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NANETTE ARCHER SVENSON

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GCTV interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9cXtYLqllk>

With over 25 years of experience in education and international development, Nanette cofounded and heads the Centro de Investigación Educativa (CIEDU), Panama's first public-private education think tank. Previously, she developed and directed Tulane University's Global Development Panama program. She also worked with the United Nations for a decade to establish the UN Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean and led its research and knowledge management efforts. Nanette consults for the UN, development banks and other groups on projects to advance education, research and equitable social development, teaches and publishes on these topics, and serves on boards of national and international organizations active in these areas. Most recently, she has applied her skill set to documentary research and writing.

EDUCATION

- 2009 PhD, International Development, Tulane University
- 2006 MS, International Development, Tulane University
- 1992 MBA, IESE Universidad de Navarra (Barcelona)
- 1988 Advanced Certification in Japanese, Sophia University (Tokyo)
- 1985 BA, Human Biology, Stanford University

RESEARCH AREAS

- Education and Global Development
- Education Policy
- Education in Emergencies
- Higher Education and Research in Latin America and other Developing Regions
- Capacity Assessment and Capacity Building for National Development
- United Nations Knowledge Systems

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2017-present	Research Fellow, Universidad Santa María la Antigua, Panama
2014-2017	Director, Tulane University Global Development Panama Program
2011-2017	Adjunct Faculty, Tulane University
2010-2011	Adjunct Professor, Florida State University-Panama
2009-2010	Adjunct Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison in Panama
2009	Adjunct, Universidad Especializada de las Américas, Panama
2007-2009	Researcher, Universidad Santa María la Antigua, Panama
2006	Teaching Assistant/Researcher, Tulane University

COURSES TAUGHT

- Education and International Development
- The United Nations System: Past, Present and Future
- United Nations Fieldwork – Latin America and the Caribbean
- Public Policy and Social Welfare
- Sociological Research Methods
- Development Economics
- Macroeconomics
- International Development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-present *Executive Director – Centro de Investigación Educativa (CIEDU), Panama*

Cofounded and currently head Panama's first Center for Education Research within the country's national science system. Initial objectives include design and implementation of a comprehensive online platform, national research agenda, institutional strategy, and flagship monitoring and evaluation publications. Current priorities include managing the center's transition to an Authority of Public Interest, the official Panamanian modality for public-private think tanks, following approval from the Minister of Education and the President of the Republic.

2008-present *Independent Development Consultant*

Selected consultancies include the following:

- *D&G Productions*
Researched and wrote the screenplay for *Higher Grounds*, <https://highergrounds.film/>, an award-winning documentary on the rise of the Panamanian specialty coffee sector.
- *Inter-American Dialogue/CAF Development Bank, Panama*
Conducted the qualitative evaluation of the Panama Bilingue Program teacher training component for the 2014-2019 period.
- *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Panama*
Conducted the Panama portion of a regional research project on education policy and financing (2018).
- *Unidos por la Educación (United for Education)/Inter-American Dialogue, Panama*
Consultant/principal researcher for Panama in the Inter-American Dialogue project on teacher policy in Latin America (2017-18).
- *Optimistas de Panamá (civil society-government education council)*
Facilitator/consultant for public-private education council policy recommendations to the Panamanian government (2015-16).
- *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Regional Center, Panama*
Projects included the following (2008-14):
 - Government of Jamaica – Conducted capacity assessment on aid coordination/ effectiveness and formulated corresponding strategic plan.

