

Contact Info: vrios@post.harvard.edu

Education **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** Cambridge, MA

PhD in Government, 2013 **Major:** Social Policy and Inequality.

- Conducted research on government coordination, political economy, and governance.
- Designed big-data algorithm to geocode relevant news content in Mexico. Results requested by CIA, DEA, FBI, and featured in *Foreign Policy*, *Huffington Post*, *Scientific American*, and others.

Awards: American Political Science Association's prize for the best public administration doctoral dissertation 2014; Merit Fellowship for the most outstanding research in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences; one of top-12 junior scholars by the National Bureau of Economic Research; one of 15 Harvard's stellar graduates of *Harvard Gazette* 2013.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Cambridge, MA

MA in Government, 2009 **Major:** Politics and Economic Development.

INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO (ITAM) Mexico City

Bachelor of Arts, 2005 **Major:** Political Science; Graduated top-1 of graduating class

Professional Experience

2017-on **PURDUE UNIVERSITY, Assistant Professor** West Lafayette, IN

- Teaching: Advanced Quantitative Methodology (Ph.D. level).
- Research: Economic diversity & complexity; productivity & labor markets; anticorruption, citizen security & justice reform, and special economic zones.

2016-on **THE WILSON CENTER, Fellow & Independent Consultant** Washington, D.C. & Mexico City

- Wrote book and policy papers about Mexico's rule of law, political & economic issues.
- Conducted fieldwork in Central America about inequality, security and governance.
- World Bank STC: Design and development of Haiti's PMT (Lucy Bassett, SPL); big-data analysis of WB's delivery challenges predictors and performance indicators (Daniel Ortega, OO); analysis of household surveys and administrative data on Mexico's judicial system and inequality (Paul Prettitore, PS); Togo's youth unemployment data analysis (John Van Dyck, SPL).

2014-2015 **MÉXICO ¿CÓMO VAMOS?, Director** Mexico City

- Managed think tank researching on subnational economy, labor markets, productivity & inequality.
- [Profiled at The Economist](#) as Mexico's "new mover and shaker" due to innovative impact model (cutting-edge quantitative research decoded to decisions makers), and honored by Mexico's National Council for Policy Evaluation as "best impact data generator" due to creation of quantitative indexes.
- Increased MCV's market value on 529%, up to capitalizing \$10M USD yearly in unpaid publicity.

2013 **MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHCP), Senior Policy Adviser** Mexico City

- Teamed with IADB & experts to redesign national pension reform and unemployment insurance.
- Represented the Minister at National Security Council and directive cabinet meetings.

2009-2012 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Academic and Researcher** Cambridge, MA

- Member of Harvard's Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences (IQSS).
- Teaching: Visiting Faculty at Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Educ. (2013-14); Principal Instructor at Harvard's Inst. for Quantitative Soc. Sciences (2010-11); Teaching Assistant in International Political Economy, Comparative Politics and Econometrics at Harvard (2009-12)
- World Bank STC: "Citizen Security Briefs" to Lorena Cohan (Social Development, LCSSO).
- Researched for US Department of State, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, US National Intelligence Council, and Mexico's Minister of Finance, among others.

2011 **OFFICE OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT, Policy Adviser** Mexico City

- Advised National Security Spokesman on criminal trends in one-on-one bi-monthly sessions.
- Created Bayesian crime index to evaluate impact of security policies on Mexico's security.

2006-2007 **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, Deputy Director of Evaluation** Mexico City

- Authored policy reports on best global poverty-relief practices to enhance Mexico's strategies.
- Wrote annual report on children rights, delivered to the UN; presented by Mexico's President.

2003-2005 **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, Research Assistant, Department of Government** Mexico City

- Assessed Mexico's political risk to recommend allocation of USAID's funds in Mexico.
- Assisted in publication of dozens of research articles and book *Courting Democracy in Mexico*.

Methodological Skills: Econometrics, microeconomics, statistics, geographic referencing and formal modeling.

Coding and Languages R, STATA, English, Spanish (native).

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “The impact of violence in Economic Complexity” *Jour. of Economic Development* (submitted 2016).
- “How Government Coordination Controlled Crime” in *Jour. of Conflict Resolution* (2015).
- “How Criminal Rivalry Leads to Violence Against the Press”(with Holland) in *JCR* (2015).
- “The Role of Drug-Related Violence in Promoting Mexican Migration” in *LA Research Review* (2014).
- “Multicultural Institutions, Distributional Politics and Mobilization” in *LA Pol & Soc* (with Eisenstadt) (2014).
- “Why Did Mexico Become So Violent?” in *Trends in Organized Crime* (2013).
- “Knowing Where and How Criminal Organizations Operate Using Google” in *CIKM* (with Coscia) (2012).

