

Mariano Sánchez-Talanquer

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Government, Cornell University, expected May 2017
Major field: Comparative Politics
Minor field: Political Theory
Dissertation Committee: Kenneth M. Roberts (chair), Sidney Tarrow, Gustavo Flores-Macías, and Thomas Pepinsky
- M.A. Government, Cornell University, September 2014
- B.A. Political Science and International Relations. Centro de Investigación y
(Licenciatura) Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Mexico. (With honors)

DISSERTATION

“Uneven Strength of the Leviathan: Political Cleavages and State-building in Mexico and Colombia”

Why do states govern more effectively in some parts of their territory than in others? My dissertation examines the historical origins of state (in)capacity in Mexico and Colombia from a subnational perspective and shows that political cleavages during formative historical periods create durable differences in state strength within countries. I construct a theoretical framework for explaining spatial variation in a state’s ability to perform core governance functions, centered on the sociopolitical composition of state-building coalitions and societal resistance to them during critical episodes of state formation. I test several implications of this framework using novel data drawn from previously untapped archival sources. Analysis of original, hand-coded, municipal-level historical datasets demonstrates that insurgent activity following the Mexican Revolution had an enduring effect on the state’s ability to exercise fiscal authority and monopolize violence. In Colombia, territorial patterns of state capacity development reflected a partisan cleavage, with decisive periods of state-building under the Liberal Party leading to weakened institutional capacity in more Conservative areas. The study uncovers the political roots of institutional weakness, contributes to our understanding of the origins of state capacity, and provides new insight into the process of state-building across geographic space.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Authoritarian Legacies and Party System Stability in Mexico,” in Scott Mainwaring (ed.) *Party Systems in Latin America: Institutionalization, Decay, and Collapse*. Forthcoming. Cambridge University Press. (With Kenneth F. Greene)

“The Political Economy of the Minimum Wage: the United States and Latin America in Comparative Perspective.” In *From the Minimum Wage to a Decent Wage*. Edited by Miguel A. Mancera. Distrito Federal: Cal y Arena, 2016. (In Spanish)

“A Necessary Constitutional Change.” In *Social Fairness and Parliamentarism*. Edited by Ricardo Becerra. Distrito Federal: Siglo XXI Editores, 2012. (In Spanish)

WORK UNDER REVIEW OR IN PROGRESS

“Building the Modern State in Developing Countries: Understanding the Relationship between Order and Taxes with Evidence from Mexico.” (With Gustavo Flores-Macías)

“Political Cleavages and the Development of Fiscal Capacity: Historical Evidence from Mexico and Colombia.”

“Conceptual and Empirical Approaches to the Uneven Strength of the State.”

“Order After Civil War: New Evidence on the Role of Rural Defense Militias in Post-revolutionary Mexico.”

“Strong States, Durable Regimes? A Reexamination with Evidence from Latin America.”

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Fletcher Jones Foundation. 2016. Houston I. Flournoy Fellowship for the research project “Funding the Modern Leviathan: Understanding the Link between Public Safety and Taxation.” (With Gustavo Flores-Macías)

Mexico National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT). 2014-2016. Doctoral Fellowship.

Cornell University, Department of Government. 2015. The George Kahin Prize to the best beginning dissertation in the area of International Studies.

Cornell University, Graduate School. 2015. Research Travel Grant for field research in Mexico and Colombia.

Social Science Research Council. 2014. Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship.

Fulbright U.S.-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange. 2011-2014. Fulbright Garcia-Robles Grant.

Cornell University – Fletcher Jones Foundation. 2013. Houston I. Flournoy Fellowship (with Gustavo Flores-Macías).

Tinker Foundation – Latin American Studies Program, Cornell University. 2012. Tinker Foundation Grant to conduct field research in Mexico.

Cornell University. Sage Graduate Fellowship. 2011-2012 and 2016-2017.

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE). 2004-2008. Seven Academic Excellence Prizes. (based on GPA)

Mexican Ministry of Public Education – IDP Education Australia. 2007. Peace Scholarship Program, merit based award to study abroad. La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia.

La Trobe University, Australia – La Trobe Politics Society. 2007. Annual Essay Prize for the most outstanding essay in the field of politics.

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE). 2004. Best Admission Exam. Political Science and International Relations Program.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Conference. 2016. “Uneven Strength of the Leviathan: Political Cleavages and State-Building in Mexico and Colombia.” Philadelphia, PA.

American Political Science Association Annual Conference. 2015. “State Unevenness and Political Order in Mexico.” San Francisco, CA.

4th Annual Conference of the Sociology of Development Section of the American Sociological Association, Transformative Possibilities in the Global South. 2015. “State Formation in Mexico and Colombia: Conceptual and Empirical Approaches to the Uneven Strength of the State.” Watson Institute, Brown University.

Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress. 2015. “The Historical Roots of Uneven State Capacity in Mexico and Colombia.” San Juan, PR.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference. 2014. “Market Liberalism, Social Protection, and Traditional Party Survival in Latin America.” Chicago, IL.

Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Instituto de Estudios para la Transición Democrática. 2013. “Party Systems and Coalition Government in Latin America.” Invited speaker. Mexico City.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Instructor, *Comparative Politics and Contemporary Latin America.* Designed and facilitated weekly seminar in Spanish about Latin American Politics. Cornell University, Spring 2014.

Teaching Assistant, *Comparative Politics of Latin America.* (4.6/5 in student evaluations)
Faculty Instructor: Gustavo Flores-Macías, Cornell University, Spring 2014.

Teaching Assistant, *Politics and Markets.* (4.6/5 in student evaluations)
Faculty Instructor: Thomas Pepinsky, Cornell University, Fall 2013.

Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Comparative Politics.* (4.4/5 in student evaluations)
Faculty Instruction: Andrew Mertha, Cornell University, Spring 2013.

Teaching Assistant, *American Political Thought: Madison to Malcolm X.* (4.5/5 in student evaluations)
Faculty Instructor: Isaac Kramnick, Cornell University, Fall 2012.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR). Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. Summer 2014.

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Summer 2013.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant. 2013. Professor Gustavo Flores-Macías. Cornell University.

Research Assistant. 2008-2009. Professor Gabriel Negretto. Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).

SKILLS

Languages: Spanish (native language); English (fluent); French (reading)

Software and other skills: STATA, ArcGIS, archival research

SELECT NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“¿Why is vote-buying undemocratic?” 2012. *Revista Folios* 27. Reprinted in *Voz y Voto* 234. (In Spanish)

“The fate of the 2011 political reform.” 2011. *Voz y Voto* 222. (In Spanish)

“The oversight of political campaign spending in the 2009 federal elections.” 2010. *Voz y Voto* 210. (In Spanish)

“Choosing Presidents: Consequences of presidential election formulas in Latin America.” 2009. *Voz y Voto* 206. (In Spanish)

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), Mexico. 2009-2011 and summer of 2012. Office of the Executive Secretary. Advisor to the Executive Secretary.

Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), Mexico. 2009. Preliminary Electoral Results Program, 2009 federal elections. Deputy Director of Analysis and Communications.

Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), Mexico. 2009. Preliminary Electoral Results Program, 2009 federal elections. Chief of Statistical Analysis.

REFERENCES

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Dr. Sidney Tarrow
Emeritus Maxwell M. Upson Professor
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