

Laura R. Blume

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Academic Appointments

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

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Boston University, Boston, MA | May 2020
Dissertation title: “Thinking Like a Kingpin: An Ethnography of Narco-Violence in Central America.”

B.A. in Political Science, cum laude, Simmons College, Boston, MA | May 2013

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Blume, L. (2022). Collusion, Cooptation, or Evasion: The Politics of Drug Trafficking Violence in Central America. *Comparative Political Studies*.

Blume, L. R., Sauls, L. A., & Knight, C. A. (2022). Tracing Territorial-Illicit Relations: Pathways of Influence and Prospects for Governance. *Political Geography*, 97, 102690.

Blume, L. (2021). Narco Robin Hoods: Community Support for Illicit Economies and Violence in Rural Central America. *World Development* 143: 105464.

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

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Harry Frank Guggenheim Distinguished Scholar Award, 2022

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

Original Datasets

Violence Against Public Figures (VAPF) Dataset, <https://www.vapfproject.com/>

Additional Publications

Blume, L., Meza, D., & Heath, P. (2023, January 31). "Honduran Women Leaders in the Crosshairs." *NACLA Report on the Americas*.

Blume, L. & Sauls, L. (2022). "Combating Narcos or Criminalizing Indigeneity?" *NACLA Report on the Americas*.

Blume, L. (2018). "A Tale of Two Dictatorships." *NACLA Report on the Americas*.

Blume, L. (2018). "The Powder Keg of Nicaraguan Politics." *Intercontinental Cry*.

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

Blume, L. (2015). "Chasing El Chapo." *International Affairs Review*.

Works in Progress

"The Art of Trafficking: Politics, Narco-Strategies, and Violence in Central America." Book Project.

"Cataloguing Murder: Tracking Violence Against Public Figures in Central America." Co-authored paper and data gathering project with Diana Meza (University of Nevada – Reno), Lauren Harvey (Rice University), and Piper Heath (University of Nevada – Reno).

"Titling Lands and Trafficking Cocaine: An Analysis of Territorial Governance on Narco-State Relations" Co-authored paper with Laura Sauls (George Mason University).

"Varieties of Criminal Governance Along the Drug Trade." Co-authored paper with Juan Albarracín (University of Illinois, Chicago) and Nicholas Barnes (St. Andrews University).

Book Reviews

Blume, L. (2023). Review of *Drugs Wars and Covert Netherworlds: The Transformation of Mexico's Narco Cartels*, by James H. Creechan. Forthcoming in the *Journal of Latin American Geography*.

Teaching Experience

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

Political Violence (PSC407Q/607Q)

Problems in World Politics: Border Politics (PSC405F/605F)

Special Topics in Public Policy and Public Administration: The U.S. War on Drugs (PSC403Z)

Political Systems of Latin America (PSC407E)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (PSC211)

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)

Conference Presentations

Illicit Economics and Extra-Legal Actors Conference, October 2022, San Diego, CA
Latin American Studies Association, May 2022, *Virtual*
American Political Science Association, September 2021, Seattle, WA
Latin American Studies Association, May 2021, *Virtual*
Red de Estudios Sobre Drogas en América Latina, May 2021, *Virtual*
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
International Consortium for Social Development, July 2013, Kampala, Uganda

Invited Talks & Guest Lectures

“The Politics of Drug-Trafficking Violence in Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica,” Programa de Política de Drogas, CIDE (Mexico), y la Revista Nexos, October 2022, *Virtual*
“Comparative Ethnography & Fieldwork,” Guest Lecture, Boston University, October 2022, *Virtual*
“The Art of Trafficking,” Boston University Center for Latin American Studies, May 2022, Boston, MA
“Illicit Economies and Violence in Central America,” Guest Lecture, Barnard College/Columbia University, November 2021, *Virtual*
“Drug Trafficking & Immigration,” Guest Lecture, Boston University, April 2021, *Virtual*
“Confronting Legacies of Policing and Violence,” Thought on Tap Series, University of Nevada Reno, December 2020, *Virtual*
“Criminality and Conflict,” Workshop at the Peace Science Society, November 2020, *Virtual*

“Field Research and Ethnography,” Guest Lecture, Boston University, October 2020, *Virtual*

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

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

Service to the Profession

Reviewer: American Political Science Review; Comparative Political Studies; Latin American Politics and Society; Latin American Research Review; Journal of Illicit Economies and Development; Information, Communication and Society; Social Inclusion; Politics & Gender; Journal of Latin American Geography; International Journal of Drug Policy

Co-organizer of the Illicit Economies and Extra-Legal Actors Conference, hosted by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation and the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California San Diego, 2022

Giovanni Sartori Book Award Committee, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section, American Political Science Association, 2022

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

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

University Service

Pack Research Experience Program (PREP) Mentor, University of Nevada Reno, Spring 2022

Bilinski Fellowship Committee, University of Nevada Reno, 2021

Webinar Organizer and Panel Chair, “Criminal Governance in the COVID-19 Era”, Second Tuesdays with Political Science, University of Nevada Reno, February 2021

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

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

Workshop Leader at BU United Student Diversity Conference, Boston University, 2019

Methorship & Advising

Piper Heath, “Violence Against Public Figures Project,” funded through a Nevada Undergraduate Research Award (NURA), Faculty Mentor, Summer and Fall 2022, Spring and Summer 2023

Amanda Vaskov, “Violence Against Public Figures Project,” Faculty Mentor, Spring 2023

Raymond Wu, Undergraduate Thesis for the Honors College, Chair/Main Thesis Advisor, Spring 2023

Katie Sanchez-Cordova, “Violence Against Public Figures Project,” Faculty Mentor, Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Brandon Villalpando, “Violence Against Public Figures Project,” Faculty Mentor, Fall 2022

Christopher Knight, “The Impact of Land Tenure on Food Security of Indigenous Communities,” MA Thesis, Committee Member, 2022

Jose Ardila, “The Role of Philosophy in Science,” Doctoral Dissertation, Department of Psychology – Behavior Analysis Program, Dissertation Committee Member, 2022 – ongoing

Stephanie Yanes, “Violence Against Public Figures Project,” Pack Research Experience Program, Faculty Mentor, Spring 2022

Lauren Harvey, “Violence Against Public Figures Project,” funded in part through the Harry Frank Guggenheim Distinguished Scholar Award, Spring 2021 – Summer 2022

Diana Meza, “Violence Against Public Figures Project,” funded in part through the Harry Frank Guggenheim Distinguished Scholar Award, Spring 2021 – Ongoing

Cassandra White, “Maquiladoras: Empowering or Deterring Women's Economic Rights?”, Undergraduate Thesis for the Honors College, Chair/Main Thesis Advisor, Spring 2021

Volunteer Work

Expert Witness for Central American Asylum cases, registered in Center for Gender and Refugee Studies Expert Database, 2022- Ongoing

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)

Computing: R, STATA, Excel, LaTeX

Updated: February 2023