

OSCAR CONTRERAS VELASCO

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Five years of research experience collaborating with top academics in the U.S. and Mexico.
- Demonstrated research skills as well as the ability to build relationships with key actors to foster organizational goals.
- Five years of experience as an undergraduate lecturer, teaching fellow, and research associate.
- Proficient in Python, R, QGIS, Tableau, and Microsoft Excel.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) in Sociology Expected April 2024
University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Los Angeles
Dissertation: “*The Hazards of Brokerage in Social Networks*”.

M.A. in Sociology 2019
University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Los Angeles

M.A. in Social Anthropology 2014
Universidad Iberoamericana (UIA) Mexico City
Thesis: “*Tijuana’s Municipal Police: an Anthropological Perspective*”.

B.A. in International Relations 2011
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) Mexico City
Thesis: “*The Evolution of Drug Trafficking in Mexico*”.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: native speaker.

English: fluent spoken and written.

Portuguese: proficient spoken and written.

French: intermediate spoken and written.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Los Angeles
Teaching Fellow 2018- present

- Classes taught: Social Networks, Economic Sociology, Sociology of Crime, Sociology of Violence, and Sociology of Deviance.

- University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)** Los Angeles
Research Associate 2018- 2019
- Quantitative and GIS analysis on companies that hire Mexican migrants in the U.S.
- Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC)** Tijuana, Mexico
Lecturer 2014-2016
- Justice in Mexico’s Justiciabarometro** Tijuana, Mexico
Project Assistant 2015
- Collaborated in a survey and focus groups to gauge the professional development and attitudes of actors operating in the justice system sector
 - Produced a report with policy recommendations
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Programa para la Convivencia Ciudadana (PCC)** Tijuana, Mexico
Crime Prevention and Public Safety Consultant 2013-2014
- Produced quantitative assessments about crime and violence in Tijuana, Mexico, and developed viable solutions to be implemented.
 - Coordinated the Municipal Committee on Crime Prevention (CMPV).
 - Fostered political consensus to achieve goals on crime prevention.
- Universidad Iberoamericana** Mexico City
Research assistant 2011-2013
- Reviewed and analyzed qualitative data on violence and public security in Mexico for a research project on crime prevention.
- Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) and the Institute for Security and Democracy (INSYDE)** Mexico City
Public Safety and Police Professionalization Consultant 2012
- Produced, reviewed, and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data on municipal police institutions in different Mexican cities
 - Coordinated focus groups on crime prevention.
 - Evaluated programs and projects regarding police professionalization in Mexico.
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** Mexico City
Consultant 2008-2010
- Evaluated government programs on youth in Mexico
 - Coordinated young leaders at the World Youth Conference (WYC) 2010 to pursue public policies regarding youth in Mexico.
 - Effectively negotiated programs and budgets with local and federal governments and with different United Nations agencies.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Contreras Velasco, Oscar. “*Unintended Consequences of State Action: How the Kingpin Strategy Transformed the Structure of Violence in Mexico’s Organized Crime*”. Trends in

Organized Crime. (*Forthcoming*)

Contreras Velasco, Oscar, *Police institution, violence and the culture of terror in Tijuana*". *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*. 2017. Num. 04. October-December. (in Spanish).

Contreras Velasco, Oscar. *To Live in the Margins of the State: a Study on the Mexico-United States Border*. *Región y Sociedad*. 2016; 65: 235-260. (in Spanish).

WORKING PAPERS AND COLLABORATIONS

Contreras Velasco, Oscar. The Hazards of Brokerage in Social Networks.
Target Journal: Social Networks.

Hernandez Leon, Ruben & Contreras Velasco, Oscar. "The Geography of the H-2 Visa Program: Continuity and Change". Target Journal: Social Forces.

Atuesta, Laura & Contreras Velasco, Oscar. "Understanding the Network of Conflicts and in Mexico's Organized Crime". Target Journal: Global Crime.

Contreras Velasco, et al., "Predicting the Structure of Alliances in Mexico's Organized Crime".

Contreras Velasco, Oscar. "Forecasting crime in Mexico with neural networks".
Target Journal: Current Sociology.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award	2022
CONACYT - UCMEXUS Fellowship	2017-2021
Summer Mentored Research Fellowship	2021
Latin American Institute- Tinker Field Research Grant.	2020
Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award	2020
Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award	2019
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship	2019
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship	2018
Latin American Institute- Tinker Field Research Grant	2018
Fulbright Fellowship	2017