- Government of Samoa – Conducted national capacity assessment for \$14m Economy-wide Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Management project.
- Peru, Ministry of Economy and Finance – Led planning sessions and project formulation for the 2015 World Bank/IMF Board of Governors Meeting in Lima.
- Jamaica, Ministry of Finance/Planning Institute – Conducted capacity diagnostics and designed strategy for the National Migration and Development Policy.
- Guyana, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs – Conducted capacity assessments and designed strategy for ministry integration in the Low-Carbon Development Plan.
- Cuba, UN Country Team – Directed process to realign UN team strategy for government coordination on national development and competitiveness.
- Caribbean, UNDP Human Development Report – Edited first regional report.
- Suriname, Climate Compatible Development Agency – Conducted a capacity evaluation and designed the plan for operationalizing this new national agency.
- Belize, Pan-American Health Organization/Ministry of Health – Led the capacity assessment and capacity development plan for revamping aid coordination.
- Panama, Ministry of Social Development – Designed a strategy for developing ministry capacity and realigning its programming and policy contributions.
- Haiti, Ministry of Environment – Assisted ministry officials with design and implementation of an environmental sector capacity assessment.
- *Fundación para el Desarrollo Económico y Social de Panamá (Foundation for the Economic and Social Development of Panama, FUDESPA), Panama*
Led the Human Development Committee coordination and co-authored the Human Development Policy Papers prepared for presidential candidates (2009 and 2014).
- *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Panama*
 - Developed and led a capacity diagnostic and stakeholder planning process for implementation of Panama’s National Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2012).
 - Provided technical assistance on education development for the Panama Competitiveness Initiative (2009).
- *UN Population Fund-International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS*
Facilitated annual global conference and reformulation of planning and strategy (2012).
- *National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT), Panama*
 - Served on the National Social Science Council (2010-11) and provided technical assistance for the 2010-2015 National Social Sciences Development Plan.
 - Developed research capacity development workshops for local academics (2011).
- *Ministry of Education (MEDUCA), Panama*
Led workshops on “Blended Learning for Enhancing TEFL Performance” for the IV National Congress of English Teachers (2011).
- *United States Embassy, Panama*
 - Consulted for the *College Horizons* underprivileged youth program (2010-12).
 - Designed and led local Fulbright Mentors program and training (2011).
- *State of Missouri, Department of Higher Education*
 - Served as Commissioner of Higher Education liaison for Panama state visit (2009) to explore joint cross-border opportunities.
 - Led market research for the Kansas City Metropolitan Community College Institute for Workforce Innovation on training potential in Panama (2010).

2006–2007 *Capacity Development Programme Specialist*
UNDP Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama

Conducted program reviews, quarterly status reports, formulation of project documents, coordination of implementation, and preparation of concept notes.

2002—2005 *Research/Knowledge Management Officer*
UNDP Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama

Developed and led research and knowledge management operations, published analytical reports, implemented regional expert and resource databases, and assisted UNDP project development. Secondments during this period included:

- 2002-2003—Acting Deputy Director of the UNDP Regional Centre with responsibility for staff recruitment and supervision, local office administration and NY reporting.
- June 2004—Programme Analyst for Regional Audit Team on 2004 UNDP Venezuela Country Office Audit.
- May 2005—Internal Consultant for UNDP Venezuela on private sector collaboration.

1999-2001 *Administrator - Galindo, Arias & López, Panama*

Managed finance and administration for a major local law firm; supervised 70 subordinates; restructured IT operations; implemented new case management and accounting systems.

1993-1995 *Director of Media & Market Research - Cerebro Young & Rubicam, Panama*

Restructured the agency's media department to enhance purchasing power and profitability; incorporated use of market research for media purchase, design and account management.

1992 *Personnel Coordinator - U.S. Olympic Committee, Barcelona, Spain*

Led the U.S. Olympic Committee effort to select, supervise and coordinate volunteer staff.

1991 *Research Analyst - Admissions Department, IESE, Barcelona, Spain*

Conducted research on global education systems for international MBA recruitment strategy.

1988-1990 *International Public Relations Coordinator - Hotel Okura, Tokyo, Japan*

Worked as the first non-Japanese hire to strengthen relations with the international community and develop marketing strategy and materials directed toward diplomatic and business clientele.

1985-1988 *Teacher of English as a Second Language - Sony Corporation, Tokyo, Japan*

Designed and taught cross-cultural ESL classes for Japanese executives transferring to the US.

