

PROGRAM

13th Annual Meeting of AL CAPONE

(America Latina Crime and Policy Network)

Friday, May 10 - Saturday, May 11, 2024

The David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) at Harvard University and the America Latina Crime and Policy Network (AL CAPONE) –a network of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) present the 13th Annual Meeting of AL CAPONE.

The selection of papers has been carried out by a scientific committee composed by Rafael Di Tella (Harvard), Natalia Garbiras-Díaz (Harvard), Marcela Meléndez (World Bank), Joana Monteiro (FGV), Ernesto Schargrotsky (CAF and UTDT), Rodrigo Soares (INSPER), Maria Micaela Sviatschi (Princeton), Santiago Tobón (EAFIT), and Juan Vargas (U. Turin and AL CAPONE Network Director).



DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Friday, May 10 CGIS South - S020 Belfer Case Study Room	
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Arrival and Breakfast
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome and opening remarks – Sol Carbonell (DRCLAS Interim Executive Director, Harvard University) and Juan Vargas (AL CAPONE Director, U.Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto)
9:15 am - 10:45 am	Session 1: Mafia Chair: Ernesto Schargrodsky (CAF and UTDT)
9:15 am - 10:00 am	"The Institutional Role of the Italian Mafia: Enforcing Contracts When the State Does Not" Federica Braccioli (BSE and IAE-CSIC). Discussant: Ana Arjona (Northwestern University)
10:00 am - 10:45 am	"Once Upon a Time in America: the Mafia and the Unions" Marta Troya-Martinez (New Economic School and UAB). Discussant: Nicola Mastrorocco (U. Bologna)
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Coffee Break
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Session 2: Youth Crime Prevention Chair: Natalia Garbiras-Diaz (Harvard HBS)
11:00 am - 11:45 am	"Breaking the Gang: A Preventive Approach to Reduce Recruitment in Schools" Felipe Coy (Princeton University). Discussant: Santiago Tobón (U. EAFIT)
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	"After-school activities and crime: evidence from London’s youth clubs" Carmen Villa (Warwick and IFS). Discussant: Santiago Perez-Vincent (Inter-American Development Bank)
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Policy Panel – “Crime Reduction Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean” Marcela Melendez (World Bank), Juanita Goebertus (Human Rights Watch), Pablo Javkin (mayor of Rosario) , Claudia López (former mayor of Bogota). Moderator: Yanilda González (Harvard Kennedy School)
2:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Break
2:40 pm - 4:10 pm	Session 3: Economic Shocks and Crime Chair: Santiago Tobón (U. EAFIT)
2:40 pm - 3:25 pm	"Small Children, Big problems? Childbirth and Crime" Diogo Britto (Milan Bicocca-CLEAN). Discussant: Ernesto Schargrodsky (CAF and UTDT)

3:25 pm - 4:10 pm	"The Hidden Side of Progress: Innovation, Job Loss, and Violence" Thiago Lobo (EESP-FGV). Discussant: Andrés Zambrano (World Bank)
4:10 pm - 4:30 pm	Coffee Break (Feat. Arnold Ventures – Research on Criminal Justice and Funding Opportunities)
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Keynote Lecture – “‘Something Works’ in U.S. Jails: Misconduct and Recidivism Effects of the IGNITE Program” Crystal Yang (Harvard Law School). Chair: Juan Vargas (U.Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto)
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Conference Dinner (by invitation only) <i>sponsored by Arnold Ventures- arnoldventures.org</i>
Saturday, May 11 CGIS South - S020 Belfer Case Study Room	
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Breakfast
9:45 am - 11:15 am	Session 4: Drugs Chair: Joana Monteiro (FGV/EBAPE)
9:45 am - 10:30 am	"Throwing Gasoline on cocaine production: The Effect of a Supply Shock on Violence" Monica Beeder (Norwegian School of Economics). Discussant: Daniel Mejía (U. Andes)
10:30 am - 11:15 am	"Landing on Water: Air Interdiction, Drug-Trafficking Displacement, and Violence in the Brazilian Amazon" Leila Pereira (INSPER). Michael Weintraub (U. Andes)
11:15 am - 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Session 5: Police Behavior Chair: Daniel Ortega (CAF)
11:30 am - 12:15 pm	"Motorized and More Motivated? Militarized Patrols and Crime in Ceara, Brazil" Joana Monteiro (FGV/EBAPE). Discussant: Diogo Britto (Milan Bicocca-CLEAN)
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	"Strategic Bureaucratic Opacity: Evidence from Death Investigation Laws and Police Killings" Stephen Kastoryano (U. Reading). Discussant: Natalia Garbiras-Diaz (Harvard HBS)
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Session 6: Criminal Justice in LAC Chair: Michael Weintraub (U. Andes)
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	"Do rehabilitative prison policies work? Evidence from El Salvador" Matthew Pecenco (Brown University). Discussant: Joana Monteiro (FGV/EBAPE)
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	"On the Tension Between Due Process Protection and Public Safety: The Case of an Extensive Procedural Reform in Colombia" Daniel Mejía (U.Andes). Discussant: Juan Vargas (U. Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto)
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Coffee Break
3:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Session 7: Miscellaneous Chair: Rafael Di Tella (Harvard Business School)
3:45 pm - 4:30 pm	"When fear governs: The impacts of homicidal violence on support for hardline security policies" Santiago Tobón (EAFIT). Discussant: Daniel Ortega (CAF)
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm	"How do you say Plata o Plomo around the world? Bribes, violence, and elections in different countries" Giovanna Marcolongo (Bocconi-CLEAN). Discussant: Rafael Di Tella (Harvard HBS)
5:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Closing Remarks Rafael Di Tella (Harvard HBS) and Ernesto Schargrodsky (CAF and UTDT)

