Statement of Work

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The project titled “Access and Influence? US U.S. and Chinese Military Presence and Popular Support in Host Countries” aims to study how states project power abroad to exert influence in the international system. The project seeks to make research contributions relating to how great power competition between the U.S. and China is redefining the concepts of basing and access, comparing military versus civilian methods of influence, and contrasting views of the U.S. and China abroad. The project will produce new theory on these topics and will test it using quantitative and qualitative methods, including survey experiments. As deliverables, the project will produce a series of peer-reviewed journal articles, general audience articles and blog posts, and publicly available survey data.

Dr. Martinez Machain, professor of Political Science at the University at Buffalo, will contribute to all aspects of the project. As an expert on U.S. foreign policy, specifically on great power competition in the realm of military basing agreements, Dr. Martinez Machain can provide insight on what makes a cooperative relationship be more likely to succeed or fail in the international system when there is more than one major power vying for influence. Dr. Martínez Machain’s research has been published in key Political Science journals and is frequently cited by those studying military basing agreements and foreign military training. Dr. Martinez Machain has experience with interviewing members of the military in her previous research and has an extensive network among military practitioners (as evidenced by the interviews referenced in her published work). In addition, Dr. Martinez Machain has done extensive research on the use of military deployments as a power projection tool. One of the aims of the project is to study how states use military deployments as a power projection tool. As one of the few international relations scholars who has studied military deployments from a quantitative perspective, Dr. Martinez Machain fills a clear niche within this research questions.

Dr. Martinez Machain will thus be working as a co-author on manuscripts related to these topics and engaging in theory building, writing, research design, and quantitative and qualitative analysis. She will also conduct fieldwork in Djibouti. The University at Buffalo provides Dr. Martinez Machain with office space, access to a graduate research assistant, and all software and computer equipment necessary to carry out the analysis.