

Viridiana Ríos

Summary: My research agenda focuses on studying the political economy of violence and corruption in Latin America.

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APPOINTMENTS Harvard University. Visiting Assistant Professor, Government, 2019 (Cambridge, MA)
Purdue University. Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science, 2016-2018 (West L., IN)
Wilson Center for International Scholars. Fellow, 2015 (Washington, DC)

EDUCATION PhD, Harvard University, Government, 2013
MA, Harvard University, Government, 2010
BA, ITAM, Political Science, 2005 (Mexico City)

LANGUAGES Spanish (native), English (fluent)

RESEARCH

Books *The Missing Reform: Strengthening Rule of Law in Mexico.* (with Duncan Wood, ed.) Woodrow Wilson Center Press (2018).

Peer-reviewed articles “Criminal Groups Speak Out: Information Provision and Competition Among Mexico’s Drug Cartels.” (with Brian Phillips) *Latin American Politics and Society* (2019).

“News Media Coverage of Crime and Violent Drug Crime: A Case for Cause of Catalyst?” (with Christopher J. Ferguson) *Justice Quarterly* (2019).

“Post-emergency Cash Transfers and Government Support” (with Oleksiy Ivaschenko & Jesse Doyle) *Disasters Journal* (2019).

“Media Effects on Brutality Displays: The Case of Mexico’s Drug War” (with Johanna Rivera) *Politics, Groups and Identities* (2018).

“The Role of Drug-related Violence and Extortion in Promoting Mexican Migration.” & *Latin American Research Review*, Vol.49, No.3 (2014) & *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 73 (2018)

“Informally Governing Information: How Criminal Rivalry Leads to Violence against the Press in Mexico.” (with Bradley E. Holland) *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2017).

“How Government Coordination Controlled Organized Crime: The Case of Mexico’s Cocaine Markets” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2015).

“Multicultural Institutions, Distributional Politics, and Post-Electoral Mobilization in Indigenous Mexico.” (with Todd Eisenstadt) *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol.56, No.2 (Summer 2014).

“Why Did Mexico Become so Violent? A Self-reinforcing Violent Equilibrium Caused by Competition and Enforcement” *Trends in Organized Crime*, Vol.16, No.2 (June 2013).

“Identifying Where and How Criminal Organizations Operate Using Web Content” (with Michele Coscia) *CIKM-12*, Oct-Nov (2012).

Working Papers “Corruption type and Income Inequality in Latin America.” (with Omar Espejel) (submitted at *Governance*).

“Unequal enforcement: How perceived ethnicity and written English proficiency affect welfare agencies’ responses.” (with Spencer Headworth) (submitted at *American Journal of Sociology*).

“Crime and Violence Effects on Economic Diversity in Mexico” (working paper).

“Violence, corruption, and the redistributive attitudes of business interests” (with Bradley E. Holland) (submitted at *Comparative Politics & Society*).

**Book Chapters &
University Press**

“Mexico’s Anti-Corruption Spring” (with Max Kaiser) in Rios & Wood (ed.) *The Missing Reform: Strengthening Rule of Law in Mexico*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press (2018).

“Tracking Back Marijuana Stigma” in *Harvard Review of Latin America* (Winter 2015).

“Tendencias y Explicaciones al Asesinato de Periodistas y Alcaldes en México” in Aguilar-Rivera (Coord.) *Las Bases Sociales y Políticas del Crimen Organizado*. SSP, Mexico City (2012).

“Keys to Reducing Violence in Mexico” in *Harvard Review of Latin America* (Winter 2012).

Drug Violence in Mexico. Data and Analysis Through 2011 (with Cory Molzahn, David Shirk) Trans-border Institute (TBI), University of San Diego (USD) (2012).

Drug Violence in Mexico. Data and Analysis Through 2010 (with David Shirk) TBI, USD (2011).

Mid-Year Report on Drug Violence in Mexico (with Angelica Duran-Martinez, Gayle Hazard and David Shirk) TBI, USD (2010).

“Claroscuros de la Aplicación de los Usos y Costumbres” (with Todd Eisenstadt) in Singer, Martha (coord.) *México: Democracia y Participación Política Indígena*. Mexico City: UNAM (2007).

FELLOWSHIPS

Global Fellow. The Mexico Institute (2016-on).

Fellow. The Wilson Center for International Scholars (2015-2016).

Fellow. Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for International Studies, Mexico City (2013-2016).

Research Fellow. Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, New York City (2014).

Junior Fellow. NBER’s Working Group on the Economics of Crime (2012-2014).

