

Viridiana Ríos

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Summary

Current affiliation: Research fellow at The Wilson Center for International Scholars.

Research agenda: Big data algorithms and other massive crawling techniques to identify how specific judicial and political institutions contribute to diminish conflict, i.e. to enforce peaceful agreements between antagonist groups.

Topics covered: Violence, crime, corruption and governance; media, public opinion and the press; informal institutions and sub-national governments.

Publications: Six peer-reviewed publications exploring, among other topics, how institutions condition criminal behavior (Ríos 2015), post-electoral conflict (Eisenstadt and Ríos 2014), and violence against the press (Holland and Ríos 2015).

Awards: Honored with APSA's prize for the best public administration doctoral dissertation and Merit Fellowship for the most outstanding research in Harvard's GSAS. Selected as one of top-12 junior scholars by the NBER, and one of 15 Harvard's stellar graduates of 2013.

References: Jorge I. Dominguez, Gary King, Steven Levitsky, Christopher Jencks, David Shirk, Todd Eisenstadt.

Education

Ph.D. Government, Harvard University, 2013.

Major: Inequality and Social Policy.

Dissertation: [How Government Structure Encourages Criminal Violence: The causes of Mexico's Drug War.](#)

M.A. Government, Harvard University, 2009.

Major: Politics and Economic Development.

B.A. Political Science, ITAM, 2005.

Peer-reviewed Articles

["The Impact of Crime and Violence on Economic Sector Diversity."](#) (Working Paper).

["What Media Coverage Can Do: Inducing Illegality in Mexico."](#) (with Rivera) (Working Paper).

["Informally Governing Information: How Criminal Rivalry Leads to Violence against the Press in Mexico."](#) (with Holland) in *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2015).

["How Government Coordination Controlled Organized Crime: The Case of Mexico's Cocaine Markets"](#) in *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2015).

["The Role of Drug-related Violence and Extortion in Promoting Mexican Migration."](#) in *Latin American Research Review*, Vol.49, No.3 (2014).

["Multicultural Institutions, Distributional Politics, and Post-Electoral Mobilization in Indigenous Mexico."](#) (with Eisenstadt) in *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” in *Trends in Organized Crime*, Vol.16, No.2 (June 2013).

“Identifying Where and How Criminal Organizations Operate Using Web Content” (with Coscia) in *CIKM-12*, Oct-Nov (2012). Copyright 2012 ACM 978-1-4503-1156-4/12/10.

Teaching positions

Mexico’s Security and Economic Issues Lecturer (Summer 2016). Graduate course in Mexico’s politics and economics. Universidad Anáhuac de México.

US-Mexico Relations and Security Policy Lecturer (Winter 2014, 2013; Summer 2011). Graduate course in public policy and Latin American politics. Executive Education Program, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University.

Math “Pre-fresher” for Political Scientists. Teaching Assistant (Summer 2010, 2009). Graduate course in statistics, econometrics, Latex and and R coding. Department of Government, Harvard University.

Comparative Politics in Latin America. Teaching Assistant (Spring 2010). Undergraduate course in comparative politics. Department of Government, Harvard University.

Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods. Teaching Assistant (Fall 2009). Graduate course in quantitative methods. Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University.

International Political Economy. Teaching Assistant (Spring 2009). Undergraduate course in political economy. Department of Government, Harvard University.

Book Chapters and University Press

“15 Recommendations to Nudge Innovation in Mexico” in *Third Annual High-Level Innovation Forum for Policymakers*. Mexico Institute (2016).

“Violence and Crime in the School Environment” (in Spanish) *Por un Mexico de Prevención y Solución a la Violencia*. Milenio (2016).

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

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

“Who Started the Mexican Drug War?” in *The Harvard Kennedy School Review* (2013).

“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: Targeted Policing and Civic Engagement” in *Harvard Review of Latin America* (Winter 2012).

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

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

Mid-Year Report on Drug Violence in Mexico (with Duran-Mtz., Hazard, Shirk) TBI, USD (2010).

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

Conferences and Public Addresses

“What is inhibiting Mexico’s growth and how to move forward?” at Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico, December 5, 2016 (Mexico City, Mexico).

“15 Recommendations to Nudge Innovation in Mexico” at Third Annual High-Level Innovation Forum for Policymakers, November 17, 2016 (Boston, MA).

