

The Bilingual Advantage draws together researchers from education, economics, sociology, anthropology and linguistics to examine the economic and employment benefits of bilingualism in the US labor market, countering past research that shows no such benefits exist. Collectively, the authors draw on novel methodological approaches and new data to examine the economics of bilingualism for the new generation of bilinguals entering a digital-age globalized workforce. The authors also pay considerable attention to how to best capture measures of bilingualism and biliteracy, given the constraints of most existing datasets.

"This is the book we all have been waiting for. It does for bilingualism what Thomas Piketty has famously done for capitalism: it dismantles age-old myths and tired clichés with muscular data, conceptual clarity, and careful argumentation. In the Age of Globalization, we must undo the monolingual regime at the heart of the American experience and give children, youth, and indeed all citizens alike, the opportunity to fully partake of the 'bilingual advantage.' We will then be a richer, smarter, safer society."

Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Education,
UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, USA

"Finally! Educators have been asking for this work for so long. There is no more timely issue for teachers, parents and policy-makers today than what research says about creating a system that fosters bilingualism among all students. After decades of politicized and polarized debates on English Only, it's time to have a thoughtful discussion of the enriching advantages of dual language acquisition as a basic part of public education."

Lily Eskelsen García, President, National Education Association, USA

"This is one of the most exciting books on bilingualism in the US that I have read in a long time! While many of us argue about the place of bilingualism in US schools, Callahan and Gándara have advanced the conversation by focusing on the economic return of bilingualism and its effect on the labor market. The analyses of large datasets, both quantitative and qualitative, and performed by US and European scholars, give evidence of the complexity of the economic effects of bilingualism, but also of new conditions in the global labor market in which young bilingual people operate today."

Ofelia García, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York, USA

Rebecca M. Callahan is Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Texas, Austin, where she is a faculty affiliate of the Population Research Center. Her primary research interests center on the academic preparation of bilingual immigrant adolescents as they transition from high school into young adulthood.

Patricia C. Gándara is Research Professor of Education in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA. She is co-director of the Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles at UCLA, and a commissioner on President Obama's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Her research focuses on language policy and racial equity.

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The Bilingual Advantage

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Language, Literacy and the US Labor Market

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