

EDWIN MELÉNDEZ

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PROFILE

- Economist, policy analyst and planner with expertise in regional and community economic development, housing and community planning, workforce development, and poverty eradication policies.
- Over three decades of proven leadership and management experience as director of regional and national research centers, translating research and evidence-based policy recommendations into action, community strategies and policies to build coalitions around.
- Oversight of multi-million-dollar annual budgets.
- Supervised more than 40 research and demonstration projects as principal investigator, involving teams of over 75 researchers in projects that resulted in several edited books, special issues of academic journals, and other publications.
- Authored close to 100 scientific papers and other academic publications, as well as edited or authored thirteen books.
- Keynote speaker at numerous national conferences.
- Policy maker serving in high profile government boards, providing policy briefs and advice to local elected officials and members of Congress and their staff.

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst Ph.D. in Economics	1985
University of California Santa Barbara M.A. in Economics	1980
University of Puerto Rico Rico Piedras B.A. in Economics	1979

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, Hunter College, City University of New York (September 2008–Present).

Professor of Management and Urban Policy at Milano, The New School of Management and Urban Policy (January 1999–2008)

Associate Professor of Economics and the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston (1992–98)

Associate Professor of Political Economy and Urban Studies (1992–93); Assistant Professor (1986–92), Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Assistant Professor of Economics and Puerto Rican Studies, Fordham University (1984–86).

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Hunter College, City University of New York **2008-2021**
Director, Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Centro)

Responsible for managing an annual budget of over \$3 million, with more than 25% of the budget resulting from fundraising activities and the remaining portion from university sources. Conducted strategic planning process that substantially expanded programs, receiving support from numerous foundations and government agencies, including the Ford Foundation, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), among others.

- Conducted strategic planning during the first 100 days after appointment in 2008, inclusive of close to one hundred stakeholders' interviews, in-depth organizational assessment, and

execution of implementation plan. In 2012, a second engagement with stakeholders informed a strategic assessment in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary celebration, the 100 Puerto Rican campaign, and a national outreach campaign to celebrate multiple affinity events across the country.

- Re-engineered operations to increase efficiency and expand projects, growing programs, staff, and budget; created multidisciplinary teams to support program development, fundraising, and coordination; delivered programs on time and within budget; developed partnerships across the country to bolster historical preservation of the archives; and strengthened national outreach to disseminate research and strengthen our community.
- Overseeing four program units (Research, Library and Archives, Education and Outreach, and Operations) each with two or more teams of full-time and part-time employees. Doubled the staff to over fifty.
- As principal investigator, oversaw broad policy studies of national significance, including the planning, coordination, and execution of numerous sponsored research projects. Supervised other faculty, research staff and doctoral students, ensuring completion of projects on time and within budget.
- Convened the Puerto Rican community, both stateside and on the island, to sixteen search conferences to discuss, among thousands of stakeholders and attendees, the economic, fiscal, and unfolding humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico. Engaged the community in a thorough discussion of the impacts of the crisis on Puerto Ricans with a key objective of growing the Puerto Rico solidarity movement. Launched the annual Summit on Latin@s in New York City (SoL-NYC) convening hundreds of participants to foster an action agenda for NYC's Latin@s.
- Launched innovative outreach and education programs including: the Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassadors, which enrolled hundreds of participants to learn about Puerto Rican history and culture online; the TV series Puerto Rican Voices as well as a documentary series celebrating pioneers of the Puerto Rican diaspora; the Centro eJournal to support digital humanities projects.
- Built a digital infrastructure for the 21st century, including revamping Centro's website, which has now published over five thousand online pages to date with half a million views; installed new communication technologies, launched a program for social networking, and implemented communication strategies to reach broader academic, policy, and community audience, which now reaches over 150,000 supporters and prospects.
- Launched a national initiative to support Puerto Rico's post-disaster recovery including: leading a partnership of two dozen experts and educators to develop a continuing education certification program for professionals by providing online competency-based courses; lead a team of researchers and technicians to build the RebuildPR online platform, the most comprehensive post-disaster planning tool in Puerto Rico, with over 150 GIS layers, training economic recovery professionals, and providing technical assistance to local organizations.
- Main spokesperson for the organization, providing factual data and analyses to the media on current affairs, and raising the organizations' public profile.

The New School of Management and Urban Policy, New York City
Director of the Community Development Research Center (CDRC)

1999-2007

Managed a combined budget of about \$3 million over five fiscal years, with three-quarters of the budget resulting from fundraising activities and the remaining portion from university sources. Secured funding from Ford, Casey, Chase Manhattan, Tinker, the New York Community Trust and MacArthur foundations, among others. Taught Advanced Policy Analysis and Dissertation Doctoral Seminars, and other MA and PhD courses such as Managerial Economics, Community Development, and Workforce Development.

