public Management (Member, 2015-16); Faculty Council (Member, 2014-15, 2022-23); Nonprofit Management Certificate Program (NMCP) Committee (Member, 2013-19, 2023-25)

Graduate Student Supervision: Katherine Cheng, UW Evans PhD Committee (Member, 2023-); Siman Ning, UW Urban Design PhD Committee (Member, 2024-); Gonnice Park, UW Evans PhD Committee (Chair, 2017-23); Francisco Santamarina, UW Evans PhD Committee (Member, 2017-23); Emily Finchum-Mason, UW Evans PhD Committee (Co-Chair, 2015-22); Kelly Husted, UW Evans PhD Committee (Chair, 2014-21); Youngmi Lee, USC PhD Committee (Chair, 2009-15), Hyang Won Kwon, USC PhD Committee (Member, 2010-13)

Teaching

University of Washington (2013-)

Perspectives on Institutions: This PhD course introduces students to foundational as well as recent scholarship on the major institutional forces that influence public management and public policy. This course is a highly interdisciplinary survey of scholarship on institutions: their nature, their interaction with citizens and organizations, their origins and development, and their influence on diverse outcomes.

Managing Organizational Performance: This MPA course focuses on how managers and leaders can shape organizational operations and capacity, while also recognizing the external pressures and financial considerations that affect public organizations. The course centers on management strategies and techniques, but the assigned readings and cases also address ethics and public values.

Philanthropy, Inequality & Policy: This MPA course investigates management and policy challenges in foundations of all types (family, institutional, community, public, corporate), but some attention will be given to altruism and individual giving. The course also investigates social tensions involving foundations, most of which involve debates about the appropriate roles and responsibilities of those organizations.

Management of Nonprofit Organizations: This MPA course provides an overview of management challenges associated with leading nonprofit organizations. Readings emphasize the environment within which nonprofit work is performed, the distinctive characteristics of nonprofits, and if/how leadership in nonprofits differs from leadership in other sectors.

Collaboration and Management Across Sectors: This MPA course (also taught in modified form as an executive MPA course) investigates various types of cross-sector ties, antecedents of collaboration, processes of collaboration, and outcomes of collaboration. The course also addresses differences between interpersonal relationships and interorganizational relationships.

University of Southern California (2007-2012) and Stanford University (2005-2006)

Human Behavior in Public Organizations (MPA)
Nonprofit Management and Leadership (MPA)
Public and Nonprofit Sector Management (Undergraduate)
Organizational Analysis and Behavior (MPA)
Education and Society (Undergraduate)

Non-Academic Work Experience

Teacher Trainer and Community Organizer, United States Peace Corps, Dominican Republic, (1998-2000)
Bilingual Teacher (Spanish), Waggoner Elementary School, Winters, CA (1996-1997)