

Bio

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Bio: At the University of Hawaii, I am Chair of the Department of Educational Foundations, Professor of Theory and Methodology in the Study of Education, and Track Coordinator for the master's program in Global Perspectives on Education Policy and Practice. I am also an affiliate researcher with two initiatives at the Autonomous University of Barcelona—namely, the master's program on Education Policies for Global Development (GLOBED) and the research unit on Global and Comparative Studies in Education (GLANCE).

For my research, I draw on frameworks and concepts from global political economy, international relations, critical policy studies, systems thinking, organizational theory, policy sociology, and post-/decolonial literature in order to explain and analyze global trends in education, with an emphasis on policies related to privatization (vouchers, charter schools, low-fee private schools, private tutoring) and decentralization (administrative decentralization, community-based management, participatory development, school clusters, school block grants). More specifically, my work is dedicated to answering questions about the changing nature of education governance in the context of globalization, with a focus on low-income countries. A central concern of my investigations is to understand the role of international and intermediary organizations (such as bi- and multi-lateral organizations, think tanks, civil society organizations, and philanthropic organizations) in the governance of education, as well as the effects of these organizations and the policies they promote in practice, particularly in marginalized contexts.

Geographically, my research has primarily focused on Latin America (Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay) and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore), though I have also conducted research in Africa (Kenya, Namibia, Zambia).

I have written or edited 12 books and more than 150 journal articles, book chapters, reports, and popular media publications. In addition to serving on numerous editorial and advisory boards, I publish regularly in top journals in the fields of education policy, comparative and international education, and international development, including: *Review of Educational Research*; *Comparative Education Review*; *Comparative Education*; *Development in Practice*; *International Journal of Educational Development*; *Journal of Education Policy*; *Educational Policy*; *Education Policy Analysis Archives*; and *Globalisation, Societies and Education*, among many others. By consistently addressing issues that are of central importance to these fields, I

ensure that my work remains relevant to contemporary debates around theory, method and practice. Beyond academic publications, I also regularly publish blogs and newspaper articles so that my findings reach a wider audience. My work has been published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese.

Recently published volumes include: *Researching global education policy: Diverse approaches to policy movement* (with A. Verger, K. Takayama, and M. McKenzie, published in 2024 by Policy Press) and *Education and development in Central America and the Latin Caribbean: Global Forces and Local Responses* (with M. Moschetti, P. Martin, and R. Morales-Ulloa, published in 2024 by Bristol University Press). Currently, I am working on *The state and education policy in Latin America: Foundations, fault-lines, and alternatives* (with M. Moschetti and C. Díaz-Ríos, to be published by Brill-Sense). In 2023, a volume examining and theorizing the ritual aid dance of the World Bank was published with Routledge and was entitled, *Rethinking World Bank influence: Governance reforms and the ritual aid dance in Indonesia*.

In 2021, I was awarded \$913,000 for a project funded by the Dubai Cares Foundation. This project focused on: "Crisis Management for Disaster Risk Reduction in Education Systems: Learning from the Elaboration and Integration of Technology-Focused Strategies in El Salvador, Honduras, and Colombia." This project was one of only two selected by Dubai Cares from among a pool of 173 that were submitted for its "E-Cubed" Research Envelope, through which it supports evidence for education in emergencies. During 2018-2024, I led (together with Mauro Moschetti) five research projects for Education International (the worldwide federation of teachers' unions) on the ways that privatization is advancing in education in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Paraguay, and the wider region of Latin America. These case studies were part of Education International's global campaign to combat the privatization of public education.

Previously, I was awarded Fulbright Funding for my work in El Salvador, in addition to holding visiting, affiliate, or research positions at George Washington University (USA), the University of California-Berkeley (USA), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain), the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), University of Central America (El Salvador), the University of the North (Colombia), The University of Tokyo (Japan), Waseda University (Japan), and the University of Auckland (New Zealand). Apart from being a consultant for the World Bank, I have produced evaluations, reports, and working papers for a range of international organizations, foundations, and research centers, such as USAID, UNESCO, Education International, the Global Campaign for Education, Open Society Foundations, the Spencer Foundation, and the National Center for the Study of Privatization (Columbia University).

I received my PhD in International Education Policy from the University of Maryland. My dissertation was recognized with the best dissertation award by Latin American Studies Special Interest Group of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). More recently, my book with Mauro Moschetti and Alejandro Caravaca—*Globalization, privatization, and the State: Education reform in post-colonial contexts*—was the runner-up for the 2023 book award of the Globalization & Education Special Interest Group of CIES.