Speaker Biographies

Ana Arjona

Ana Arjona is an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department at Northwestern University. She is also the co-editor of Perspectives on Politics and the Founding Director of REDESAL (Network of Studies on Drugs in Latin America). Her research studies the dynamics and consequences of governance, institutions, and civilian behavior in contexts of organized violence.

Monica Beeder

Monica Beeder is a fourth-year economics Ph.D. Research Scholar at the Department of Economics at the Norwegian School of Economics and affiliated with FAIR, Chr. Michelsen Institute and Development Learning Lab. In January 2025, she will working as a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Southampton. During the fall of 2024, she plans to be a Postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the research group Behavioral Economics of Crime and Conflict in Freiburg, Germany. Her main research interests are development economics, conflict economics, and economics of crime. She is working on cocaine production and violence in Colombia. She also working on ethnic identity and discrimination in Ethiopia. Thirdly, she is working on military drones and radicalization in an African context. She holds an MA in Economics from the University of Bergen, where the focus was on economic shocks and drug-related violence in Colombia.

Federica Braccioli

Federica Braccioli is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Economic Analysis (IAE-CSIC) and an Affiliated Professor at the Barcelona School of Economics (BSE), Spain. She received her Ph.D. from the Institute of Economics and Econometrics at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, in September 2023. Her research on Political Economy focuses on contract enforcement institutions, organized crime, and its persistence. Her work on Labour Economics concentrates on the effect of choosing a college major on labour market outcomes.

Diogo Britto

Diogo Britto is Assistant Professor (Rtd-B) of Economics at the University of Milan-Bicocca and UniCredit Foundation Marco Fanno Fellow. He is also a research fellow at CLEAN - Baffi-Carefin Centre (Bocconi University), and research affiliate at CEPR, GAPPE/UFPE and IZA. He is an applied economist with interests in gender, development and political economy.

Felipe Coy

Felipe Coy is a predoctoral fellow in the Research Program in Development Economics (RPDE) at Princeton University, and he will be joining Berkeley as an economics Ph.D. student next fall. He holds a M.A. in Economics from Universidad del Rosario and a B.A. in Economics from Universidad Industrial de Santander. Felipe's ongoing research centers on understanding the impacts of violence on electoral behavior and human capital, as well as studying strategies to prevent juvenile criminality. Broadly, his academic interests encompass development economics, particularly its intersections with crime, political economy, and economic history.

Rafael M. Di Tella

Rafael M. Di Tella received his first degree in Economics in 1990 from the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina and a D.Phil in Economics from Oxford University in 1996. After a short stay in Argentina, he joined Harvard Business School in July 1997, where he taught Business History and courses on the business environment in the first-year required curriculum, as well as an elective course on Institutions and Macroeconomics in the second year. I work on political economy, with a focus on institutional development. One strand of work studies measures of happiness and how they can inform government policies on issues that range from the incidence of inequality to the inflation-unemployment tradeoff. Another part of his research has concerned itself with the causes of illegal behavior, with applications to corruption and crime. Two recent examples include a paper on media bias and government transfers, and another trying to figure out if offenders released from electronic monitoring have lower recidivism rates than those released from prison. Finally, an increasingly important area of research for him has focused on the role of beliefs in economic organization, including reversals of pro-market reform and, more generally, why doesn't capitalism flow to poor countries. Rafael's work has been published mainly in academic journals.

