



Philanthropy in Education

Silicon Valley Philanthropy “Disruption” and the Implications for Educational Development

International Research Symposium

Date and Venue

April 19th, 2019

Stanford PACS Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society
Stanford Law School
Crown Quadrangle Building – 3rd Floor
559 Nathan Abbott Way
Stanford, CA 94305



Network for international policies and
cooperation in education and training
Réseau sur les politiques et la coopération
internationales en éducation et en formation



OPEN SOCIETY
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SHEIKH SAUD BIN SAQR AL QASIMI
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ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
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OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



Stanford PACS
Center on Philanthropy
and Civil Society

Introduction

A new style of philanthropy is emerging from Silicon Valley with new actors, new funding mechanisms and new approaches to philanthropic giving. With technological innovation as the core influence that created much of the wealth driving the new philanthropy, it is no surprise that disruption, innovation, and impact are at the center of an emerging “giving code.” These technology philanthropists share common patterns both in motive and style of giving which are reflective of theories of change that are markedly different from the more traditional styles of philanthropy. Whereas traditional philanthropy tends to be contributory, guided by unmet public needs or minority interests with the aspiration to enlarge the public goods provided by the state, emerging forms of philanthropy often seek a disruptive approach to giving that aims to replace an existing service by offering an alternative. A critical feature of Silicon Valley’s emerging philanthropic model is that it identifies itself as “hacker” in nature with the intent to disrupt traditional models and generate innovation by channeling funds to societal issues or causes.

Objective

As part of the Philanthropy in Education (PiE) series, NORRAG at The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (GIIDS), the Open Society Foundations (OSF), the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research and the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, will host a one day international research symposium to analyze the respective influences of emerging philanthropic practices in Silicon Valley within a context of the growth and evolution of philanthropy in education worldwide. By engaging leading scholars in the field, we aim to enrich the current body of research in philanthropy and education and enhance our understanding of potential implications for international educational development.

Participation and Publication

Participation in this international research symposium is by invitation only. The symposium will be limited to 30 persons, including presenters, moderators and discussants. However, the outcome of the symposium will be a publication in a special issue series that will include presentations and additional short papers on the topic of technology, philanthropy and education. All participants will have the option to contribute to the special issue. Through the international research symposium and special issue publication, the organizing partners expect to further the dialogue and enhance research on philanthropy and education.

08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and introduction of participants <i>Lara Patil</i> , Advisor, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, NORRAG
09:30 – 11:00	Opening remarks <i>Kim Meredith</i> , Executive Director, Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society <i>Joost Monks</i> , Executive Director, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, NORRAG
11:00 – 11:15	Emerging philanthropic trends: The case of Silicon Valley Moderator <i>Gita Steiner-Khamisi</i> , Professor, Columbia University and The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Director of NORRAG <i>Kate Wilkinson</i> , Director, Open Impact and co-author of <i>The Giving Journey</i> <i>Michelle Holmes</i> , International Director, Atlassian Foundation <i>Lara Patil</i> , Advisor, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, NORRAG Discussant <i>Kathryn Moeller</i> , Visiting Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education at Stanford University
11:15 – 12:45	Tea Break Implications for education and development I Moderator <i>Sonia Languille</i> , Co-Lead, Higher Education Support Programme, Open Society Foundations <i>Dana Brakman Reiser</i> , Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School <i>Hugh McLean</i> , Director, Education Support Programme, Open Society Foundations <i>Megan Tompkins-Stange</i> , Assistant Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan and Visiting Professor at La Chaire Philanthropie, ESSEC Business School (Paris), 2019-2020 Discussant <i>Patricia Bromley</i> , Assistant Professor, Stanford University
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Implications for education and development II Moderator <i>Alexandra Draxler</i> , Senior Advisor, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, NORRAG <i>Christopher Lubienski</i> , Professor, Indiana University Bloomington <i>Marina Avelar</i> , Research Associate, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, NORRAG <i>Karen Mundy</i> , Professor, University of Toronto Discussant <i>Ian MacPherson</i> , Lead – Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX), Global Partnership for Education
15:30 – 16:00	Plenary session and closing remarks Moderator <i>Natasha Ridge</i> , Executive Director, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research Rapporteur <i>Gita Steiner-Khamisi</i> , Professor, Columbia University and The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Director of NORRAG

Abstracts

Marina Avalor

Hacking Education Policy: New Philanthropy and Policy Reform in Brazil

Brazilian foundations have been focusing on public education policy reform as means to leverage limited funds and reach larger impact. They aim to disrupt bureaucratic structures and reshape education management according to business practices. Two empirical examples are presented to illustrate how new philanthropy is hacking education policy in practice.

Dana Brakman Reiser

For-Profit Philanthropy and Implications for Education

Practices, players, and norms native to the for-profit sector are increasingly migrating into philanthropic spaces. Elite philanthropists are substituting LLCs for nonprofit, tax-exempt foundations. Donor-advised funds affiliated with massive investment companies are now the top recipients of charitable funds. Corporations are reorienting their philanthropic activities to align with their business models. This paper will explore the impact of these for-profit philanthropy trends on the education sector.

Chris Lubienski

What “Good” Is Schooling? Philanthropies and Marketization

Philanthropists' profound influence on the American charter school sector has been well-studied, as has been impacts of such reforms. This project goes deeper by exploring the business orientations of these influencers relative to the re-orientation of public schooling, focusing on the rise of marketing in charter and public schools emphasizing consumer-good qualities.

Hugh McLean

Disruption, Dissemblance and Dissidence in an Age of Reaction

This paper locates philanthropic funding in education within its broader, global, sociopolitical landscapes from a funder's perspective. It explores the interstices between the vaunted new philanthropy's focus on "disruption, innovation, and impact" and how this plays out internationally through a selection of comparative case studies in Brazil, India and South Africa.

