

Ricardo Diego Suárez Rojas

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Personal website: <https://www.diegosuarezrojas.com/>

Bio:

A bioethicist and clinical social worker who studies historical trauma and violence, neurobiology of imagination, and workplace interventions. Over ten years of experience integrating the humanities, the arts, and social and biomedical sciences in community and higher education. Group facilitation experiences include working with students across the life course (children, teenagers, adults, and seniors) from more than thirty countries, academic disciplines, and industries (health, security, education).

Education

Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA

2022 Master of Social Welfare. Full Scholarship

2025 (expected) Currently Doctoral Candidate

Concentration: Clinical Neuroscience, Critical Pedagogy, Occupational Health

The University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL

2017 Master of Arts in Bioethics, 2017, 50% Merit Scholarship

Concentration: Science and Faith, Social Determinants of Health, Philosophy of Education

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City

2013 Bachelor of Social Sciences, 2013, 50% Merit Scholarship, *Summa Cum Laude*

Professional and Research Experience

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA.

Research Assistant at the Center for Work, Health, and Wellbeing, August 2020 – present

- Providing support for The Boston Hospital Workers Health Study (literature reviews, grant writing, public relationships).
- Creating a qualitative research component to understand the experiences of low-wage, non-clinical workers.

Southern Jamaica Plain Health Promotion Center, Boston, MA.

Project Manager of the Racial Reconciliation and Healing Project, August 2021 – July 2022

- Providing administrative support for the operations of the Center and their equity and diversity programs.
- Project management and group facilitation among youth.
- Clinical supervision and group therapy regarding racial trauma.

Laboratorio en Movimiento (Laboratory in Motion), Mexico

Founder and Director, August 2018 – present

- Community Development and Participatory Action Research: created a scholarship program for adult education. Granted 20 scholarships to Mexican citizens to study philosophy, creative writing, and neuroscience. Budget: \$2,500 USD.
- Qualitative research regarding the bio-ecology of stress in secondary schools. This initiative was presented to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defense. Budget obtained from private institutions: \$1,500 USD.
- Randomized Controlled Trial, imbued by participatory research principles, to promote the stress-management of the police force of San Cristóbal de Las Casas. Budget obtained from private institutions: \$4,500 USD.
- Social media campaign for the divulgation of science (ongoing).

<https://www.facebook.com/Laboratorio-en-Movimiento-1826465287471337/>

The Cell to Society Lab at Boston College, Boston, MA
Research Intern, August 2020 – June 2021

- Development of recommendations for pedagogical reform at Boston College while advancing research on clinical neuroscience, critical pedagogy, and public policy.

Department of History and University Press, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City
Research Assistant, proofreader, and editor, August 2009 – May 2020

- Iconographical and archival research.
- Content and style edition for books and journals.

International House at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Global Intern, Sept. 2016 – August 2017; *Lead Global Intern*, August 2017 – June 2018

- Created and supported several academic, cultural, artistic, and diplomatic events with the international community (undergraduate and graduate students).
- Music performer and dance instructor.

Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab, The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, Chicago, IL
Bilingual Test Administrator, August 2017 – June 2018

- Application of the cognitive test “Woodcock Johnson IV” to children in situations of poverty and violence on the South Side of Chicago.
- Managing and reporting quantitative and qualitative data.
- Being alert for signs of toxic stress among children and their families.
- Presentation of field observations and an intervention proposal.

“Teatro de los Volcanes” Theater Company, Mexico City
Actor and Writer, Jun 2014 — Feb 2015

Publishers House “GM-Espejo Imagen,” Mexico City
Junior Editor, Oct. 2013 — May, 2014

IMDOSOC Research Institute, Mexico City

Research Assistant, Dec. 2012 — Sept. 2013

- Member of the team that developed a survey in Mexico on religious belief and social development.
- Assisted in qualitative data collection, coding, and transcription.
- Researcher on poverty, the arts, and economic reform.

Awards

- 2023-2024 Recipient of the research grant “Pilot Project Award” for developing research in occupational health, from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Funding of \$15,000 USD.
- 2020-2021 Field Research Scholar Position for innovative research (clinical neuroscience and critical pedagogy), as part of the *Transforming the Field Education Landscape Project* at The University of Calgary.
- 2019 City Hall Youth Award granted by the Mayor of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, due to academic achievement and *Laboratorio en Movimiento’s* social commitment.
- 2019 First place in the “National Short Story Competition Joaquín Porrúa: Literary Promises,” for the short story “Ahuízotl.”
- 2015-2017 Watkins Fellowship for Latin-American students in the realms of academic achievement and cultural promotion. Given by the International House at The University of Chicago.
- 2015-2017 50% merit scholarship for graduate studies at The University of Chicago.
- 2010 Honorific mention in the 41st National Shorty Story Competition “Punto de Partida” for the short story “Cambio de Rumbo.” Award given by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).
- 2009 First place in the “Tenth National Short Story Competition Juan Rulfo.” Awarded by Universidad Iberoamericana and the Juan Rulfo Foundation. Received an academic scholarship for the full duration of undergraduate studies.
- 2008 Honorific mention in the “Ninth National Shorty Story Competition Juan Rulfo,” for the short story “Botines Verdes.” Awarded by Universidad Iberoamericana and the Juan Rulfo Foundation.
- 2008 Honorific mention in the “Fifth National Historical Short Story Competition,” for the short story “El Titiritero.” Awarded by Universidad Iberoamericana.

