

# MARCO ALCOCER

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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<b>University of California, Merced</b> Assistant Professor	2024 -
<b>Harvard University</b> Academy Scholar, The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies	2023-2025
<b>Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and Innovations for Poverty Action, Mexico</b> Predoctoral Fellow	2022-2023
<b>Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies</b> Visiting Fellow	2021-2022

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of California, San Diego</b> Ph.D in Political Science <i>Fields:</i> Comparative Politics, Methodology <i>Committee:</i> Sebastian Saiegh (chair), James Fowler, Simeon Nichter, Federica Izzo, Rafael Fernández de Castro, Francisco Cantu (Univ. of Houston)	2017 – 2023
<b>University of California, San Diego</b> , M.A. Political Science	2019
<b>George Mason University</b> , M.A. International Security	2017
<b>Southwestern University</b> , B.A. Political Science and Spanish	2014

## RESEARCH

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### *Book Project*

- *Criminal Entrepreneurs: The War on Drugs and the Transformation of Mexican Cartels*

### *Working Papers*

- [7] “Drug Wars, Organized Crime Expansion, and State Capture: Evidence from Mexico” (*Job market paper*)
- [6] “Increasing Intergovernmental Coordination to Fight Crime: Evidence from a Police Reform in Mexico” *Revise and resubmit.*
- [5] “Supplemental Online Resources Improve Data Literacy Education” (with Leonardo Falabella, Alex Lange, Nicholas Smith, and Maureen Feeley) *Revise and resubmit.*
- [4] “The Effect of Women Politicians on Violence Against Women: Evidence from Mexico” (with Rachel Skillman and Angie Torres-Beltran) *Under review.*
- [3] “Organized Crime Dynamics and Violence Against State Officials in Mexico” (with Megan Erickson) *Under review.*
- [2] “In the Line of Fire: Understanding Why Mexican Cartels Assassinate Law Enforcement Officers”
- [1] “A Framework for Integrating Causal Effects and Causal Mechanisms in Multi-Method Research”

### *Work in Progress*

- [3] “Cutting Hydra’s Head: Leadership Decapitation and Cartel Fragmentation in Mexico” (with Lucía Hesles)
- [2] “Organized Crime and Violence Against Migrants in Mexico”
- [1] “Political (Dis)Continuity and Institutional Quality: Evidence from Local Police Departments in Mexico” (with Rodrigo Canales and Alina Bitran)

*In Preparation*

- [5] Investigating Organized Crime: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment of Judicial Police Officers in Mexico
- [4] From Drug Lords to Warlords: Criminal Wars and the Ascendance of Militarized Cartel Leaders
- [3] Women Leadership in Drug Cartels (with Cecilia Farfán-Méndez)
- [2] Discrimination and Collaboration when Investigating Crime: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment of Law Enforcement Officers (with Jonathan Furszyfer)
- [1] Qualitative Methodology in Applied Political Science Research: Pitfalls and Opportunities

*Original Data/Non-Peer Review*

- Signoret, Patrick; Marco Alcocer; Cecilia Farfan-Mendez; Fernanda Sobrino, 2021, “Mapping Criminal Organizations in Mexico: State Panel 2007-2015”, <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/N0KGCZ>, Harvard Dataverse, V1.
- In the media: [El Financiero](#), [Mexico Today \(by Reforma\)](#), [IMER Noticias](#), [Al Calor Politico](#), [Cuestione](#)

**DATA PROJECTS****Mapping Criminal Organizations (MCO)** (with Patrick Signoret, Fernanda Sobrino, Cecilia Farfan)

- Co-Founder and Lead Investigator
- *Supported by the Center for U.S.–Mexican Studies at UCSD, the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, and the Data-Driven Social Science Initiative at Princeton University.*

**PROFESSIONAL AND METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING**

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)	2021
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research	2018
Summer Program on Mexican Political Institutions, Colegio de Mexico	2017
Combating Transnational Organized Crime in the Americas	2016
• <i>National Defense University, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Studies</i>	

**FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Emerging Methodologists, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (QMMR)	2023
Student Fellow, Public Choice Society	2023
NSF/APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG), \$9,580	2021-2022
Course Development and Instructional Improvement Program (CDIIP), UCSD, \$25,000	2020
• with Leonardo Falabella, Alex Lange, and Nicholas Smith	
Friends Fellowship, <i>Friends of the International Center, UCSD</i>	2019
Predoctoral Fellowship (Honorable Mention), <i>Ford Foundation</i>	2019
Conference Travel Grant, <i>APSA</i>	2019
Conference Travel Grant, <i>Universidad de los Andes and CIDE</i>	2018
Conference Travel Grant, <i>Society for Political Methodology</i>	2018
Field Research Grant, <i>Tinker Foundation and CILAS</i>	Summer 2018
Conference Travel Grant, <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2018
John A. Garcia ICPSR Scholarship, <i>Society for Political Methodology</i>	2018
Minority Fellowship Award, <i>American Political Science Association</i>	Spring 2018
Paul W. Drake Research Grant, <i>UCSD Political Science Department</i>	2018
Dean's Fellowship Merit Scholarship, <i>George Mason University</i>	2015-2016
HSF Scholar, <i>Hispanic Scholarship Fund</i>	2016

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS**


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Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University	Spring 2024
David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University	Spring 2024
The Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (CIPR), Tulane University	Spring 2024
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)	2024
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2021, 2022, 2024
Emerging Methodologists Workshop for Qualitative and Multi-Method Explanatory Research	2023
American Political Science Association (APSA)	2019, 2020, 2023
Public Choice Society	2023
ITAM	Fall 2022
Englehart Research Forum, Bowling Green State University	Fall 2022
Illicit Economies and Extra-Legal Actors Conference, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies	2022
Latin American Peace Science Society (LAPSS)	2022
Southwest Workshop on Mixed-Methods Research (SWMMR)	2021
Seminario para la Política de Drogas en América Latina, U. de los Andes and CIDE	2018
XXXV Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (Polmeth XXXV)	2018
11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Political Networks Conference and Workshop (Polnet)	2018

**TEACHING**


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<a href="#">Foundations of Quantitative Research in Political Science</a> (Online learning resource)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with Leonardo Falabella, Alexandra Lange, and Nick Smith</li> <li>• Supported by UCSD's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor (CDIIP Grant)</li> </ul>	
Teaching Assistant - Discussion Section Leader	
• Political Inquiry (Research design/Intro to statistics)	2018, 2020, 2022
• Analyzing Current Security Problems	2020
Teaching Assistant	
• International Politics and Security, <i>School of Global Policy and Strategy</i> (Master's Level)	2021
• Policy Making Processes, <i>School of Global Policy and Strategy</i> (Master's Level)	2019
• International Human Rights Law: Rights of Migrants	2022
• Corruption in Developing Countries	2021
• American Political Parties	2021
• Religion and Politics	2020
• Latin American Politics	2019
• Weapons of Mass Destruction	2019
• Comparative Politics of Latin America	2018
• US & Latin America: Political and Economic Relations	2018
• Race and Ethnicity in American Politics	2017

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**


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Agustina Paglayan and Francisco Garfias, <i>UCSD</i>	2019-2020
Enrique Desmond Arias, <i>Baruch College, CUNY</i>	Fall 2016, Fall 2019
Justice in Mexico, <i>University of San Diego</i>	2018
Center for Security Policy Studies, <i>Schar School of Government and Policy</i>	2016-2017
Office of National Drug Control Policy, <i>Executive Office of the President</i>	2016

**SERVICE**


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President, Graduate Student Council, UCSD Political Science Department	2018-2022
Mentor, Political Science Grad Pals Mentorship Program	2020-2023
Mentor, UCSD Graduate Student Affairs Grad Pals Program	2020-2021
Reviewer, <i>Journal of Illicit Economies and Development</i> , <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> , <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> , <i>Plos One</i>	

## LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

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**Computer Languages  
Language**

R, Stata, QGIS, ArcGis (intermediate), Python (intermediate), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
English (native), Español (native)

## REFERENCES

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**Sebastian Saiegh**

Chair of Dissertation Committee  
Professor  
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