- Conducted numerous national studies based on surveys and data collection resulting in numerous academic publications and contributions to the fields of community housing and economic development, and regional workforce development. As senior Principal Investigator, recruited and oversaw research teams, research design, survey questionnaire development, sampling and analytical frameworks. All projects were completed on-time and within budget. Some examples of these studies include:
 - National Study of Community Colleges' Implementation of Welfare-to-Work Programs. Sponsor: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (1997-99).
 - Motivation, Extent, and Quality of Association Involvement in Workforce Development (with L. McCormick and J. D. Hawley, Co-Principal Investigators). Sponsors: Russell Sage and Rockefeller foundations (2002-04).
 - National Study of Urban Community-Based Development Organizations (L. J. Servon, Co-Principal Investigator). Sponsor: Fannie Mae Foundation (2004-05).
 - National Study on Day Laborers (with A. Valenzuela, and N. Theodore Co-Principal Investigators). This study resulted in several components with different sponsors, and academic publications (2003-10).
- Promoted a broad range of educational activities germane to the mission of public higher education, including: the mentoring and advising of doctoral and masters students; the design of online courses; the use of client-based teaching for professional training; and the implementation of professional development programming.
- Taught the advanced policy analysis core course for Ph.D. students providing the theoretical foundations of policy analysis, including models of individual choice and market behavior, group and institutional behavior, the development and role of social norms, contemporary political philosophies of public policy and the practice of policy analysis, and public decision-making.
- Served as a mentor to hundreds of doctoral and masters students completing their dissertations, thesis, or client-based professional decision reports.

University of Massachusetts Boston

1992-1998

Director of Maurico Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy

Managed a combined budget of more than \$3 million over five fiscal years, with more than half of the budget resulting from fundraising activities and the remaining portion from university sources. During this period, the Gastón Institute received funding from the Ford, Russell Sage, Boston, Casey, and Hyams Foundations, the Massachusetts Office of Economic Affairs, the U.S. Department of Labor-Employment Training Administration and Glass Ceiling Commission, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, among others. Taught the Dissertation Seminar, Political Economy, and Applied Research in Public Policy courses in the PhD program.

- Acted as the Principal Investigator of a demonstration project funded by HUD and other sources in support of a collaboration of close to 30 multi-ethnic CDCs and CBOs participating in Boston's Empowerment Zone, as well as the development of community networks supporting small business, employment training, housing, and comprehensive neighborhood planning.

Government Service (Selected)

- As a member of the Boston School Committee, oversaw a system serving approximately 65,000 students with annual budgets of over half a billion dollars. As Chair of the Curriculum and Operations Sub-Committee, provided leadership for the approval of citywide learning standards and corresponding curricula, teacher training, and textbook purchases, as well as numerous school reform initiatives.
- As a member of Boston's Community Learning Centers' Blue-Ribbon Commission, chaired the subcommittee that estimated demographic projections, future enrollment, and system capacity needs,

and made recommendations to design a master plan to respond to Boston Public School's needs for the next decade, including corresponding capital and program action plans.

- As a member of the Boston Annenberg Governing Board and Executive Committee, oversaw a 5-year initiative based on the principles of organization-wide reform and restructure of Boston Public Schools.
- As a member of the New York City Commission to Study the Feasibility of Creating Public/Private Partnerships to Develop and Operate Job Centers for Immigrant Day Laborers, prepared a report examining best practices across the country, including recommendations for program implementation.

Community Service (Selected)

- National Advisory Board John J. Heldrich for Workforce Development, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, 2010 to present
- National Puerto Rican Agenda, Board of Directors, Secretary, 2016-Present
- New York Hurricane Maria Memorial Commission, Member, July 1 to December 31, 2019
- UnidosUS (National Council of La Raza), Vice-President Board of Directors, Executive Committee, 2014–2019
- ASPIRA National Board of Directors, Chair, 2010 to 2016
- Workforce Development Advisory Board, Hispanic Federation of New York, 2009 to 2011

Review Panels (Selected)

- Mellon Foundation and the Inter-University Program for Latino Research Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program, 2016-present
- National Academy of Sciences, HUD Urban Scholars Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2004
- National Academy of Sciences, Pre-Doctoral Fellowships, 1995–2000