Publications

Peer-reviewed book chapters

Suarez Rojas, R.D. (2022). How to enhance brain potential in fieldwork education? The Multimodal Integration of Imagination and Trauma (MIIT) Framework, in Drolet, J., Charles, G. &

McConnell, S., *Transforming Social Work Field Education: New Insights from Practice Research and Scholarship*, University of Calgary Press.

<https://ucp.manifoldapp.org/projects/9781773854403/resource/tswfe-chapter16>

Suarez Rojas, R.D. (2015). Utopías: delirios necesarios (Utopias: necessary deliriums) en *Pensar con la historia desde el siglo XXI: actas del XII Congreso de Historia Contemporánea*, Pilar Folguera et al (eds.), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 6761-6779.

Policy briefs

Suarez Rojas, R.D. (2015). Creer en México: lo que nos dice una encuesta sobre nuestra identidad (Belief in Mexico: what a survey tells us about our identity), coauthored with Dr. María Luisa Aspe Armella, *Este País*, (289), 34-7.

Suarez Rojas, R.D. (2019). "They call us puercos and indios." A mixed-methods intervention to reduce the stress perception of police officers. *Laboratorio en Movimiento*, Vol. 2, 1-24.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341255211_They_call_us_puercos_and_indios_A_mixed-methods_intervention_to_reduce_the_stress_perception_of_police_officers

Suarez Rojas, R.D. (2019). How to respond to the dilemma of health and inequality in the XXI century? A constructive ethical argument. *Laboratorio en Movimiento*, Vol. 2, 1-22.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343366102_How_to_respond_to_the_dilemma_of_health_and_inequality_in_the_XXI_century_A_constructive_ethical_argument

Suarez Rojas, R.D. (2019). "¿Estresarse para sobrevivir o enfermar? Bio-ecología del estrés en escuelas secundarias", *Laboratorio en Movimiento*, Vol. 1, 1-16.

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/aa1be8_245ca6a9ba5a4f1482c6c4ed9262b0b8.pdf

Fiction

(2020). *Especies del Caos* (short-story collection), México: Editorial Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas, 143 pp.

https://www.diegosuarezrojas.com/files/ugd/aa1be8_c177f1189ffc4d23a9fecaf73ce518ce5.pdf

(2017). El Español. *El cuento en Chiapas (1913-2015)*, critical anthology by Alejandro Aldana, México: Presencias Biblioteca Chiapas, 344-8.

(2014). León en piedra. *Fractal*, (69), 141-8.

(2010). El Español. *10mo. Concurso Nacional de Cuento Preuniversitario Juan Rulfo*, México: Universidad Iberoamericana, 7-11.

(2009). Botines verdes. *9no. Concurso Nacional de Cuento Preuniversitario Juan Rulfo*, México: Universidad Iberoamericana, 95-103.

Opinion Articles

(2018). Vulnerabilidad: riesgo y protección (Vulnerability: risk and protective factors), *Signo de los Tiempos*, XXXIV (305), 22-23.

(2018). Inventando la Esperanza (Inventing hope), *Signo de los Tiempos*, XXXIV (302), 27-28.

(2016). Educación y Corrupción (Education and Corruption), *Signo de los Tiempos*, XXXII (276), 16-17.

(2015). Elecciones de 2015: ilusión sin convencimiento ni rumbo (Elections of 2015: Illusion without persuasion or direction), *Signo de los Tiempos*, XXXI (260), 6-7.

Teaching Experience

Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA

Part-time faculty, January-May, 2023

Course taught: Statistics for Applied Psychology (Undergraduate)

Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA

Program Coordinator for Research Methods/Program Evaluation courses, August, 2023 – present

- Developed innovations to the syllabus for both courses. The focus was on multimodal pedagogy, critical theory, and neuroscience of imagination.
- Provide professors from all sections with assistance for implementing the new changes.

Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA

Teaching Assistant, August, 2022 – present

- Teaching assistant in two sections of the graduate course “Research Methods” (Fall semester, 2022) for social workers, led by Dr. Christina Matz and Dr. Thomas O’Hare.
- Developed during the summer of 2022 several reforms for the syllabus alongside Dr. Matz.
- Creation of a pilot project to offer students alternative assignments that focus on research dissemination and multimodal pedagogy.
- Program Evaluation with Dr. Christina Matz (Spring, 2023)
- Social Welfare System in Spanish with Dr. Maria Pineros (Spring, 2023)
- Research Methods (Fall, 2023)

Laboratorio en Movimiento, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas

Course Development and Instructor, May-August, 2021

- Online Education: “Imagination and Trauma,” online summer course for adults and teenagers across Mexico and Latin America. This course was developed by integrating clinical neuroscience, social work, and bioethics.