PUBLICATIONS

Documentaries

Svenson, N. & Svenson, S (producer) (2020). *Higher Grounds* [Video file]. D&G Productions. <https://highergrounds.film/>.

Books, chapters and reports

Svenson, N., Warren, N, Psychoyos, D. & Palacios, A. (2020). *Evaluación cualitativa del componente de capacitación docente del Programa Panamá Bilingüe 2014-2019*. Prepared for the CAF Development Bank and the Inter-American Dialogue.

Svenson, N. (2018). *PANAMÁ: El estado de las políticas públicas docentes*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Dialogue.

Gregorutti, G. & Svenson, N. (Eds.) (2018). *Innovative north-south university research partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Peercy, C. & Svenson, N. (2018). Rethinking higher education investment in developing countries. In *Annual Review of Comparative and International Education 2017*.

Svenson, N. (2018). INCAE, Harvard and international development: Research for progress in Central America. In G. Gregorutti & N. Svenson (Eds.), *Innovative north-south university research partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Svenson, N. (2018). Refugee education: Conceptualizing inclusion amid conflict and crisis. In B. Hamre & C. Ydesen (Eds.), *Testing and inclusive schooling: International challenges and opportunities*. Routledge.

Siciliano, D., Bretos, F., Azanza, J. & Svenson, N. (2018). Science beyond politics: Cuba-US marine research and conservation. In G. Gregorutti & N. Svenson (Eds.), *Innovative north-south university research partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Svenson, N. (2017). Tulane University: Public service as a brand identity. In T. Mitchell & K. Soria (Eds.), *Educating for citizenship and social justice*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Svenson, N. & De Gracia, G. (2017) *Las ciencias sociales en la República de Panamá: Oferta en la academia versus demanda del mercado laboral (The social sciences in the Republic of Panama: Academic supply versus labor market demand)*. National Library of Panama.

Svenson, N. (2017). The United Nations, international higher education and knowledge diplomacy. In Boston College Center for International Higher Education (Ed.), *Understanding higher education internationalization: Insights from key global publications*.

Svenson, N. (2017). Central America: The value of international academic cooperation. In Boston College Center for International Higher Education (Ed.), *Understanding higher education internationalization: Insights from key global publications*.

Svenson, N. (2017). Analyzing the effects of globalization on university systems in the developing world: A conceptual framework applied to the case of Panama. In J. Westover (Ed.) *Globalization and higher education*. Common Ground.

Svenson, N. (2015). *The United Nations as a knowledge system*. Routledge.

Svenson, N. (2015). Central American outliers: Leveraging international cooperation for research productivity. In G. Gregorutti & J. Delgado (Eds.), *Private universities in Latin America: Research and innovation in the knowledge economy*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Journals

Svenson, N. & De Gracia, G. (2020). Educación superior y COVID-19 en la República de Panamá. *Revista de Educación Superior en América Latina*, July-December 2020.

Altbach, P. & Svenson, N. (2019). Panama's Future: Higher Education is Key. *International Higher Education* 97, 23-25.

Svenson, N. & Bernett, G., De Gracia, G., De Leon, N., Psychoyos, D. and Rao, K.S.J. (2018). Panamanian Start-ups that Propel Research and Higher Learning. *Investigación y Pensamiento Crítico* 6(3), 68-79.

Svenson, N. & De Gracia, G. (2018). Higher education capacity diagnostics for guiding policy and practice. *Journal of Comparative and International Higher Education (CIHE)*.

Svenson, N. & De Gracia, G. (2017). Capacity diagnostics for advancing higher education in the developing world: A case study from the Republic of Panama. *Investigación y Pensamiento Crítico*, 5(1), 5-16.

Svenson, N. & De Gracia, G. (2017). Diagnóstico de capacidades de la educación superior y la investigación: El caso de las ciencias sociales en la República de Panamá. *Revista de Educación Superior en América Latina*, January-June 2017.