“The Economic Effects of Violence and Corruption” at Texas A&M International University’s 2016-2017 International Bank of Commerce Keynote Speaker Series, November 9, 2016 (Laredo, Texas).

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

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

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

“The impact of Security in Economic Complexity” at The Wilson Center’s *Mexico Security Review 2016*, January 23, 2016 (Washington, D.C.).

“Rule of Law and Economic Development in Mexico” at *The Wilson Center for International Scholars*, January, 2016 (Washington, D.C.).

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

“The impact of crime and violence on economic diversity” at *The Wilson Center for International Scholars*, November 17, 2015 (Washington, D.C.).

“Labor and Productivity Inequality between States” at *The Economist’s Mexico Summit*, November 5, 2015 (Mexico City, Mexico).

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

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

“What a Ph.D. with Jorge Domínguez does to you” at *Conference to Celebrate Contributions of Jorge Domínguez*, Harvard’s Weatherhead Center for Int. Affairs, May 8, 2015 (Cambridge, MA).

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

“Economic growth in Mexico” at COPARMEX Annual Meeting, February 12, 2015 (Mexico City, Mexico).

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

“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); *Research Workshop in Political Economy*, Harvard University, Oct 12, 2012 (Cambridge, MA); *The Rand Corporation*. Nov 13, 2012 (Washington, DC).

“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).

“Drugs, Violence and Crime” at [Attorney General Office of Mexico’s Federal District \(PGJDF\)](#). Oct 3, 2012 (Mexico City).

“Corruption, Justice Reform and Citizen Security in Mexico’s Drug War”, [The World Bank’s Citizen Security Beam BBL](#). Sept 12, 2012 (Washington, DC).

“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 [The Harry Frank 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 Autonoma de Tamaulipas](#). Nov 2010 (Nuevo Laredo, Mex).

“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).

“Multiculturalism and Political Conflict in Indigenous Latin America” at [LASA 2010 Meeting](#). Oct 7, 2010 (Toronto, Canada).

“Trends in Drug-related Violence and Policy Recommendations” at [Southern California Roundtable, CENTRA Technology Inc.](#). Sept 22, 2010 (Santa Monica, CA).

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

“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).

Research Visits and Fellowships

Fellow. [The Wilson Center for International Scholars](#) (2015-2017).

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

Research Fellow. [Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation](#) (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 and Grants

Award. [Leonard D. White Prize](#) (best dissertation in the field of public administration) American Political Science Association and University of Chicago (2014).

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

Postdoctoral Grant. [Center for International Security and Cooperation](#) Stanford University (Academic year 2012-2013), *declined*.

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

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

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

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

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

Research grant. Merit and Term-Time Fellowship to outstanding research conducted at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, [Harvard University](#) (Summer 2010).

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

Research grant. Criminal Justice Fellow, [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*.

Special mention for scholastic achievement. GPA and Thesis Work, [Department of Political Science, ITAM](#) (2006).

Skills

Coding: R, Stata and ArcGIS.

Languages: Native Spanish, fluent English.

Extracurricular Activities

Member of the Committee on Economic Studies IMEF (November 2016 - Today)

Member of the Citizen Participation Committee Selecting Commission in Mexico's National Anti-corruption System (October 2016 - Today)

Member of Democracia Deliberada (July 2013 - Today)

Interviewer for [Harvard College Admissions](#) (Fall 2013 - Today).

Member of [Harvard Club of Mexico](#) and [Fundación México en Harvard](#) (Jan 2013 - Today).

Member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer of [Harvard University Mexican Association](#) (Sep 2008 - Aug 2009).

Spokesperson for the Summit on Quality and Ethics of Professional Journalism (Aug 2005).

Electoral Observer in Oaxaca's Municipal Electoral Contest (Jun 2004)

Editor of [Ahal, ITAM's Political Science magazine](#) (Nov 2002 - May 2003).

General Coordinator of the Student Society of Political Science at ITAM (Jan 2002 - May 2002).

Professional References

Prof. Jorge I. Dominguez

Antonio Madero Professor of Mexican and Latin American Politics and Economics.

[Department of Government., Harvard University](#)

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Prof. Gary King

Director, [Institute for Quantitative Social Science](#);

Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor.

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Department of Government, Harvard University.

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Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy.

Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School.

John F. Kennedy School of Government

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Prof. Todd Eisenstadt

Associate Professor.

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Professor.

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