Natalia Garbiras Díaz

Natalia Garbiras Díaz is an Assistant Professor at the Harvard Business School. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science in 2021 from the University of California, Berkeley, where she is currently a Research Associate at the Center on the Politics of Development. Her primary research interests are in comparative politics and the political economy of development, with a focus on civil conflict and post-conflict peace, elections, and accountability in Latin America.

Speaker Biographies

Juanita Goebertus Estrada

Between 2018 and 2022, Juanita Goebertus Estrada was a Congresswoman in Colombia, dedicating her term to the implementation of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Previously, she was head of the transitional justice group at the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace during the Havana Peace Talks, advisor to the National Security Advisor of Colombia, advisor to the Undersecretary of Defense of Colombia, and deputy director of the Institute for Integrated Transitions. Juanita holds BAs in Law and Political Science from the Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) and an LLM from Harvard Law School.

Pablo Javkin

Pablo Javkin (Rosario, November 19, 1971) is a Law graduate and university professor of Public International Law at the National University of Rosario. He attended specialization programs at foreign universities such as Harvard, Stanford and Columbia University. He has a thorough political career in which he has held different government positions at the executive and legislative levels. He was president of the Argentine University Federation, Councilor of Rosario (2001-2005), Provincial Deputy of Santa Fe (2007-2011), National Deputy for Santa Fe (2013-2015) and again Councilor of Rosario in (2017-2019). At the executive level, he served as Secretary General of the Municipality of Rosario (2015-2017) and was elected as Mayor in 2019. In 2023, he was reelected as Mayor for the period 2023-2027.

Claudia López Hernández

Claudia López Hernández is former Senator of Colombia (2010-2014) and Mayor of Bogotá Colombia (2020-2023). She became the city's first female and the first lesbian Mayor in Bogotá's history. She has an emphatic focus on environmental, equity, gender, and anticorruption agendas. Mayor Lopez holds a bachelor's degree in finance and international affairs from Universidad Externado de Colombia, holds a master's degree in public administration and urban policy from SIPA-Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University. Currently, she is an Advanced Leadership Fellow at Harvard University.

Giovanna Marcolongo

Giovanna Marcolongo is a postdoctoral fellow at the CLEAN unit (Crime and Law Economic Analysis) Bocconi University. Her research lies at the intersection of political economy and the economics of crime. Her work investigates the participation of organized crime in the legal economy and the use of tax havens as facilitators of corruption.

Nicola Mastroianni

Nicola Mastroianni is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Bologna. His research interests center on political economy and applied microeconomics.

Daniel Mejía

Daniel Mejía is Full Professor at the Department of Economics at Universidad de los Andes. He was the Director of Policy and Strategy of the General Attorney's Office in Colombia between July 2018 and June 2019, and Secretary of Security of Bogotá, Colombia, between 2016 and May 2018, where he was in charge of leading security and justice policies in the city of Bogotá. Daniel received a BA and MA in Economics from Universidad de los Andes and a MA and PhD in economics from Brown University. In March 2015 Daniel was awarded the Juan Luis Londoño prize, awarded every other year to the best Colombian economist under 40 for his research agenda on drugs and drug policy in Colombia.

Steve Mithen

Stephen is an Assistant Professor at the University of Reading. His research focuses mainly on empirical microeconomic topics, in particular in crime and health economics. He also works on methodological frameworks aiming to uncover causal patterns of behaviour.

Joana Monteiro

Joana holds a PhD in economics and is professor of public policy at FGV/EBAPE. Her research aims to understand how to improve police practice and to develop strategies to reduce the influence of criminal groups in Latin America. She worked as the head of research at the Rio de Janeiro State's Attorney Office (2019-2021) and as head of the Institute of Public Security (ISP) (2015-2018).

Daniel E. Ortega

Daniel E. Ortega is Director of Development Contributions and Impact Evaluation at CAF – Development Bank of Latin America – and associate professor at IESA Business School. He has been on the board of the Campbell Collaboration since 2017. His research has been in microeconomics of development, with a focus on social experimentation and impact evaluation of public policies in Latin America, such as police training programs, hotspots police patrol, tax compliance and education. He has an interest in the use of impact evaluation as a tool for public management, and on evidence informed decision making in general. He is one of the founders of the America Latina Crime and Policy Network. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland.

Speaker Biographies

Matthew Pecenco

Matthew Pecenco is the Orlando Bravo Assistant Professor of Economics at Brown University. Much of his research explores the effects of the criminal justice system on labor markets and well-being in the United States and Latin America. Additionally, he investigates other topics in labor economics including entrepreneurship and school choice. Matthew earned his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Thiago Pereira Lôbo

Thiago Pereira Lôbo holds a PhD in Economics from Sao Paulo School of Economics (EESP-FGV) where I teach undergraduates. His research focuses on the intersection of Environmental, Agricultural, and Development Economics. He's currently fascinated by the impacts of technology on social and environmental outcomes. Passionate about technology, Thiago developed an app that provides detailed insights into forest dynamics and land use at the farm level, reflecting my commitment to sustainability and innovation.

