

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.

Academic Positions

Georgetown University

Research Faculty (*Pre-doctoral Fellow*).
Department of Government, 2024- 2025

Inter-American Development Bank

Academic Consultant. Citizen Security Division, 2025

University of Maryland

Graduate researcher. Interdisciplinary Laboratory of
Computational Social Science (iLCSS), 2021- Current

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.

Teaching Experience

Instructor

- **University of Maryland**
Introduction to Environmental Politics, B.A in Political Science
- **National Police Graduate School, Colombia**
Public Policy, M.A in Public Security

Teaching Assistant (Main Instructor: Michael Weintraub)

- **Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia**
Solutions to the Problem of Crime (B.A and M.A)
Aproximaciones Experimentales a la Seguridad (B.A and M.A)
Introducción a Asuntos Públicos Globales (B.A)

Pre-doctoral Experience

- **National Planning Department, Colombia**
Team Coordinator and Policy Analyst, 2019 - 2021

- **Ideas For Peace Foundation, Colombia**
Researcher, 2018-2019
- **Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia**
Research Assistant, 2016-2018

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 (REDESDAL); 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 24, 2025