Svenson, N. (2017). Review of *The role of experts in international and European decision-making processes: Advisors, decision makers or irrelevant actors?* by M. Ambrus, K. Arts, E. Hey & H. Raulus. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. *Academic Council on the United Nations System*, February 2017.

Peercy, C. & Svenson, N. (2016). The role of higher education in equitable human development. *International Review of Education – Journal of Lifelong Learning* 62(2), 139-160. Recognized by Springer as a most-read/accessed article of 2016.

- Svenson, N. (2016). The United Nations, international higher education and knowledge diplomacy. *International Higher Education* 84, 18-19.
- Svenson, N. (2014). The evolution of international development as an academic discipline. *Educación Global*, 18, 111-132.
- Svenson, N. (2014). Global and international impacts of corruption: Recapping COSP5. *Academic Council on the United Nations System Quarterly*, 1, 5-6.
- Svenson, N. (2013). Central American exceptions: Institutions that combine international cooperation and local ingenuity. *Comparative International Higher Education*, 5, 36-40.
- Svenson, N. (2013). Research in Central America and the value of international academic cooperation. *International Higher Education*, 71, 24-26.
- Svenson, N. (2012). Research and development in Central America: Panorama and prospects for international cooperation. *Higher Education*, 65(5), 661–676.
- Svenson, N. (2012). Universities and the knowledge hubs of the developing world: An in-depth look at the City of Knowledge in the Republic of Panama. *Educación Global*, 16, 53-69.
- Svenson, N. (2011). Combining work in academia with international development consulting. *Academic Council on the United Nations System Quarterly*, 2, 1-2.
- Svenson, N. (2010). Analyzing the effects of globalization on university systems in the developing world. *Journal of the World Universities Forum*, 3(1), 75-90.
- Svenson, N. (2009). Globalization, universities and quality assurance in developing countries: A lesson from Panama on how business can undermine vision. *International Higher Education*, 57, 11-12.

United Nations publications and documents

- Zimmermann, R., Lawes, C. & Svenson, N. (Eds.) (2012). *Caribbean Human Development Report 2012: Human development and the shift to better citizen security*. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Svenson, N. (2010). *Smart institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Case study series produced for the UNDP Global Capacity Development Event, Morocco, March 2010. UNDP.
- Svenson, N. (2009). Capacity is development: Middle income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNDP Capacity Development Group.
- Svenson, N. (2009). Capacity is development: Public accountability, social accountability and the role of civil society. UNDP Capacity Development Group.

Svenson, N. (2008). Training effectiveness in the public sector. UNDP Capacity Development Group Action Brief Series.

Svenson, N. (2008). Informal social networks, capacity development and managing change. UNDP Capacity Development Group Action Brief Series.

Svenson, N. (2007). Non-monetary motivators for civil service. UNDP Capacity Development Group Action Brief Series.

Svenson, N. (2007). Leadership development for emerging groups. UNDP Capacity Development Group Action Brief Series.

National policy documents

El estado de las políticas públicas docentes: Panamá (The state of teacher public policy – Panama). (2017-2018). Inter-American Dialogue, Washington, DC/Panama.

Diagnóstico de capacidades de la educación superior e investigación en las ciencias sociales en la República de Panamá (Capacity diagnostic on higher education and research in the social sciences in the Republic of Panama). (2017). SENACYT, Panama City, Panama.

Hacia una nueva estructura para el sector educativo: Marco de referencia para el debate sobre el futuro de la educación (Toward a new structure for the education sector: Framework for the debate on the future of education). (2016). Panama City, Panama.

Propuestas de políticas públicas para el desarrollo humano (Public policy proposals for human development). (2013). FUDESPA, Panama City, Panama.

Política pública para las ciencias sociales (National policy for the social sciences) (2011). SENACYT, Panama City, Panama.