Leila A. R. Pereira

Leila Pereira is a postdoctoral researcher at Insper – Instituto de Ensino e Pesquisa (Cátedra Fundação Lemann), where she also earned her Ph.D. in economics. Her research is in the fields of Development Economics, Economics of Crime, Environmental Economics, and Political Economy. Previously, she worked as a researcher at Climate Policy Initiative/Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (CPI/PUC-Rio). Before entering the Ph.D., she worked as an economic analyst at LCA Consultores – one of Brazil's leading economics consultancy firms – advising major players from different markets.

Santiago M. Perez-Vincent

Santiago M. Perez-Vincent is a researcher at the Innovation in Citizen Services Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). His main research areas of interest are Political Economy, Crime and Public Policy. His current research focuses on understanding how institutions shape the behavior of political actors, and on improving the evaluation and implementation of public policies in the areas of citizen security and criminal justice. He obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from Bocconi University in 2019.

Ernesto Schargrodsky

Ernesto Schargrodsky received his Ph. D. in Economics from Harvard University. He is the Director of Socioeconomic Research at CAF – Development Bank of Latin American and the Caribbean, and Professor at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella. He is fellow of the Econometric Society, member of the National Academy of Economic Sciences of Argentina, researcher of CONICET, and research affiliate of J-PAL. His work has been published at the American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, and American Economic Review: Insights, inter alia.

Santiago Tobón

Santiago Tobón is a Professor of Economics at Universidad EAFIT in Medellín, Colombia. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy in 2022 and a Visiting Scholar at the Interamerican Development Bank in the fall of 2023. He is also affiliated with Innovations for Poverty Action—IPA, Evidence in Governance and Politics—EGAP (where I am also Co-Chair at the Crime Reduction and Police Accountability Priority Theme), J-PAL's Crime and Violence Initiative (as an invited researcher) and Households in Conflict Network—HiCN. He is a developing economist with a special interest in crime, violence, organized crime, and public policy. He uses experimental and quasi-experimental methods.

Marta Troya-Martinez

Marta Troya-Martinez is an Associate Professor at New Economic School and a Research Affiliate at CEPR. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Oxford. She is visiting UAB in Barcelona in 2023-2024. Her research focuses on understanding how informal incentives work and which economic consequences they have. Marta is particularly interested in the provision of incentives in the presence of illegal activities. To shed light on these issues, I use both theoretical and empirical methods.

Juan Vargas

Juan Vargas is Carlo Alberto Chair at the Collegio Carlo Alberto and Professor of Economics at the University of Turin. He is also the network director of the America Latina Crime and Policy Network (AL CAPONE) of the Latin America and the Caribbean Economics Association (LACEA), and a board member of Evidence in Governance and Policy (EGAP). He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of London (2007) and has held visiting academic positions at NYU, Harvard, and UCLA. His main interests lie in the areas of political economy and development, focusing particularly on the causes and consequences of violent armed conflict, the economics of crime and the interplay between political and economic, formal and informal institutions in the process of state-building. In 2018, Juan obtained the biennial "Juan Luis Londoño Prize", awarded to the best Colombian economist under 40.

Speaker Biographies

Carmen Villa

Carmen Villa is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Warwick, and a PhD researcher at the Institute for Fiscal Studies. She is interested in urban economics and law and economics. Her work explores the effect of public policies on youth development, and on crime. From January to July 2023 she visited the University of Chicago as a Fulbright scholar. Alongside her academic work, she is an occasional collaborator at the London Metropolitan Police.

Michael Weintraub

Michael Weintraub is an Associate Professor of Government at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, where he also directs the Security and Violence Area at the Center for the Study of Security and Drugs (CESED) within the Department of Economics. His research focuses on crime and political violence in Latin America, with a methodological focus on randomized experiments. Weintraub's work has been published or is forthcoming in the American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, among other journals. Weintraub received his Ph.D. in Government at Georgetown University.

Andres Zambrano

Andres Zambrano is a Senior Economist at the Office of the Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank. Before, he was an Associate Professor of the Department of Economics at Universidad de los Andes, a Senior Advisor of the Technical Committee of the Colombian Fiscal Rule, and a Visiting Associate Professor at Hong Kong University. His research interests are in the fields of Economic Development and Public Finance. He holds a Ph.D and M.A. in Economics from UCLA; and an M.A. and B.A. in Economics from Universidad del Rosario.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, whose generous support made this event possible:

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