Fellow. Program in Criminal Justice, Policy and Management, Harvard Kennedy School (2011-12).

Fellow. Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard University (2010-2012).

Visiting Fellow. Center for US-Mexico Studies, UCSD (Fall 2010; Fall 2011).

Visiting Scholar. Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego (Summer 2010).

Doctoral Fellow. Program in Inequality and Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School (2009-2010).

AWARDS

Will H. Moore III Prize. Peace Science Society (2019).

Editor’s pick of Latin American Studies. Library of Congress (2018).

One of Top-5 Latin American “Corruption Buster”, *America’s Quarterly* (2016).

Best Impact Data Generator. Mexican Council for Policy Evaluation (CONEVAL) (2016).

Leonard D. White Prize to the best dissertation in the field of public administration. American Political Science Association (APSA) and University of Chicago (2014).

Merit Scholarship for Outstanding Research. Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences (2013).

Top Junior Scholar. National Bureau of Economic Research (2013).

Harvard Stellar Graduate. *Harvard Gazette* (2013).

Special mention for scholastic achievement. Department of Political Science, ITAM (2006).

GRANTS

Postdoc Scholarship. Stanford University (2012-2013), declined.

Scholarship. Mexico-Harvard Foundation (Academic year 2012-2013).

Travel grant. DRCLAS, Harvard University (Summer 2010; Summer 2011; Spring 2012).

Scholarship. Mexico’s National Counsel of Science and Technology (Academic years 2008-2012).

Travel grant. Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (Spring 2011).

Writing grant. Center for US-Mexico Studies, UCSD (Fall 2010, 2011).

Travel grant. Kennedy/Sheldon Fellowship, Harvard University (Academic year 2010-2011).

Research grant. Merit and Term-Time Fellowship to outstanding research, Harvard University (2010).

Research grant. Program in Criminal Justice, Policy and Management, Harvard Kennedy School (2010).

Research grant. Inequality and Social Policy Program, Harvard University (Academic year 2009-2010).

Research grant. Harvard Real Estate Institute (Summer 2009).

Scholarship. Fulbright, Mexico-US Bilateral Commission (2008), declined.

**Invited Academic
talks**

“Corruption Types & Income Inequality: Evidence from Latin America” at Latin American Studies Program's Speaker Series at *Cornell University*. Apr 25, 2019 (Ithaca, NY).

“The Political Origins of Corruption in Mexico” at Tuesday Seminar Series David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, *Harvard University*. Apr 23, 2019 (Cambridge, MA).

“Doing Fieldwork in Highly Violent Areas of Latin America” at *Harvard University's* fieldwork workshop. Apr 5, 2019 (Cambridge, MA).

“Towards a Mexican Welfare State” at *Colegio de México*. Mar 7, 2019 (Mexico City, MX).

“Corruption & Inequality in Latin America” at Latin American Studies Program's Speaker Series at MPSA Annual Meeting. Apr 6-8, 2018 (Chicago, IL).

“Violence and Business Attitudes toward Redistribution Evidence from Mexico” at APSA Annual Conference. Sept 1-3, 2017 (San Francisco, CA).

“The Fight Against Corruption in Latin America” at Ecuadorian Economic Policy Institute. Mar 22, 2017 (Guayaquil, Ecuador).

“Mexico’s New Security Challenges” at University of Texas. February 8, 2017 (Austin, TX) & United States Naval Academy. Feb 7, 2017 (Annapolis, MD).

“The Economic Effects of Violence and Corruption” at Texas A&M. November 9, 2016 (Laredo, Texas).

“The Economic Effects of Violence and Corruption” at Economists National Congress. November 4, 2016 (Toluca, MX).

“Security in Mexico: A research agenda” at The University of Oklahoma, Feb 16, 2016 (Norman, OK).

“How criminal rivalry leads to violence against the press” at Syracuse University, Jan 13, 2016 (Syracuse, NY); and Texas A&M University, Dec 24, 2015 (Laredo, Texas).

“Rule of Law and Corruption” at Rethinking Violence and Civil Society in Mexico, Harvard University. Apr 10, 2015 (Cambridge, MA).

“The Citizen Security Tipping Points” at Citizen Insecurity in Latin America Conference, Stanford University, ITAM and UNDP. Mar 11, 2013 (Mexico City, MX).

Invited Academic talks

“Government Coordination and Violence Deterrence in Mexico’s Drug War” at School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS), UCSD, Nov 14, 2012 (San Diego, CA); Workshop in Political Economy, Harvard University, Oct 12, 2012 (Cambridge, MA); RAND. Nov 13, 2012 (Washington, D.C.).

