

# Collective Reincorporation of Ex-Combatants and Post-Conflict Stability

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Susan Brewer-Osorio

Assistant Professor, Center for Latin American Studies

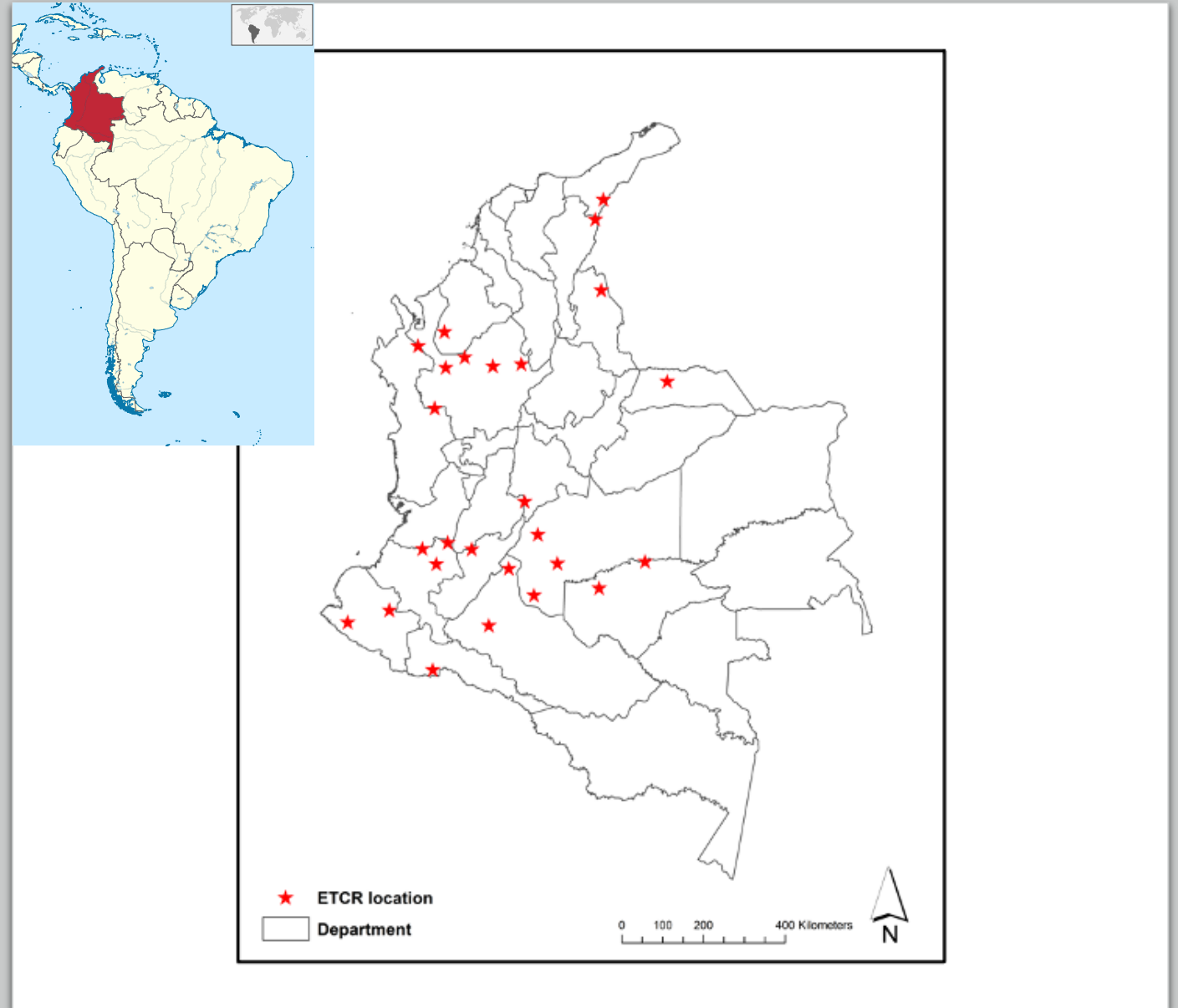
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# Context

- **Geographic location:**  
Colombia, South America; 24 Reincorporation sites.
- **Academic disciplines:**
  - Political Science
  - Peace Studies
  - Reintegration



# Research Questions

- **What is the impact of ex-combatant unity on post-conflict stability?**
- The conventional wisdom considers that united ex-combatants constitute a threat to peace resilience. This perspective informs UN reintegration standards.
- However, case studies suggest ex-combatant unity *can* strengthen commitment to peace, in some contexts.
- The factors that condition how ex-combatant unity impacts stability are poorly understood.
- This research takes advantage of Colombia's experimental collective reincorporation for ex-combatants to analyze the relationship between ex-combatant unity and post-conflict stability.



# Methods

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- **Variables and Measures**
  - **Ex-combatant Unity:** former fighters maintain socioeconomic ties after a disarmament (or not); presence/absence of ex-combatant collective tied to territory.
  - **Post-Conflict Stability:** peace resilience; presence/absence of armed dissidents (recidivism).
- **Qualitative Analysis based on intensive field work.**
- **Subnational Comparisons**
  - regional Variation: Southwest, South/Amazon, Caribbean.
- **Data Collection**
  - 72 semi-structured interviews + 50 online surveys
  - observation
  - data and reports

# Anticipated Findings

- **Ex-combatant unity supports post-conflict stability in the absence of opportunities to make war (military capacity; resources).**
  - Group identity based on peace.
  - Supports reconciliation.
  - Attracts state and international investment in local development.
- **Ex-combatant unity contributes to recidivism and resurging violence in the presence of opportunities to make war.**
  - Rearmament; dissident groups.
  - Displacement; security threats against ex-combatants.

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