La Enseñanza Casa de la Ciudad, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas

Program Creator and Instructor, August 2018-June 2020

- Adult and teenager's education in a community center. Designed the following courses based on the values of Paulo Freire, Franz Rosenzweig, and Martin Buber: "Human Behavior: Evolution and Potential" and "Philosophy and Biology for Daily Life."

Southern Jamaica Plain Health Promotion Center (Brigham and Women's Hospital), Boston, MA

Project Coordinator and Group Facilitator, August 2021-July 2022

- Teenager education and group therapy of multiracial/multiethnic group
- Diversity and inclusion trainer for addressing racial trauma
- Faculty support. Designer and instructor of the following sessions: "The evolution of imagination and dismantling systemic racism" and "Embodied imagination and the hidden curriculum: transforming education."

International House at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Program Creator and Instructor as a Lead Global Intern, Sept. 2016-June 2018

- "Salsa and Dialogue," a dancing and therapeutic class for undergraduate, graduate students, faculty, and staff. The students comprised an international and interdisciplinary group (2016-2018).

"Las 3 Aristas (The 3 Ridges)," Principal Investigator of an independent participatory research project to study creativity across the life course, conducted in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Mexico City, and Chicago (2015-2017).

- Visiting lecturer in public, private, and rural schools across Mexico City, Chiapas, and Chicago. Worked with students from kindergarten to college to investigate creativity across the life course.
- Public presentation of results in several forums in Mexico City, Chiapas, and Chicago.
- Social media campaign to promote the divulgation of knowledge.

Universidad Iberoamericana (Ibero-American University)/Casa Meneses

Teaching Assistant and Curriculum Development, Fall Semester 2009

- Teaching assistant of "Pedagogy and History"
- Course development and instructor for children and teenagers at the community center "Casa Meneses."

Academic Panels

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| 2024 | Boston College Graduate Research Symposium. Main presenter of the panel: Workplace Violence as a Continuum. The stories within injury reports from healthcare workers. |
| 2023 | Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2023 Conference. Presenter of the workshop: "Social Work and the Integration of Sciences and Arts for Historical Healing." |

- 2022 Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting. Main presenter of the peer-reviewed workshop: "The stories we embody: Neurobiology of Imagination for a Healing and Critical Education."
- 2022 Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2022 Conference. Main presenter of the workshop: "How to Prepare Social Workers for Emancipatory and Meaningful Research? Neuroscientific Principles to Unleash Brain Potential."
- 2021 Presenter at Boston College Diversity and Inclusion Summit. Title of the workshop: "How to embrace discomfort? Insights from neuroscience to excel in courageous conversations."
- 2020 Presentation of original research on clinical neuroscience and social work education as a scholar in the *Transforming the Fieldscape of Education Project* (TFEL) at The University of Calgary.
- 2020 Imparted the conference "They call us puercos and indios. Intervention to promote stress management in police officers." Presentation of research results and recommendations for public policy.
- 2019 Imparted the conference "Education in crisis: the effects of stress in cognitive, emotional, and urban development" for the City Hall of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, the Ministry of Education, and a general audience.
- 2019 Imparted the cycle of conferences "Let us talk about suicide" and "Psychobiology and sociology of stress" for middle and high school students at the ITAES academic center, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, México.
- 2018-2019 Imparted the conferences "How to transform education in times of indifference?" and "What are you doing to your brain?" at the Museum Jtatic Samuel Ruiz, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Mexico.
- 2018 Presentation of an intervention proposal, Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab at The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.
- 2018 Moderator in a panel in the symposium "Transcending Boundaries. Building Bridges: Disciplines, Perspectives, and Experiences," at The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.
- 2017-2018 Creator and host of "Reimaginings," an interdisciplinary and multicultural dialogue series at the International House at The University of Chicago. For a year, more than a hundred people participated, ranging from more than twenty countries and thirty academic disciplines. The program still exists in my absence.
- 2017 Speaker in the panel "How to be a Good Colleague: a Workshop on Intentional Communication about the Intersection of Religion, Politics, and Identity in our Current Age" at The University of Chicago Divinity School.
- 2017 Guest speaker at the series "Alternative Epistemologies," at The University of Chicago Divinity School with the workshop: "Mechanical Inventions: kaleidoscopic readings of the space-time continuum."

- 2016 Presentation of the project “The 3 Ridges” at the International House at The University of Chicago, through the speaker series “Global Voices.”
- 2014 Acceptance of the paper “Utopias, necessary deliriums” in the 12th Congress of Contemporary History: “Thinking historically: The Utopia in the Contemporary Age,” Association of Contemporary History in Madrid.
- 2014 Guest storyteller and speaker at the “Ill Children and Teenager Book Fair of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.”

Service

- 2021 Peer-reviewed the manuscript “Effectiveness of a neuroscience-based, harm reduction program for older adolescents: A cluster randomised controlled trial of The Illicit Project” for the journal *Preventive Medicine Reports*.

Artistic Performances

- 2018 Music performer in the festival “Make Music Chicago: 2018” at the International House at The University of Chicago.
- 2013 Music performer in the conference “Utopia and Identity” in Vizcainas College, Mexico City.