“When Criminals Cannot Hide: Generating Intelligence Data Through Search Engines” at New Directions in Analyzing Text Data Conference, Harvard’s IQSS. Oct 9, 2012 (Cambridge, MA).

“Police Security in Borderlands” at Border and Borderlands in the Americas Conference, Stanford University. Jun 18, 2012 (Palo Alto, CA).

“Drug Traffickers’ Communications and Violence: Assessing the Impact of Expressed Rivalries in Drug-Related Violence” at International Studies Association. Apr 4, 2012 (San Diego, CA).

“Lessons From Mexico’s Drug War: Policy Outcomes Depend on Organizational Structure” at World Peace Foundation, Tufts University. Mar 29, 2012 (Boston, MA).

“Security Issues and Immigration Flows: Drug-violence Refugees, the New Mexican Immigrants” at Graduate Student Political Economy Seminar, Harvard’s IQSS. Feb 17, 2012 (Cambridge, MA).

“Why Did Mexican Drug Traffickers Become So Violent? Trends and Explanations to a Drug War” at DRCLAS Tuesday Seminar, Harvard University. Jan 31, 2012 (Cambridge, MA).

“Understanding Mexico’s drug violence” at Guggenheim Foundation. Dec 8-10, 2011 (New York, NY).

“Drug War: Myths and Realities” at Dean’s Roundtable Breakfast, UCSD. Nov 16, 2011 (San Diego, CA).

“Criminal Market Diversification and Drug-related Violence” and “Security Issues and Immigration Flows” at Violence, Drugs and Governance: Mexican Security in Comparative Perspective Conference, Stanford University. Oct 3-4, 2011 (Palo Alto, CA).

“The Future of Mexican Drug Cartels” at Mexico Security Conference, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, US Dept. of State, and Nat. Intelligence Council. Aug 11-12, 2011 (Washington, DC).

“Corruption Dynamics in Mexico” at MPSA Annual Conference, Mar 2011 (Chicago, IL); Williams College’s Research Colloquium, Nov 2010 (Williamstown, MA); Harvard’s Public Policy and Inequality Seminar, Nov 2010 (Cambridge, MA).

“Trends and Figures on Drug-related Violence in Mexico, 2010” (with Shirk) Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego. Dec 10, 2010 (San Diego, CA).

“Public Security and Competitiveness: Improving Mexico’s Image” at International Congress on Competitiveness, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. Nov 2010 (Nuevo Laredo, MX).

“The Potential Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Mexico’s Drug-related Violence” at Ending Prohibition Conference: Proposition 19 and Marijuana Legalization, Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego. Oct 14, 2010 (San Diego, CA).

“Political Conflict in Indigenous Latin America” at LASA 2010 Meeting. Oct 7, 2010 (Toronto, CN).

“To Be or Not to Be a Drug Trafficker: Modeling Occupational Choices of Criminals” at MPSA Annual Conference. Apr 2010 (Chicago, IL).

Invited Academic talks

“Evaluating the Economic Impact of Drug Traffic in Mexico” at Graduate Students Political Economy Workshop, Harvard’s IQSS. Spring 2008 (Cambridge, MA).

“Possible Manipulations of Indigenous Electoral Traditions in Mexico” at MPSA 2006 Meeting. Apr 23, 2006 (Chicago, IL).

Non-academic invited talks

“Mexico’s Security Challenge” at Harvard University Mexican Association (HUMA) and the Mexican Caucus, *Harvard Kennedy School*. Apr 26, 2019 (Cambridge, MA).

“A Conversation about Security and Corruptions” at HUMA Speaker Series, *Harvard Kennedy School*. Feb 21, 2019 (Cambridge, MA).

“Cash transfers and government approval ratings: The case of Fiji after Tropical Cyclone Winston” at The World Bank. April 4, 2017 (Washington, D.C.)

“Using Data to Reduce Corruption” United Nations Public Service Forum Jun 22, 2018 (Marrakech, Morocco)

“Economic Impacts of Corruption” at Mexican Employers Confederation. Feb 28, 2018 (Hermosillo, MX).

“The Missing Reform: Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico” at The Wilson Center. Feb 5, 2018 (Washington, D.C.).

"International Symposium of Oral-Adversarial Justice Systems" in Oral-Adversarial Skill-building Immersion Seminar, September 8-9, 2016 (Mexico City, MX).

“Economic Challenges 2018” at Mercer Consulting. Jan 8, 2018 (Mexico City, MX).

