

Laura Blume

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Academic Appointments

University of Nevada - Reno, Department of Political Science, Reno, NV
Assistant Professor, 2020 – Present

Education

Boston University, Boston, MA

Ph.D./ M.A. in Political Science, May 2020

Comprehensive Exams: Comparative Politics, American Politics

Dissertation Title: “Thinking Like a Kingpin: An Ethnography of Narco-Violence in Central America.”

Simmons College, Boston, MA

B.A. in Political Science, *cum laude* with departmental honors, May 2013

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Blume, Laura Ross. 2021. “Narco Robin Hoods: Community Support for Illicit Economies and Violence in Rural Central America.” *World Development* 143: 105464.

Blume, Laura Ross. 2017. “The Old Rules No Longer Apply: Explaining Narco-Assassinations of Mexican Politicians.” *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 9(1): 59–90.

Works in Progress

“Seeing Like a Smuggler: An Ethnography of Drug Trafficking & Violence in Central America.” *Book project*.

“Collusion, Cooptation, or Evasion: The Politics of Drug Trafficking Violence in Central America.” *Comparative Political Studies*. R&R.

“Pathways of Influence and Prospects for Governance: Criminal Networks and Territorial Rights on the Miskitu Coast.” Co-authored paper with Dr. Laura Sauls (University of Sheffield) and Christopher Ciego Knight (University of Nevada – Reno).

“Varieties of Criminal Governance Along the Drug Trade.” Co-authored paper with Dr. Juan Albarracín (Universidad Icesi) and Dr. Nicholas Barnes (St. Andrews University).

“Illicit Territories? The role of narco-trafficking in emerging governance regimes on the Miskitu Coast” Co-authored paper with Dr. Laura Sauls (University of Sheffield).

“Titling Lands and Trafficking Cocaine: An analysis of territorial governance on narco-state relations” Co-authored paper with Dr. Laura Sauls (University of Sheffield).

“A Silver Lining for Experiential Learning? Internship Quality & Access During the Covid-19 Pandemic.” Co-authored paper with Jordyn Green (University of Nevada, Reno) and Sarah Sklar (Boston University).

Other Publications

Blume, Laura. 2018. "A Tale of Two Dictatorships/ Un Cuento de Dos Dictaduras." *NACLA*.

Blume, Laura. 2018. "The Powder Keg of Nicaraguan Politics." *Intercontinental Cry*.

Blume, Laura. 2016. "¡Basta Ya! The United States is Overdue for a New Policy Approach in Honduras." *International Affairs Review*.

Blume, Laura. 2015. "Chasing El Chapo." *International Affairs Review*.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Department of Political Science, University of Nevada - Reno, 2020 - Present

Political Systems of Latin America (PSC407E)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (PSC211)
Problems in World Politics (PSC405F)
Public Service Internship (PSC490F)
Congressional Internship (PSC490G)
International Affairs Internship (IAFF 350)

Instructor, Department of Political Science, Boston University, 2016 - 2020

The Politics of the Drug War (PO300)
Introduction to American Politics (PO111)

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of Political Science, Boston University, 2014 - 2019

Introduction to American Politics (PO111)
Introduction to Public Policy (PO141)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (PO151)

Grading Assistant, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, 2016

Drugs and Security in the Americas (IR 290/HI 331)

Research Experience

Research Fellow for Dr. John Gerring, Boston University, Department of Political Science, Spring 2016

Research Assistant for Dr. Maxwell Palmer, Boston University, Department of Political Science, Fall 2015

Research Assistant for Dr. Ben Cole, Simmons College, Department of Political Science, 2012 – 2013

Research Intern, Amnesty International, Northeast Regional Office, Summer 2011

Conference Presentations

Western Political Science Association, April 2021, *Virtual*

American Political Science Association, September 2020, *Virtual*

Northeastern Political Science Association, November 2019, Philadelphia, PA

American Political Science Association, August 2019, Washington DC

Latin American Studies Association, May 2019, Boston, MA

Western Political Science Association, April 2019, San Diego, CA

Midwest Political Science Association, April 2019, Chicago, IL

American Political Science Association, September 2018, Boston, MA

Latin American Studies Association, May 2018, Barcelona, Spain

American Political Science Association, September 2017, San Francisco, CA

Southwest Council of Latin American Studies, March 2017, Campeche, Mexico
Northeastern Political Science Association, November 2016, Boston, MA
Midwest Political Science Association, April 2016, Chicago, IL
New England Council of Latin American Studies, November 2015, Medford, MA
Western Political Science Association, April 2015, Las Vegas, NV
New England Council of Latin American Studies, November 2014, Storrs, CT
Midwest Political Science Association, April 2014, Chicago, IL [co-presented with Ben Cole, PhD]
International Consortium for Social Development, July 2013, Kampala, Uganda

Invited Talks

“Criminality and Conflict,” November 2020, Workshop at Peace Science Society, University of Michigan
(*virtual*)

“Violence, Organizations and Political Psychology in Latin America,” November 2018, Symposium hosted by the Stanford University Center for Latin American Studies, Palo Alto, CA

“Violence against Politicians: Theories, Data, and Implications,” October 2018, Exploratory Seminar at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG) Student Travel Award, 2020

Summer Research Fellowship, Boston University, 2017, 2019

Senior Teaching Fellowship, Boston University, 2018

Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (Short-term), Boston University, 2018

Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, Department of Political Science, Boston University, 2017

Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (Long-term), Boston University, 2017

Latin American Studies Research Travel Grant, Boston University, 2015, 2016

Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Boston University, 2014 – 2018

Dean’s Fellowship, Boston University, 2013 – 2014

Carroll F. Miles Award, Simmons College, 2013

University Service

Diversity Committee, Political Science Department, University of Nevada Reno, September 2020 – Present

Graduate Student Organizer, Research in Comparative Politics Workshop, Boston University, Fall 2019

Workshop Leader at BUnited Student Diversity Conference, Boston University, February 2019

Service to the Profession

Referee: *Comparative Political Studies*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Latin American Research Review*

Co-organizer of the mini-conference on “The Politics of Illicit Economies, Organized Crime, and Extra-Legal Actors” at the American Political Science Association, September 2021

Co-organizer of the roundtable on “Complex Interactions among Global Illicit Supply Chains” at the Latin American Studies Association, May 2021

Volunteer Work

Website Design, Alternativas y Oportunidades, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 2016

President of Amnesty International at Simmons College, Boston, MA, 2010-2013

English Tutor, Brazilian Women’s Center, Allston, MA, 2011

Skills & Miscellaneous

Languages: English (native), Spanish (proficient), Miskitu (beginner)

Certifications: Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), Boston Language Institute, 2010

Training: “Leading Engaging Class Discussions Workshop,” Boston University, Center for Teaching and Learning, 2019

Computing: R, STATA, Excel, LaTeX

Updated: April 2021