Editor of Special Issues of Academic Journals

- Post Disaster Recovery in Puerto Rico and Local Participation, CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (2020)
- Puerto Rico Post-Hurricane Maria: Origins and Consequences of a Crisis, CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies 30: 3 (2018)
- Pathways to Economic Opportunity, CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies 23: 2 (2011)
- Latinos in a Changing Society, New England Journal of Public Policy. 11(1-2), 1997
- Puerto Rican Poverty and Migration, Latino Studies Journal, May 1993
- Puerto Rican Poverty and Labor Markets, Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences 14 (1), 1992

AWARDS (SELECTED)

- 2019 Edward Blakely Award for support to social justice, urban planning, and development for communities of color, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning
- 2016 Advocate Award, Somos El Futuro and New York State Assembly and Senate Puerto Rican and Hispanic Task Force
- 2016 Honoree of Distinction, The National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, NY Chapter
- 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, New York League of Puerto Rican Women
- 2010 Educational Leadership Honoree, National Puerto Rican Day Parade, New York
- 2009 El Diario El Awards, New York

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- Meléndez, E., "Post Disaster Recovery in Puerto Rico and Local Participation," *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* 32:3 (2020).
- Meléndez, E., "Puerto Rico Community Development Industry's Capacity for Disaster Recovery." *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* 32:3 (2020).
- Meléndez, E., "The Politics of PROMESA." *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* 30:3 (2018).
- Meléndez, E., "The Economics of PROMESA." *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* 30:3 (2018).
- Meléndez, E. and C. Vargas, eds., *State of Puerto Ricans, 2017*. Centro Press, 2017.
- Meléndez, E., R. Borges-Mendez, M. A. Visser, and A. Rosofsky, "The Restructured Landscape of Economic Development: Challenges facing Regional Workforce Development Collaborations in the United States." *Economic Development Quarterly* (2015).
- Meléndez, E. and C. Vargas-Ramos, eds., *Puerto Ricans at the Dawn of the New Millennium*. New York: Center for Puerto Rican Studies, 2014.
- Meléndez, E., M. A. Visser, N. Theodore, and A. Valenzuela, "Worker Centers and Day Laborers' Wages." *Social Science Quarterly* (2013).
- Meléndez, E., M. A. Visser, A. Valenzuela, and N. Theodore, "Day Laborers' Work Related Injuries: An Assessment of Risks, Choices, and Policies." *International Migration* (2013).
- Meléndez, E. and M. A. Visser, "Low-Wage Labor, Markets and Skills Selectivity Among Puerto Ricans Migrants". *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* 23: 2 (2011).
- McCormick, L., J. D. Hawley, and E. Meléndez, "The Economic and Workforce Development Activities of American Business Associations." *Economic Development Quarterly* 22:3 (2008).
- Schwartz, A., and E. Meléndez, "After Year 15: Challenges to the Preservation of Housing Financed with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits." *Housing Policy Debate*, 19:2 (2008).
- Meléndez, E., A. Schwartz, and A. de Montrichard, "Year 15 and Preservation of the Tax-Credit Housing for Low-Income Households: An Assessment of Risk." *Housing Studies* 23:1 (2008).
- Meléndez, E., and L. J. Servon, "Reassessing the Role of Housing in Community-Based Urban Development." *Housing Policy Debate* 18:4 (2007).
- Montero-Sieburth, M. and E. Meléndez, eds., *Latinos in a Changing Society*, Greenwood, 2007.
- Meléndez, E., ed., *Communities and Workforce Development*. Kalamazoo: Upjohn Institute Press, 2004.
- Meléndez, E., and A. Ruiz, eds., *The Economic Impact of the Political Alternatives for Puerto Rico*. Rio Piedras: Inter-American University Press, 1998.
- Bonilla, F., E. Meléndez, R. Morales, and M. A. Torres, eds., *Borderless Border: U.S. Latinos, Latin Americans, and the Paradox of Interdependence*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998.
- Meléndez, E., and B. Harrison. "Matching the Disadvantaged to Job Opportunities: Structural Explanations for the Past Successes of the Center for Employment Training." *Economic Development Quarterly* (1997).
- Meléndez, E., "Occupational Selectivity and Puerto Rican Migration, 1982–88," *International Migration Review* 28:1 (1994).
- Meléndez, E., and M. Uriarte, eds., *Latino Poverty and Economic Development in Massachusetts*. Boston: Mauricio Gastón Institute and University of Massachusetts Press, 1994.
- Meléndez, E., C. Rodriguez, and J. Barry-Figueroa, eds., *Hispanics in the Labor Force*. New York: Plenum Press, 1991.