Political and Criminal Violence in Latin America

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Research Agenda

• Dynamics of political and criminal violence
• Focus on Latin America
• Quantitative methodologies
  • Computational Social Science
  • Randomized Controlled Trials
  • Survey Experiments
• Difficult to measure actors or behaviors
• Security and democratic governance
Organized Criminal Groups in Mexico

- NSF funding
- Track the presence and behavior of organized criminal groups in Mexico
- Computerized text analysis of newspapers
- Dynamic GIS interface
Migration from Central America

- DOD funding
- Alex Braithwaite (SGPP) + 2 postdocs
- Analyze structural determinants of migration
  - Security
  - Political
  - Economic
  - Environmental
- Disaggregated data
  - El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico
  - US entry points
School Violence Prevention in El Salvador

- Ministry of Education of El Salvador
- RCT

Effect of School Violence Prevention program on:
  - COVID-related issues
  - Security
    - Verbal and physical violence
    - Gang recruitment and protection
    - Weapons and drugs
  - Mental health
  - Coping mechanisms
  - Academic achievement

![Graph showing percentages of responses to the question, "Did someone hit you or attack you?" with categories of No, Yes, and No Response with respective percentages of 81.8%, 6.9%, and 11.3%.]
Violent Presence of Armed Actors in Colombia

- DOD funding
- Presence and behavior of armed actors
  - Government forces
  - Insurgents
  - Paramilitaries
  - Criminal groups
- Computerized text analysis
- Dynamic GIS interface
Armed Governance in Colombia

- DOD funding + NSF for Mexico
- Violent and Non-violent behavior
  - Violence
  - Economic extraction
  - Social and political control
  - Security and justice
  - Public goods
- Online expert survey
  - Hundreds of experts
Thank you!

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