Think-tank and applied research reports (selected)

The Wilson Center: *Promoting Innovation in Mexico* (Nov 16), *How to avoid NAFTA’s US-Exit* (Oct 16), *Mexico’s Special Economic Zones* (Jun 16), *Anti-Corruption Legislation in LA* (May 16), *Crime Reduces Economic Complexity* (Dec 15) *Economic growth Follows Rule of Law* (Oct 13).

Mexican Economic Studies: *Inequality* (Dic 15), *Rule of Law* (Dic 12), *Informality and Poverty* (Nov 15), *Reducing Poverty in Mexico* (Nov 15), *Productivity* (Oct 15), *Exports* (Aug 15) and *Public Debt* (Aug 15), *Advancing Mexico’s Economy* (Aug 15), *The Mexico that Grows* (Aug 15), *Governor Candidates Petitions* (May 15), *Communicate Growth Measures* (Jan 15), *Mexico’s Federal Budget* (Nov 14), *Real Time Changes in Economic Activity* (Jun 14).

Trans-border Institute: *Drug Violence in Mexico Policy Reports* (with Molzahn, Shirk 2011; Shirk 2010).

Other Publications (selected)

Forbes: *Mexico’s Anti-Corruption Reform* (2016), *Special Economic Zones: White Elephants?* (2016).

The New York Times: *Time to Accept Responsibility and Act* (2014); *Drug Legalization Could Create More Crime* (2012); *Doing the Math on Mexican Drug Wars* (2010).

The Washington Post: *How to Win the Mexican Drug War* (2013).

Harvard Kennedy School Review: *Who Started the Mexican Drug War?* (Cover article; 2013).

Harvard Review of Latin America: *Keys to Reduce Violence. Targeted Policing and Civic Engagement* (2012).

Conferences and public speaking (selected)

IADB & Mexico’s Central Bank *The impact of Crime in Economic Complexity* (2016) (Washington, DC).

The Economist Summit *Different shades of Mexico* (2015) (Mexico City).

Mexican Chamber of Commerce “How is Mexico’s Economy Doing?” (Monthly updates, 2015) (Mexico).

Harvard University “Rule of Law and Corruption” (2015); “Unexpected Consequences of Mexico’s Drug War for US National Security: More Mexican Immigrants” (2012) (selected) (Cambridge, MA).

Stanford University “Police Security in Borderlands” (2012); “Security Issues Drug-violence Refugees” (2011).

The World Bank “Corruption, justice reform and citizen security” (2012) (Washington, DC).

The Guggenheim Foundation “Understanding Mexico’s Drug Violence” (2011) (New York, NY).

US Department of State “The Future of Mexican Drug Cartels” (2011) (Washington, DC).

TV and Radio (selected)

- Radio Formula 103.3FM; *Anchorwomen* with Ruiz-Healy, (Mex; Weekly, 2 hrs, National Radio, since Jun 14).
- Bloomberg TV; *Regional Economies on the Spotlight* with Carlos Mota, (Mex; Weekly, 12 min, Cable TV, 14).
- Mexico’s National TV; *Mexican Economy Updates* La Hora de Opinar, (Mex; Jun 14; Abr 14; Oct 13; Nov 13).

Research Grants Wilson Center Fellow 2015-17, Guggenheim Fellow 2014, Stanford University, Harvard Real Estate Institute, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for LA Studies, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, University of San Diego, UCSD

Scholarships: Mexico’s National Counsel of Science and Technology, Harvard University, Fulbright Scholar.

Professional References: (1) Jorge Dominguez (Department of government, Harvard University; jorge_dominguez@harvard.edu); (2) Gary King (Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard; king@harvard.edu); (3) Manuel Molano (Mexican Institute for Competitiveness; manuel.molano@imco.org.mx)

Volunteer Experiences: Mexico’s Anti-corruption Citizen Commission (member selected by Mexican Senate 2016-on), Admissions Committee to Harvard College (2013-on); Association *Democracia Deliberada* (2013-on); Open Source Creation (2012); Harvard Mexican Assoc. (Campaign 2012, Treasurer 2008); United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (Intern 2008) Quality of Professional Journalism (Spokesperson 2005); ITAM’s Political Science Student Assoc. (Coordinator 2002), ITAM’s Newspaper & Literary Magazine (Editor 2002).