

# Laura Blume

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## Education

Ph.D./ M.A., Political Science, Boston University, Boston, MA, expected May 2020

*Comprehensive Exams:* Comparative Politics, American Politics (September 2015)

*Dissertation Committee:* Taylor Boas, Steven Rosenzweig, John Gerring, and Julie Klingler

B.A., *cum laude* with departmental honors, Simmons College, Boston, MA, 2013

*Major:* Political Science, *Minor:* Public Policy

International Honors Program: Cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Semester Abroad, 2011

*Locations:* Sao Paulo, Brazil; Cape Town, South Africa; Hanoi, Vietnam

## Publications

"A Tale of Two Dictatorships." *NACLA Report on the Americas*. August 15, 2018.

"The Old Rules No Longer Apply: Explaining Narco-Assassinations of Mexican Politicians," in the *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2017: 59-90.

"The Powder Keg of Nicaraguan Politics." *Intercontinental Cry*. April 26, 2018.

"¡Basta Ya! The United States is Overdue for a New Policy Approach in Honduras." *International Affairs Review*. May 22, 2016.

"Chasing El Chapo." *International Affairs Review*. July 25, 2015.

## Works in Progress

"*Transportista* Politics: Explaining Patterns of Drug-Trafficking Violence in Central America." *Working paper presented at the 2019 American Political Science Association conference*.

"Thinking Like a Kingpin: An Ethnography of Narco-Violence in Central America." *Dissertation*.

"Narco Robin Hoods: Community Support for Illicit Economies and Violence in Rural Spaces." *Working paper presented at the 2019 Midwest Political Science Association and Latin American Studies Association conferences*.

"Problematizing Narco-Community Relations: Illicit Economies and Territorial Governance on the Caribbean Coast of Honduras and Nicaragua." *Co-authored paper with Laura Sauls (Postdoctoral Fellow at College of the Holy Cross), presented at the 2019 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting*.

"Exporting Violence: Criminal Deportations and Homicide Rates in Recipient Countries." *Working paper, presented at the 2017 Southwest Council of Latin American Studies conference in Mexico*.

## Teaching Experience

Instructor, Boston University, Department of Political Science, Summer 2018 and Fall 2018

- Developed the syllabus and taught “The Politics of the Drug War” (PO 300)

Instructor, Boston University, Department of Political Science, Summer 2016

- Taught “Introduction to American Politics” (PO 111)

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Boston University, Department of Political Science, 2014-2016,2019

- Assisted in teaching the following courses by grading and leading discussion sections:
  - Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2019
  - Introduction to Public Policy, Spring 2015
  - Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2014

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

- Graded assignments for “Drugs and Security in the Americas” (IR 290/HI 331)

## Research Experience

Research Fellow, Boston University, Department of Political Science, Spring 2016

- Worked on a variety of projects with Professor John Gerring, including the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) and The Global Leadership Project (GLP)

Research Assistant, Boston University, Department of Political Science, Fall 2015

Research Assistant, Simmons College, Department of Political Science, 2012 – 2013

- Conducted research for Professor Benjamin R. Cole including work on the State Fragility Index for the Center for Systemic Peace

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

- Researched and assembled informational packets on the death penalty

## Conference Presentations

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

## Seminars and Invited Talks

Workshop leader at BUnited Student Diversity Conference, February 2019, Boston, MA

"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, Cambridge, MA

## Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Summer Research Fellowship, Boston University, 2019

Senior Teaching Fellowship, Boston University, 2018

Summer Research Fellowship, Boston University, 2017

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

## 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), Limonese and Nicaraguan Coastal Creole (conversational), Miskitu (beginner)

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

**Computing:** R, Stata, Excel, LaTeX

*Updated: September 2019*