Juan David Gelvez

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I am a Computational Social Scientist specializing in crime, policing, and institutional trust, with an emphasis on evidence-based reforms that strengthen the rule of law and state capacity. My work combines advanced causal inference, machine learning, and fieldwork to inform policies that enhance government effectiveness and citizen trust in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Education

University of Maryland
Ph.D., Government and Politics, (2026 expected).
    Comparative Politics & Computational Methods.
M.A., Government and Politics, 2023.

Universidad de Los Andes
M.A., Public Policy (MPP), 2018.
B.S., Government and Public Affairs, 2016.

Affiliations

Inter-American Development Bank
Academic Consultant
Citizen Security Division, 2025

Georgetown University
Research Fellow at the SIGLA Project
Department of Government, 2024- 2025

University of Maryland
Graduated researcher at the Interdisciplinary Laboratory of
Computational Social Science, 2021- Current

Departamento Nacional de Planeación
Team Coordinator and Policy Analyst, 2019 - 2021

Fundación Ideas para la Paz - FIP
Researcher, 2018-2019

Universidad de Los Andes
Researcher and Teacher Assistant, 2016-2018

Selected Publications

- R&R. Rewards, Sanctions, and Trust in the Police: Evidence from Colombia. Policing & Society. With Cesar Mantilla and María Nieto.

- 2025. Predicting Police and Military Violence: Evidence from Colombia and Mexico Using Machine Learning Models. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications - Nature.

- 2023. *Los nadies y las nadies*: The effect of peace-building on political behavior in Colombia. Latin American Politics & Society. With Marcus Johnson

- 2022. Prediciendo el crimen en ciudades intermedias: un modelo de "machine learning" en Bucaramanga, Colombia. URVIO- Revista Latinoamericana de Estudios de Seguridad. FLACSO, Ecuador. With María Nieto and Rocha.

- 2020. ¿Cómo prevenir el delito? Estrategias efectivas de convivencia y seguridad ciudadana Published for Universidad de Los Andes.

- 2019. Trato procesal y uso de la detención preventiva en una muestra de audiencias de control de garantías en Bogotá y Cali. In Cuadernos de Economía Universidad Nacional de Colombia. With Rengifo, Ávila, Ramírez and Mora.

- 2018. ¿Cuáles determinantes se relacionan con la percepción de inseguridad? Un análisis estadístico y espacial para la ciudad de Bogotá, D. C.. In Revista Criminalidad, Policía Nacional.

Recent Conferences and Workshops

- 2025: The Latin American Peace Science Society (LAPSS); Political Methodology Workshop at UMD; Climate Justice Workshop at Yale University; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA); Environmental Politics in Latin America Writing Group; Comparative Politics Workshop at UMD; Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina (REPAL); Political Economy of Climate and Environment (PECE); American Political Science Association (APSA); Red de Estudios Sobre Drogas en América Latina (REDESDAL); Latin American Political Methodology (LaPolMeth).

Professional services

- Chair Search committee member at the University of Maryland.

- Referee: Comparative Political Studies; Political Behavior; Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Latin American Politics & Society; Chapel Hill Expert Survey; Revista Economía, Sociedad y Territorio. Revista Gestión y Política Pública. Revista de Economía Institucional - UExternado. Dissertation committee - U.Rosario. Revista Criminalidad - Policía Nacional. Revista Derecho del Estado U.Externado. Premio Jorge Bernal.

Skills

- Languages: Spanish (native), English (advanced), Portuguese (intermediate).

- Software: RStudio, SQL, ArcGis, Stata, GeoDa, LaTeX, Markdown, SPSS.

Extracurricular: Barista, Scuba Diver, and Triathlete

Last updated on September 2, 2025