

Viridiana Ríos

Summary: Conducts research on corruption, violence, Rule of Law, and inequality (Mexico, Latin America); teaches advanced quantitative methods for social sciences, and graduate public policy courses.

Email: viridianarios@gmail.com

Website: <http://scholar.harvard.edu.vrios>

[Google Scholar](#)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS Harvard University. Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019
Purdue University. Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2016-present
Harvard Summer School. Instructor, 2016-present
The Mexico Institute. Global Fellow, 2015-present
CONACyT SNI-I

EDUCATION Ph.D. Harvard University, Government, 2013
M.A. Harvard University, Government, 2010
B.A. ITAM, Political Science, 2005

LANGUAGES Spanish (native), English (fluid)
R (advanced), STATA (medium).

RESEARCH

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

Peer-reviewed articles “News Media Coverage of Crime and Violent Drug Crime: A Case for Cause of Catalyst?” (with Ferguson) *Justice Quarterly* (forthcoming)

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

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

“Informally Governing Information: How Criminal Rivalry Leads to Violence against the Press in Mexico.” (with 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 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 Coscia) *CIKM-12*, Oct-Nov (2012).

Review & Resubmit “Post-emergency Cash Transfers and Government Support” (with Ivaschenko & Doyle) (submitted).

Working Papers “Corruption type and Income Inequality in Latin America.” (with Espejel) (working paper).

Working Papers “Unequal enforcement: How perceived ethnicity and written English proficiency affect welfare agencies’ responses.” (with Headworth) (working paper).
“Crime and Violence Effects on Economic Diversity in Mexico” (working paper).
“Violence, corruption, and the redistributive attitudes of business interests” (with Holland) (working paper).
“Criminal Groups Speak Out: Information Provision and Competition Among Mexico’s Drug Cartels” (with Phillips) (working paper).

Book Chapters & University Press “Mexico’s Anti-Corruption Spring” (with Kaiser) in Rios & Wood (ed.) *The Missing Reform: Strengthening Rule of Law in Mexico*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press (2018).
“The Missing Reform: Strengthening Rule of Law in Mexico” in on Rios & Wood (ed.) *The Missing Reform: Strengthening Rule of Law in Mexico* (2018). Woodrow Wilson Center Press.
“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” 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*. 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 Editor’s pick of Latin American Studies. Library of Congress (2018).
One of Top-5 Latin American “Corruption Buster”, *America’s Quarterly* (2016)

AWARDS

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.

TEACHING**Purdue University**

Advanced Quantitative Methods. Professor (2017-on). Grad.

Introduction to Public Policy. Professor (2018). Grad.

Harvard University

Corruption in Latin America. Professor (2019). Undergrad.

Mexico Politics. Professor (2019). Undergrad

Introduction to Public Policy. Instructor (2018). Grad & undergrad

Corruption and Inequality. Instructor (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.

Harvard Kennedy School

US-Mexico Relations and Security Policy. Lecturer (2011, 2013-2014). Grad.

Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods. TA (2009). Grad

CONFERENCES

"Mexico's Economic and Social Challenges" at Mexican Employers Confederation. Aug 28, 2018 (Querétaro, MX); May 23, 2018 (Aguascalientes, MX); May 7, 2018 (Ciudad Valles, MX).

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

"Corruption & Inequality in Latin America" at MPSA Annual Meeting. Apr 6-8, 2018.

CONFERENCES “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.).

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

“Boosting Regional Economic Growth” at Mexican Employers Confederation. December 20, 2017 (Oaxaca, MX); October 25, 2017 (Durango, MX); Sept 29, 2017 (San Martin Texmelucan, MX).

“Lessons and Future of Mexico’s National Anticorruption System” at Mexican Employers Confederation. Oct 24, 2017 (Hidalgo del Parral, MX); Jun 5, 2017 (Tlaxcala, MX), May 30, 2017 (Reynosa, MX).

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

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

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

“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).

“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 Economic Effects of Violence and Corruption” at Texas A&M. November 9, 2016 (Laredo, Texas); & Economists National Congress. November 4, 2016 (Toluca, MX).

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

“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).

“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).

CONFERENCES

- “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).
- “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 Mexican Employers Confederation, February 12, 2015 (Mexico City, MX).
- “The Citizen Security Tipping Points” at Citizen Insecurity in Latin America Conference, Stanford University, ITAM and UNDP. Mar 11, 2013 (Mexico City, MX).
- “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).
- “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.).
- “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).

- CONFERENCES**
- “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, 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).
 - “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).

- EDITORIALS**
- “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.
 - “Drug Legalization Could Create More Crime.” The New York Times, May 2012.
 - “Doing the Math on Mexican Drug Wars.” The New York Times, Jan 2010.

- EXTRA-CURRICULAR**
- Selection Commissioner, Mexico’s National Anti-Corruption Commission (2015-on).
 - Member of *Democracia Deliberada* (2015-on)
 - Member of Harvard Club of Mexico and *Fundación México en Harvard* (2013 -on).
 - Interviewer for Harvard College Admissions (2013-2015).
 - Member of Open Source Creation (2012).
 - Member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer of Harvard University Mexican Association (2008-2009).
 - Intern, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (2008).
 - Spokesperson for the Summit on Quality and Ethics of Professional Journalism (2005)
 - Electoral Observer in Oaxaca’s Municipal Electoral Contest (2004)

**EXTRA-
CURRICULAR**

Editor of Ahal, ITAM's Political Science magazine (2002-2003).

General Coordinator of the Student Society of Political Science at ITAM (2002)
