

# MARCO ALCOCER

Version: September 21, 2023

m2alcoce@ucsd.edu ♦ (512) 294-9723

[www.marco-alcocer.com](http://www.marco-alcocer.com)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

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

## EDUCATION

---

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>University of California, San Diego</b><br>Ph.D in Political Science<br><i>Fields:</i> Comparative Politics, Methodology<br><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

---

### *Book Project*

- *From Drug Cartels to Criminal Enterprises: Government Crackdowns and State Capture by Organized Crime*

### *Working Papers*

- [5] “Drug Wars, Organized Crime Expansion, and State Capture: Evidence from Mexico” (*Job market paper*)
- [4] “Organized Crime Dynamics and Violence Against State Officials in Mexico” (with Megan Erickson)
- [3] “Increasing Intergovernmental Coordination to Fight Crime: Evidence from a Police Reform in Mexico” *Under review*.
- [2] “The Effect of Women Politicians on Violence Against Women: Evidence from Mexico” (with Rachel Skillman and Angie Torres-Beltran) *Under review*.
- [1] “Supplemental Online Resources Improve Data Literacy Education” (with Leonardo Falabella, Alex Lange, Nicholas Smith, and Maureen Feeley) *Under review*.

### *Work in Progress*

- [4] “Killing the Law: Understanding Why Criminal Organizations Assassinate Law Enforcement Officers”
- [3] “Organized Crime and Violence Against Migrants in Mexico”
- [2] “Political (Dis)Continuity and Public Security Institutions: Evidence from Local Police Departments in Mexico” (with Rodrigo Canales and Alina Bitran)

- [1] “A Framework for Integrating Causal Effects and Causal Mechanisms in Multi-Method Research”

#### *In Preparation*

- [4] “Cutting Hydra’s Head: Leadership Decapitation and Patterns of Cartel Fragmentation” (with Lucía Hesles)
- [3] Investigating Organized Crime: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment of Judicial Police Officers in Mexico
- [2] From Drug Lords to Warlords: The Ascendance of Militarized Cartel Leaders and its Effects on Violence
- [1] Women Leadership in Drug Cartels (with Cecilia Farfán-Méndez)

#### *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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>National Defense University, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Studies</i></li> </ul> |      |

## 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), <i>UCSD</i> , \$25,000                    | 2020        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with Leonardo Falabella, Alex Lange, and Nicholas Smith</li> </ul> |             |
| Friends Fellowship, <i>Friends of the International Center, UCSD</i>  | 2019        |
| Predocutorial 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**


---

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Tulane 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             |
| Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)   | 2021, 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**


---

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <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  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political Inquiry (Research design/Intro to statistics)</li> <li>• Analyzing Current Security Problems</li> </ul>  | 2018, 2020, 2022<br>2020   |
| Teaching Assistant  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Politics and Security, <i>School of Global Policy and Strategy</i> (Master's Level)</li> <li>• Policy Making Processes, <i>School of Global Policy and Strategy</i> (Master's Level)</li> <li>• International Human Rights Law: Rights of Migrants</li> <li>• Corruption in Developing Countries</li> <li>• American Political Parties</li> <li>• Religion and Politics</li> <li>• Latin American Politics</li> <li>• Weapons of Mass Destruction</li> <li>• Comparative Politics of Latin America</li> <li>• US &amp; Latin America: Political and Economic Relations</li> <li>• Race and Ethnicity in American Politics</li> </ul> | 2021<br>2019<br>2022<br>2021<br>2021<br>2020<br>2019<br>2019<br>2018<br>2018<br>2017 |

**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**


---

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 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>          |           |

## LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

---

**Computer Languages  
Language**

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

## REFERENCES

---

**Sebastian Saiegh**

Chair of Dissertation Committee  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, San Diego  
Phone: (858) 534-7237  
Email: ssaiegh@ucsd.edu

**Agustina Paglayan**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, San Diego  
Phone: (858) 822-2351  
Email: apaglayan@ucsd.edu

**James Fowler**

Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, San Diego  
Phone: (858) 534-6807  
Email: jhfowler@ucsd.edu

**Simeon Nichter**

Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, San Diego  
Phone: (858) 534-1854  
Email: nichter@ucsd.edu