

MEGAN B. PONTES, PhD

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CURRENT POSITION

Arizona State University

Assistant Teaching Professor – Nonprofit Leadership

Fall 2023-present

School of Community Resources & Development

Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions

Affiliated Faculty, LodeStar Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit

EDUCATION

University of San Diego

Doctor of Philosophy, Leadership Studies

2023

Area of Concentration: Nonprofit & Philanthropic Leadership

Dissertation: Advocating for Social Change: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Makes Sense of Its Advocacy Successes and Failures

University of Florida

Master of Business Administration

2009

College of Charleston

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

2004

Minor: Psychology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Arizona State University, School of Community Resources & Development

Assistant Teaching Professor – Nonprofit Leadership

Fall 2023-present

NLM 220: Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations; NLM 320:

Professional Development Seminar; NLM 520: Financial & Resource

Management; NLM 560: Leadership & Ethics in the Nonprofit Sector; NLM

572: Community & Social Innovation; NLM 602: Capstone: Integrative Seminar

Anderson University

Adjunct Faculty

Summer (2023, 2024, 2025)

CHR 730: Topics in Resourcing Organizations

Fall (2022, 2023)

Eastern Mennonite University

Adjunct Faculty

Spring 2023

MOL 600: Team Building & Collaboration

University of San Diego

Adjunct Faculty, Leadership Studies Minor

Fall 2019-Spring 2023

LEAD 150: Emerging Leaders; LEAD 160: Personal Leadership, Self-

Inquiry, and Discovery; LEAD 349: Women in Leadership; LEAD 350:

Leadership and Group Development

Adjunct Faculty – Social Entrepreneurship Certificate	Summer 2022
BUS-X822: Social Entrepreneurship: An Introduction; BUS-X823: Social Impact Strategy: Tools for Entrepreneurs	
Teaching Assistant to Dr. Paula Cordeiro	Fall 2021-Spring 2022
KROC 522: Impact Evaluation; KROC 523: Social Entrepreneurship; KROC 597: Professional Portfolio	
Teaching Assistant to Dr. Jeff Unsicker	Summer 2021
LEAD 512: Policy Advocacy Leadership	

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

Pontes, M., & Unsicker, J. (2025). *Think Dignity: A teaching case on nonprofit advocacy decisions*. Teaching case and teaching note. University of San Diego Teaching Cases on Social Impact, Harvard Business Review.

Mitchell, G. E., Nerothin, P., Pontes, M., Schmitz, H. P., & Walsh, C. (2024). Is governance aligned with rhetoric? Exploring the board composition of leading transnational NGOs. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 10(2), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.3ygfac21>

Pontes, M. & Weng, J. (2024). *Leadership development research and scholarship*. New Directions in Student Leadership, Special Issue on Leadership Learning Framework.

Schmitz, H. P., & Pontes, M. (2021). *Coronado Floral Association: Unifying the community? A case method*. Teaching case and teaching note. University of San Diego Teaching Cases on Social Impact, Harvard Business Review.

SUBMITTED

Pontes, M. GuideStar; Independent Sector; Mackenzie Scott. For the coming International Encyclopedia of Civil Society (2nd ed.), edited by Regina A. List, Helmut K. Anheier and Stefan Toepler.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Pontes, M. *Advocacy evaluation from the perspective of a nonprofit organization pursuing social change*.

Pontes, M. *Cultivating a culture of generosity: The impacts on resourcing congregations in the United States*.

Pontes, M. *Culture of generosity: A comparative case study of a faith leader's efforts to cultivate generosity in US congregations*.

Pontes, M., & Jaxon, M. *Immersed or delegating? Examining the advocacy involvement of members of a formal coalition on housing and homelessness*.

Schmitz, H. P., Anderson, S., & Pontes, M. *A gender perspective on the Giving Pledge and billionaire philanthropy.*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of San Diego

Policy Advocacy Collaborative, Doctoral Graduate Assistant

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022

Assisted with the grant process for this initiative. Served as the graduate assistant for this initiative to support, expand and enhance engagement in policy advocacy by USD centers, projects, faculty, staff, and students and USD's community partners. Includes creating connections with community partners and champions at USD, designing training in policy advocacy, and creating a policy outreach platform.

Doctoral Research Assistant to Hans Peter Schmitz

Fall 2020 - Spring 2021; Spring 2022

Provided editorial support remotely, including developmental and copy editing of their internal online and printed documentation.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

West Coast Nonprofit Data Conference

2025 Conference

Pontes, M. B., & Jaxson, M. Immersed or Delegating? Examining the Advocacy Involvement of Members of a Formal Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations 2024 Conference

Pontes, M. B. The Effects of Cultivating a Culture of Generosity on Resourcing Faith-Based Organizations.

