

Juan David Gelvez

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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, Colombia

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. Department of Government, 2024- 2025

University of Maryland

Graduated researcher. Interdisciplinary Laboratory of
Computational Social Science, 2021- Current

National Planning Department, Colombia

Team Coordinator and Policy Analyst, 2019 - 2021

National Police Graduate School, Colombia

Lecturer in Public Policy, 2020-2021

Ideas For Peace, Colombia

Researcher, 2018-2019

Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia

Researcher and Teacher Assistant, 2016-2018

Publications

Peer-reviewed

12. *R&R*. The Electoral Cost of the War on Drugs. *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Best paper presented at the *Latin American Peace Science Society* 2024 Meeting

11. *Forthcoming*. Rewards, Sanctions, and Trust in the Police: Evidence from Colombia. *Policing & Society*. With Cesar Mantilla and María Nieto.
10. *Forthcoming*. Public Opinion on Forced Eradication: The Role of Collective Dissent and Race in Colombia. *Latin American Politics & Society*. With Juan Angulo.
9. 2025. Climate Disasters, Armed Conflict, and Forced Displacement: A 23-Year Spatial Regression Analysis in Colombia. *Social Science Quarterly*. With Leo Bauer.
8. 2025. Predicting Police and Military Violence: Evidence from Colombia and Mexico Using Machine Learning Models. *Nature:HSSC*.

Media coverage in Science Magazine and La Crónica de Hoy.

7. 2024. Incentives war: The Consequences of Announcing a Substitution Policy on Coca Cultivation in Colombia. *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*. London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). With Matilde Angarita.
6. 2023. Temporal Twists: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Crime Dynamics in Colombia. *International Criminology*. With Maria Nieto.
5. 2023. Los nadies y las nadies: The effect of peace-building on political behavior in Colombia. *Latin American Politics & Society*. With Marcus Johnson
4. 2023. De la planeación nacional a la territorial: ¿Cómo se diseña y articula la política de convivencia y seguridad ciudadana en Colombia? *Revista de Gestión y Política Pública*. CIDE, México. With Catalina Miranda and María Nieto.
3. 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.
2. 2019. Trato procesal y uso de la detención preventiva en una muestra de audiencias de control de garantías en Bogotá y Cali. *Cuadernos de Economía Universidad Nacional de Colombia*. With Rengifo, Ávila, Ramírez and Mora.
1. 2018. ¿Cuáles determinantes se relacionan con la percepción de inseguridad? Un análisis estadístico y espacial para la ciudad de Bogotá, D. C.. *Revista Criminalidad*.

Book chapters

4. *Forthcoming*. National Armed Forces. In the book Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Law and Peace. With Catalina Miranda.
3. 2022. Sustitución de Cultivos una guerra de incentivos. In the book Coca, Cocaína y Violencia. Univesidad de Los Andes, Colombia. With Matilde Angarita.
2. 2022. El acuerdo de paz, la coca y las lecciones no aprendidas de la sustitución de cultivos. In the book Coca, Cocaína y Violencia. Univesidad de Los Andes, Colombia. With Jose Bernal and Juan Garzón.

1. 2020. Public Policy Analysis and Decision Making in the Military Forces: The Havana Experience. In International Library of Policy Analysis. Policy Press and Bristol University Press. With Mora, Bitar and Weintraub.

Selected working papers

- Crime Victimization and the Right-Wing Ceiling . *Submitted*. With Juan Angulo.
- The Politics of Crime Prevention: Evidence From Colombia. *Submitted*.
- The (In)visibility of Race in Colombia's Climate Disaster Assistance. *Working paper*. Pre-analysis Plan. With Isabella Alcañiz.
- Who should guide climate policy? Public opinion evidence from Latin America. *Submitted*. With Kathleen Cunningham and Flavia Batista.

Selected policy reports and analyses

- La guerra contra las drogas ya no convence. Op-ed in La Silla Vacía.
- ¿Cómo prevenir el delito? Estrategias efectivas de convivencia y seguridad ciudadana With Juan Franco, Mateo Prada, and Michael Weintraub. Published by Universidad de Los Andes.
- Los costos humanos de la erradicación forzada ¿es el glifosato la solución? Op-ed in La Silla Vacía and FIP with Juan Garzón and Ángela Silva.
- ¿Más coca, más homicidios? Mejor piénselo dos veces. Op-ed in La Silla Vacía with Juan Garzón.
- ¿Quiénes son las familias que viven en las zonas con cultivos de coca? Published by Ideas For Peace Foundation with Juan Garzón.
- ¿Está desbordado el consumo de droga en Colombia? Op-ed in La Silla Vacía with Alberto Sánchez.
- ¿En qué va la sustitución de cultivos ilícitos? Implementación, rezagos y tareas pendientes Published by Ideas For Peace Foundation with Juan Garzón. Cultivos ilícitos: el problema y las alternativas posibles Published by Nexos - Mexico with Juan Garzón.
- Is it wise to decapitate organised armed groups? The case of Colombia's Clan del Golfo. Published by LSE Latin America and Caribbean Blog with Michael Weintraub.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2025. Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award; Conley H. Dillon Award and Don C. Piper Award - University of Maryland
- 2024. Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship at UMD (\$ 5,000); Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award.

- 2023. Visiting guest researcher at the Department of Survey Data Curation at GESIS, Cologne. Lussier Summer Research Fellowship Award (\$ 5,000); Latin American Studies Center Research Grants; Comparative Politics field graduate student award; Summer Course Grant - IQRM.
- 2021-2022. Rapoport Family Foundation Summer Research Award (\$ 5,000); Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center Research Grants - University of Maryland (\$ 1,000); Dean's Fellowship - University of Maryland (\$ 15,000); Doctoral studies' scholarship - University of Maryland; Fundación para el Futuro de Colombia - Colfuturo.

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 (REDES DAL); Latin American Political Methodology (LaPolMeth); The Violence, Instability, and Peace (VIP) Workshop.
- 2024: The Latin American Peace Science Society; Lussier Workshop for Research on International Conflict; Latin American Studies Association (LASA); Pre-LASA conference in Crime, Conflict, and Security Institutions; Political Economy of Climate Change and the Environment; American Political Science Association (APSA); Future of Science Initiative - U. of Mannheim; The Violence, Instability, and Peace (VIP) Workshop; Peace Science Society (PSS)- International.
- 2022-2023: GESIS Workshop on Earth Observation Data in the Social Sciences; American Society of Criminology (ASC); American Political Science Association (APSA); Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict; Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research (SWMMR); Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina (REPAL); REPAL Pre-Conference Dissertation Workshop; Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research (IQMR); USAID International Forum "Planeación y gestión pública de la seguridad y convivencia ciudadana en Colombia"; Washington DC Political Economy Conference 2023; Judith Reppy Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on Peace and Conflict - Cornell University; Forum on Innovative Solutions to Strengthen Citizen Security and Access to Justice - UNDP; Comparative Politics Workshop at UMD; Network Models Workshop - American University; NYU-CESS Experimental Political Science conference.
- 2017-2019: American Society of Criminology (ASC); Latin American Studies Association (LASA); Sociedad de Criminología de América Latina (SOCLA); Seminario para la Política de Drogas de América Latina (SEPODRA).

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, L^AT_EX, Markdown, SPSS.

Extracurricular: Barista, Scuba Diver, and Triathlete

Last updated on October 15, 2025