Karen Mundy

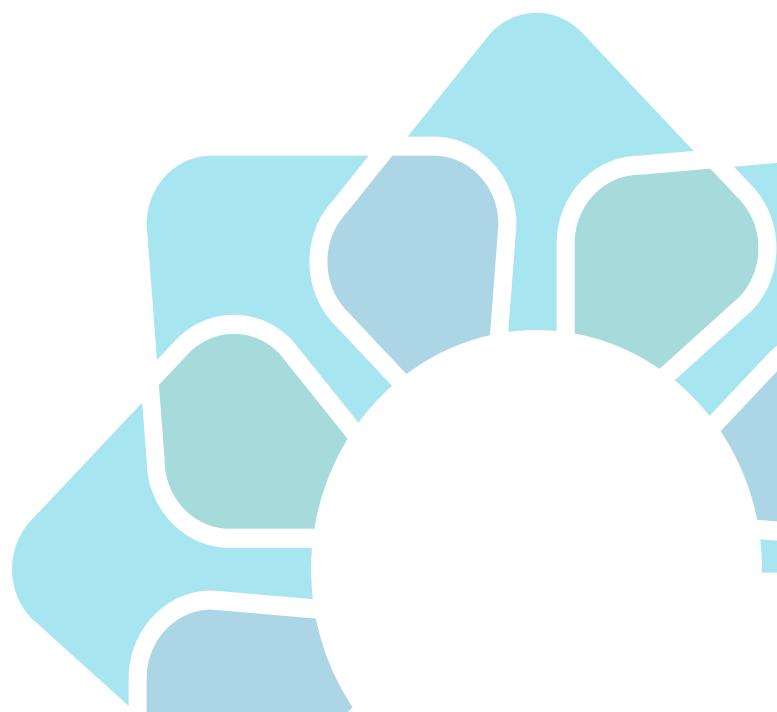
Foundation and New Forms of Private Authority: Reflections and Research Needs from the Point of View of National Stakeholders in Education

In this presentation Professor Karen Mundy, formerly of GPE, will provide provocative reflections on recent research on foundations and private authority in education. Reviewing gaps in present knowledge about how foundations influence and affect education policies and practices in developing countries, Mundy will argue that we need to move towards greater balance in our research agenda, with less focus on understanding the advance of neo-liberalism and privatization; and more on examples where foundations are introducing alternative theories of change that suggest more productive roles and positive models for philanthropy. As a first step she proposes creating stronger and more elaborated typology of foundation interventions to better capture the quality of philanthropic interventions in areas such as: strength country level ownership; coordination and transparency; systems orientation; focus on social learning and adaptation; and investments in political economy and collective action.

Megan Tompkins-Stange

Charter Schools, Scale, and Silicon Valley: “New” Education Philanthropies as Institutional Entrepreneurs in the California Education Reform Movement

From 1998-2008, the California charter school field was dominated by a new organizational form – the non-profit charter management organization (CMO), due to sponsorship by Silicon Valley philanthropists. After 2009, however, CMO growth slowed significantly, and funders' scaling expectations proved unrealistic. We discuss how philanthropists' technocratic values shaped this phenomenon, and explore implications for the education field.



Organizations

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (GIISD)

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies is an institution of research and higher education dedicated to the study of world affairs, with a particular emphasis on the cross-cutting fields of international relations and development issues.

Through our core activities, we aim to promote international cooperation and make a contribution to the progress of developing societies. More broadly, we endeavour to develop creative thinking on the major challenges of our time, foster global responsibility and advance respect for diversity.

We are a cosmopolitan community located in the heart of Geneva, an international city and a centre of global governance. By intensely engaging with international organisations, NGO's, governments and multinational companies, we participate in global discussions and prepare future policy-makers to lead tomorrow's world.

NORRAG

NORRAG is a global membership-based network of international policies and cooperation in education, established in 1986.

NORRAG's core mandate and strength is to produce, disseminate and broker critical knowledge and to build capacity among the wide range of stakeholders who constitute its network. These stakeholders inform and shape education policies and practice, both at national and international levels, and are united by a shared commitment to principles of social justice, equity and quality in education.

Through its work, NORRAG actively contributes to critical dialogue on global developments in education by mobilising and disseminating diverse voices, multiple perspectives, facts and evidence.

Open Society Foundations (OSF)

The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable to their citizens and open to the participation of all people. Working in more than 100 countries, the Open Society Foundations support justice and human rights, freedom of expression, and access to public health and education. Through its Education Support Program (ESP) and partners, the Open Society Foundations work globally to strengthen the right to education through grant-making, technical assistance and support for research and advocacy. For two decades, ESP has supported efforts that seek to ensure that states meet their obligations to this fundamental right and advance equality and inclusion. The program supports good practices in inclusive education and promotes the participation of grassroots communities and civil society in education policy processes.

Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2019, the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research was founded to aid in the social, cultural, and economic development of Ras Al Khaimah, a northern emirate in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Established through Emiri decree, the Foundation is considered a non-profit, quasi-governmental organization. As part of its mission, the Al Qasimi Foundation seeks to generate a world-class body of research on Ras Al Khaimah and the broader UAE, develop local capacity in the public sector, and engage the community in its work. While education is a signature focus, the Al Qasimi Foundation has branched into other public policy areas including arts and culture, philanthropy, public health, and community development.

The Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society

The Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (Stanford PACS) develops and shares knowledge to improve philanthropy, strengthen civil society and effect social change. Stanford PACS connects students, scholars and practitioners and publishes the preeminent journal Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR).