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations 2023 Conference

Pontes, M. B. Advocating for Social Change: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Makes Sense of Its Advocacy Successes and Failures.

International Leadership Association

2023 Conference

Pontes, M. B. Advocating for Social Change: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Makes Sense of Its Advocacy Successes and Failures.

Academy of Management

2023 Conference

Mitchell, G., Schmitz, H. P., Nerothin, P., Pontes, M., & Walsh, C. Who governs transnational NGOs? A mixed-method analysis of board composition.

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations 2022 Conference

Pontes, M. B. Measuring Impact: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Evaluates Their Advocacy for Social Change.

Schmitz, H.P., & Pontes, M.B. Gender and Billionaire Philanthropy: Female Members of the Giving Pledge.

International Leadership Association **2022 Conference**

Ramers, L., Martin, C., Nelson, S., Pontes, M., & Williams, S. Emerging Wisdom: The Value of Caroline Bassett's Model in a Time of Uncertainty. (Workshop)

International Society for Third Sector Research **2022 Conference**

Schmitz, H.P., & Pontes, M.B. A Gender Perspective on the Giving Pledge and Billionaire Philanthropy.

West Coast Nonprofit Data Conference **2022 Conference**

Schmitz, H. P., Nerothin, P., Pontes, M., & Walsh, C. Who governs international NGOs? Diversity and representation among board membership.

International Leadership Association **2021 Conference**

Pontes, M.B., & Manriques, N. Advocacy and Activism in Civil Society Groups and Organizations.

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations **2021 Conference**

Pontes, M.B. & Manriques, N. Advocacy and Activism in Civil Society Groups and Organizations.

Schmitz, H.P., & Pontes, M.B. A Gendered Perspective on the Giving Pledge: The Philanthropy of Female Billionaires.

American Educational Research Association **2021 Conference**

Division D GSC In-Progress Research Gala (IPRG): Manriques, N. and Pontes, M. B. Advocacy and Activism in Civil Society Groups and Organizations.

GRADUATE COMMITTEES & HONORS PROJECTS

Doctoral Dissertation

Arizona State University, Co-Advisor, Aaron Thomson (In Progress)

Master's Thesis

Arizona State University, Committee Member, Peter Tometi (2024)

Barrett Honors Thesis

Arizona State University, Director, Jesse Best (2025)

Arizona State University, Director, Zeinab Al-Imara (2025)

Barrett Honors College Fellows Research Program

Arizona State University, Research Director, Meredith Jaxon (Fall 2024-Spring 2025)

Undergraduate Honors Projects

Additional projects undertaken as part of a non-honors course. Projects are agreed upon by both the student and the instructor, and students completing the project receive honors credit for the course.

- Kaylee Woods for NLM 220 (Spring 2024)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for the Advancement of Sciences

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations

International Leadership Association

Nu Lambda Mu Honor Society

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

SERVICE

University Service

NLM Interim Undergraduate Program Lead (Spring 2025 - present)

NLM Academic Associate / Faculty Adjunct Pools Search Committee (Fall 2024 - present)

Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Student Association, Co-Advisor (Spring 2024 - present)

Best Skills Best Churches Steering Committee, ASU Lodestar Center (Fall 2023 - present)

Scholarship Committee, School of Community Resources & Development, Arizona State University (Fall 2023 - present)

DEI Subcommittee on Pedagogy, Curriculum Development, Classroom Environment, & All Aspects of Teaching & Learning, Leadership Studies Department, University of San Diego (2021-2022)

Conference Service

Session Chair, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations & Voluntary Associations (2024)

Conference Team & Session Chair, West Coast Nonprofit Data Conference (2024)

Reviewer, International Leadership Association Annual Conference (2021 - 2025)

Reviewer, Independent Sector Annual Conference (2025)

CERTIFICATES & DESIGNATIONS

Certified Nonprofit Professional

Master Class for Teaching Online, Arizona State University EdPlus

Certificate in Foundations of Racial Equity, RISE San Diego with University of San Diego

Safe Space Ally, University of San Diego

Trained Mentor, Mentor Collective

Nonprofit Management Certificate, University of San Diego

GRANTS & AWARDS

2024 Lake Institute of Emerging Scholars, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Nominated, 2023-2024 Dissertation of the Year, University of San Diego

Dr. Joe Rost Scholarship, University of San Diego (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Peer to Peer Mentorship Group Facilitator, International Leadership Association (present)

Ambassador, College of Charleston Alumni Association (2023 to present)

Mentor, Mentor Collective in partnership with University of San Diego (2021-2023)

Student Ambassador, School of Leadership & Education Sciences, University of San Diego (2019 - 2023)

Treasurer, Coronado Floral Association (2016 - 2020)

Grant Writer, Ocean Discovery Institute (2018 - 2019)

President, College of Charleston Alumni SoCal Chapter (2013-2016)