“Understanding the Economic Effects of Corruption” at Mexican Institute of Finance Executives (IMEF). Oct 12, 2017 (Mexico City, MX).

“What is inhibiting Mexico’s Growth?” at Canadian Chamber. Dec 5, 2016. (Mexico City, MX).

“Brief of Mexico’s Politics and Economics” at The Dialogue. Dec 1, 2016 (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

“Nudge Innovation in Mexico” at Wilson Center Innovation Forum. November 17, 2016 (Boston, MA).

“The impact of crime and violence on economic diversity” at Mexico’s Central Bank (Banxico), June 22, 2016 (Mexico City, MX); The Inter-American Development Bank April 6, 2016 (Washington, D.C.); The Wilson Center, Jan 23, 2016 & Nov 17, 2015 (Washington, D.C.).

“The Costs of Mexico’s Corruption” at Citibank’s Investors Plenary, Mar 3, 2016 (Mexico City, MX).

“Labor and Productivity Inequality” at The Economist Summit, Nov 5, 2015 (Mexico City, MX).

“Debating Marihuana Legalization” at La Ciudad de las Ideas, Nov, 2015 (Puebla, MX).

“The Challenges of Mexico City’s Economy” at IMEF Annual Meeting, Jul 29, 2015 (Mexico City, MX).

“Economic growth in Mexico” at Mexican Employers Confederation, February 12, 2015 (Mexico City, MX).

“Time for Mexico to Accept Responsibility for the Violence.” *The New York Times*, Dec 2014.

“How to Win the Mexican Drug War.” *The Washington Post*, Apr 2013.

“Drugs, Violence and Crime” at Attorney General Office (PGJDF). Oct 3, 2012 (Mexico City, MX).

“Corruption, Justice Reform and Citizen Security in Mexico’s Drug War”, *The World Bank’s Citizen Security Beam BBL*. Sept 12, 2012 (Washington, D.C.).

“Drug Legalization Could Create More Crime.” *The New York Times*, May 2012.

**Non-academic
invited talks**

“The Future of Mexican Drug Cartels” at Mexico Security Conference, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, US Dept. of State, and Nat. Intelligence Council. Aug 11-12, 2011 (Washington, DC).
“Trends in Drug-related Violence and Policy Recommendations” at Southern California Roundtable, CENTRA Technology Inc.. Sept 22, 2010 (Santa Monica, CA).
“Doing the Math on Mexican Drug Wars.” The New York Times, Jan 2010.

TEACHING

Harvard University

Corruption in Latin America. Professor (2019). Grad & undergrad.
Mexico Politics. Professor (2019). Undergrad
US-Mexico Relations. Instructor HSS (2019). Grad & undergrad.
Introduction to Public Policy. Instructor HSS (2018-2019). Grad & undergrad.
Corruption and Inequality. Instructor HSS (2017). Grad & undergrad.
Comparative Politics in Latin America. TA (2010). Undergrad.
International Political Economy. TA (2009). Undergrad.
Math “Pre-fresher” for Political Scientists. TA (2009-2010). Grad.

Purdue University

Advanced Quantitative Methods. Professor (2017-on). Grad.
Introduction to Public Policy. Professor (2018). Grad.

**Harvard Kennedy
School**

US-Mexico Relations and Security Policy. Lecturer (2011, 2013-2014). Grad.
Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods. TA (2009). Grad

REFERENCES

Prof. Steven Levitsky
Department of Government, Harvard University.
Tel: (617) 495-9997 Email: levitsky@gov.harvard.edu

Prof. Gary King
Director, Institute for Quantitative Social Science; Department of Government. Harvard University
Tel: Assistant (617) 495-9271; Direct (617) 500-7570 Email: king@harvard.edu

Prof. Beatriz Magaloni
Department of Political Science, Stanford University
Tel: (650) 724-5949 Email: magaloni@stanford.edu

Prof. Alberto Díaz Cayeros
Department of Political Science, Stanford University
Tel: (650) 725-0500 Email: albertod@stanford.edu

Prof. James A. McCann
Department of Political Science, Purdue University; Coordinator, Social Sciences Methodology Cluster
Tel: (765) 494-0738 E-mail: mccannj@purdue.edu

Prof. Todd Eisenstadt
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Tel: +1 (202) 885-6493 Correo: eisensta@american.edu

Prof. David Shirk
Department of Government, University of San Diego
Tel: (619) 260-2315 Email: dshirk@sandiego.edu

Prof. Rosalee A. Clawson
Department of Political Science, Purdue University
Tel: (765) 494-4162 E-mail: clawsonr@purdue.edu