

MARCO ALCOCER

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego	2017 – 2023
Ph.D in Political Science	
<i>Fields:</i> Comparative Politics, Methodology	
University of California, San Diego , M.A. Political Science	2019
El Colegio de México , Summer Program on Mexican Political Institutions	2017
George Mason University , M.A. International Security	2017
Southwestern University , B.A. Political Science and Spanish	2014

RESEARCH

Book Project

- *Building Criminal Enterprises: Drug Cartel Diversification and Networks of State Capture*
– Book manuscript workshop held May 2025 at Harvard University

Articles

- [5] Alcocer, Marco. 2025. “[Criminal Conflicts and the Killing of Law Enforcement Officers in Mexico](#)”, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*: 1–26. OnlineFirst.
- [4] Alcocer, Marco. Skillman, Rachel. Beltran-Torres, Angie. 2025. “[Female Mayors and Violence Against Women: Evidence from Mexico](#)”, *Political Science Research and Methods*: 1–8. doi:10.1017/psrm.2025.10030.
- [3] Alcocer, Marco. 2024. “[Increasing Intergovernmental Coordination to Fight Crime: Evidence from a Police Reform in Mexico](#)”, *Political Science Research and Methods*: 1–10. doi: 10.1017/psrm.2024.31.
- [2] Alcocer, Marco. Falabella, Leonardo. Lange, Alex. Smith, Nicholas. Feeley, Maureen. 2024. “[Supplemental online resources improve data literacy education: Evidence from a social science methods course](#)”, *PLOS ONE* 19(12): 1–16, .
- [1] Alcocer, Marco. 2023. “[Integrating Potential Outcomes and Causal Mechanisms to Guide Multi-Method Research](#)” *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research*, 21(2). doi: 10.5281/zenodo.8418913.

Working Papers

- [5] Alcocer, Marco and Megan Erickson. 2025. “The Transformation of Mexican Cartels and Violence Against State Officials” *Under review*.
- [4] “[Queenpins: Women Leaders and Violence in Organized Crime](#)” (with Fernanda Quintanilla Domínguez) *Under review*.

- [3] "Criminal Fragmentation: The Logic of Splintering in Organized Crime" (with Lucía Hesles Toscana) *Under review.*
- [2] "A Framework for Integrating Causal Effects and Causal Mechanisms in Multi-Method Research" *Under review.*
- [1] "Drug Wars, Organized Crime Expansion, and State Capture: Evidence from Mexico"

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.*

Original Data

- 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](#)
- Alcocer, Marco, 2024, "Mapping Criminal Organizations in Guanajuato", <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/WJSGWW>, Harvard Dataverse, V1.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Harvard University	2025
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)	2024, 2025, 2026
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)	2026
Building Democratic Resilience: Institutions and Attitudes in Latin America, UT Austin	2026
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2021, 2022, 2024, 2025
Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking Seminar, UNAM	Spring 2024
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
Southwestern University	Spring 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 th Annual Political Networks Conference and Workshop (Polnet)	2018

PROFESSIONAL AND METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)	2021
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research	2018
Combating Transnational Organized Crime in the Americas	2016
• National Defense University, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Studies	

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

TEACHING

[Foundations of Quantitative Research in Political Science](#) (APSA Educate online learning resource)

- with Leonardo Falabella, Alexandra Lange, and Nick Smith
- Supported by UCSD's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor (CDIIP Grant)

UC Merced

Instructor of Record

- The Politics of Violence (PhD Level) 2025
- Political Violence 2025
- Comparative Political Institutions (PhD Level) 2024
- Understanding Political Controversies (Research design/Intro to statistics) 2024, 2026

UCSD

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, *School of Global Policy and Strategy* (Master's Level) 2021
- Policy Making Processes, *School of Global Policy and Strategy* (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

ADVISING

Undergraduate

Lucía Hesles Toscano (ITAM), Fernanda Quintanilla Domínguez (Tec de Monterrey, now predoc at DevLab, UPenn), Renatta Salinas Delgado (Tec de Monterrey)

Graduate

Chika Kenneth (UC Merced - Dissertation Committee Member)

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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

Pi Sigma Alpha - Faculty Advisor, UC Merced	2025-present
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 Politics, International Organization, Comparative Political Studies, Perspectives on Politics, Journal of Illicit Economies and Development, Studies in Comparative International Development, Plos One, Latin American Research Review, Revista INTER DISCIPLINA (CEIICH-UNAM), Política y Gobierno, Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos</i>	

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Computer Languages	R, Stata, QGIS, ArcGis (intermediate), Python (intermediate), L ^A T _E X
Language	English (native), Español (native)