Propuestas de políticas públicas para el desarrollo humano y equidad (Public policy proposals for human development and equity). (2009). FUDESPA, Panama City, Panama.

Newspaper articles

‘La digitalización ha llegado para quedarse,’ dice estudio de CIEDU. *La Prensa*. July 27, 2020.

Altbach, P. & Svenson, N. (2018). En la economía de la República de Panamá del siglo XXI, la educación superior es clave. *La Prensa – Martes Financiero*. December 4, 2018.

Altbach, P. & Svenson, N. (2018). Why higher education is key to Panama’s 21st century economy. *University World News*. October 19, 2018. Issue no. 525.

La presencia de las ciencias sociales: Un estudio evalúa la interacción de las ciencias sociales en el ámbito laboral y académico. *La Prensa*. December 10, 2016.

Svenson, N. (2016). Las elecciones de los Estados Unidos y el 11 de septiembre. *La Prensa*. November 19, 2016.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

What gets measured, gets done: The importance of education research for developing countries. Presented at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama City, Panama, August 2019.

Partnerships, knowledge transfer & collaborative programming for higher education and R&D in Panama. Presented at the CIES Annual Conference 2019, San Francisco, CA, April, 2019.

Panamanian start-ups that propel research and higher learning. Presented at the LAURDS International Conference: Perspectives on Culture, Research Strategies and Doctoral Studies in Latin America, Panama City, Panama, July 2018

Research to sync developing country higher education with labor market needs. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 2018.

INCAE, Harvard and international development: Research for progress in Central America. Presented at the Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Mexico City, March 2018.

Innovative north-south research partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean: How INCAE and Harvard propel development in the region. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, February 2017.

Capacity diagnostics for advancing higher education in the developing world. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, February 2017.

Education as the engine of development and dignity. Plenary presentation for the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Annual Meeting, New York, June 2016.

Education for peace and development. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, March 2016.

United Nations measuring, monitoring and publishing. Presented at the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Annual Meeting, The Hague, June 2015.

Innovation and the United Nations. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, February 2015.

United Nations social learning initiatives. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Global South Conference, Singapore, January 2015.

Propelling global norms: How the UN influences international law. Presented at the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Annual Meeting, Istanbul, June 2014.

Knowledge for development: UN Efforts to Better Manage Global Intelligence. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Toronto, March 2014.

Migration and development: The case of Jamaica. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Toronto, March 2014.

Development-oriented learning and research in Central America. Presented at the Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, Toronto, March 2014.

Higher education and human development: Toward a more equitable society? Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 2013.

The evolution of international development as an academic discipline. Presented at the International Studies Association Global South Conference, Menton, France, November 2012.

Research and development in Central America. Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, April 2012.

Universities and the knowledge hubs of the developing world. Presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, November 2010.

Analyzing the effects of globalization on university systems in the developing world. Presented at the World Universities Forum 2010, Davos, Switzerland, January 2010.

The effects of globalization on the Panamanian university system. Presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference, San Diego, CA, April 2009.

AFFILIATIONS/SERVICE/BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Stanford University Outreach Volunteer Alumni Link (OVAL) – *Panama Chapter Chair*
BioMuseo (Panama’s Biodiversity Museum) – *Member, Education Committee*
Alberto Motta Foundation Superate College Prep Center – *Student Mentor*
International Studies Association (ISA) – *Governing Council; Chair, Global South Caucus*
International Women’s Forum (IWF) – *Founding member, Panama Chapter*
Women Corporate Directors (WCD) – *Affiliate member, Panama Chapter*
Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) – *Member*
Anthropology and History Association of Panama – *Member*
Fundación ProEd – *Board Advisor*
Pro Artesana Panameña – *Co-founder/Board Advisor*

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality: USA
Languages: English–native; Spanish–fluent; Japanese–intermediate
Interests: Yoga (RYT 200 certification), running (NY Marathon), travel, scuba, cooking
Family: Married with two daughters, Christina (25) and Sophia (24)