

MICHAEL JEROME WOLFF

Western Washington University ♦ Department of Political Science ♦ 516 High St. ♦ Bellingham, 98225
Phone: 360.650.2410 ♦ Email: Michael.Wolff@wwu.edu ♦ Website: <https://www.michaeljeromewolff.com/>

Academic Appointments

Western Washington University

Associate Professor, Political Science (appointment begins September 2020)

Assistant Professor, Political Science (September 2016 – present)

University of New Mexico

Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science (August 2014 – May 2016)

Education

University of New Mexico

Ph.D., Political Science, May 2014

Dissertation: “Criminal Authorities and the State: Gangs, Organized Crime, and Police in Brazil.” http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/pols_etds/16/

M.A., Political Science, May 2009

Fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations

B.A., University Studies, December 2002

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Insurgent Vigilantism and Drug War in Mexico.” *Journal of Politics in Latin America*.
(forthcoming Spring 2020).

“Sharing Authority: The Politics and Practice of Community Policing in Brazil.” *Politics & Policy*. 47 (4) pp. 748-774 (Summer 2019). <https://doi.org/10.1111/polp.12322>

“Community Policing the Brazilian Favela.” *Network of Research in International Affairs*,
published online June 14, 2018. <http://www.noria-research.com/community-policing-the-brazilian-favela/>

“Violence and Criminal Order: The Case of Ciudad Juarez.” *Urban Geography* (39) 10 pp.
1465-1483 (Spring 2018). <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2018.1459019>.

“Policing and the Logics of Violence: A Comparative Analysis of Public
Security Reform in Brazil.” *Policing and Society* 27 (5) pp. 560-574 (Fall 2015).
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2015.1093478>

“Building Criminal Authority: A Comparative Analysis of Drug Gangs in Rio de Janeiro and

Recife.” *Latin American Politics and Society*. 57 (2) pp. 21-40 (Summer 2015).
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1548-2456.2015.00266.x>

Book Chapters

“Organized Crime and the State in Brazil,” book chapter in *The Criminalization of States: The Relationship between States and Organized Crime*, edited by Bruce Bagley and Jonathan Rosen, Lexington Books (Spring 2019).

Manuscripts Under Review and Works in Progress

“Corruption and Political Crisis in Contemporary Brazil,” book chapter in *Political Corruption in Latin America* (forthcoming 2020)

“Show of Force: Vigilantism and Power Politics in Mexico and Guatemala.” In progress, to be presented at the *Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress* in May 2020.

“Criminal Police: Death Squads and Militias in Contemporary Brazil.”
Editing for Review.

“Criminal Authorities and the State: Gangs, Organized Crime, and Police in Brazil.” Book Project.

Other Publications

“War and Peace in Ciudad Juarez,” *ECPR-Standing Group on Organized Crime*. Vol. 12, issue 3. October 2015.

“Notes from the US-Mexican Border.” *Limon*, Vol. 24, no. 3, Spring 2009.

Conference Presentations and Research Talks

“Insurgent Vigilantism and Drug War in Mexico.” *Latin American Studies Association*, Boston, MA. 2019.

“Sharing Authority: The Politics and Practice of Community Policing in Brazil.” *Western Political Science Association*, San Francisco, March 29-April 1, 2018.

“Criminal Order and Violence in Ciudad Juarez.” *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, April 2017.

“The Geography of Ethnographic Research,” *Conducting Fieldwork Under Complicated Circumstances Conference*, University of New Mexico, 2016.

“Pacifying the Slum: Police and Gangs in Rio de Janeiro.” *CNM-UNM Latin American Studies Speaker Series*. October 21, 2015.

“All Quiet in Ciudad Juarez: Explaining Homicide Fluctuation in Ciudad Juarez,” Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, PR, 2015.

“Criminal Police: Death Squads and Militias in Contemporary Brazil,” Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, IL. 2014.

“A New Breed of Police: A Comparative Review of Public Security Initiatives in Brazil,” Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Durango, CO. 2014

“Competing for Legitimacy: Drug Traffickers and the State in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro and Recife.” LASA Congress, Washington DC, 2013.

“Legitimacy and Opportunities in Criminal Organization: Parallel Authority Structures in Rio de Janeiro and Recife,” Conference Paper: *Intellectual Intersections Conference*, NAU, Flagstaff, AZ, 2011.

“The Parallels of Drug Trafficking and Insurgency: Rio de Janeiro and the Fate of the Latin American Metropolis,” Conference Paper, *Rocky Mountain Latin American Studies Conference*, Santa Fe, NM 2009.

Symposiums and Research Talks

“El Pueblo y la Maña: Resistencia Ciudadana al Crimen Organizado en México.” *MCL Speaker Series*, Western Washington University, February 28, 2020.

“Vigilante Rebellion and Fragmented Sovereignty in Mexico.” *College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean’s Speaker Series*. Public talk presented at Bellingham City Hall, February 7, 2020.

“Vigilantism and Collective Action.” *Faculty Forum*, Department of Political Science, Western Washington University, November 17, 2019.

“Prisons of Brazil.” Speakers: Dr. João Apolinário and Edmundo Reis, University of Salvador, Bahia. Symposium held at Western Washington University, April 19, 2018.

“Community Policing the Brazilian Slum.” Research Talk presented at the Latin American and Iberian Institute, University of New Mexico, March 26, 2018.

“The Future of the Colombian Peace Accords.” Speaker: Dr. Felix M. Burgos, New York University. Symposium held at Western Washington University, March 16, 2008.

“From Tokyo to Brazil: The Transnational Diffusion of Community Policing.” Research Talk presented for the Bellingham Police Department, Bellingham, WA. January 18, 2018.

“Community Policing the Brazilian Slum.” Research Talk presented at Western Washington University, November 3, 2017.

“A New Wave of Rightwing Politics in Latin America?” Symposium, Organizer and Moderator, Western Washington University, February 21, 2017.

“Latin America’s Drug Wars: The Problems of Prohibition,” Speaker, Meeting of WWU Chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, February 28, 2017.

“A Realidade nas Prisões do Brasil,” Symposium, participant presenter, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, August 7, 2017.

Awards and Fellowships

LAII PhD Fellowship 2013-2014

LAII PhD Fellowship 2012-2013

Drugs, Security, and Democracy Fellowship, 2011-2012 (OSF and SSRC)

Field Research Grant—Latin American Studies Institute, University of New Mexico, Spring 2009.

FIPSE Scholarship, University of Texas, 2009

BRASA (Brazilian Studies Association) research scholarship, 2008

New Mexico Scholars Award, 2006-2007

Teaching and Academic Work Experience

2016— Western Washington University—*Assistant Professor*

2014— 2016 University of New Mexico—*Visiting Assistant Professor*

2008 – 2014 University of New Mexico –*Instructor*

2012 Instituto Locus (Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil)—*Lecturer*

2007-2011 University of New Mexico—*Graduate Research Assistant*

2007 – 2008 University of New Mexico –*Teaching Assistant*

2005—2006 Catholic Charities of Central New Mexico—*Instructor* GED Prep Courses (in Spanish)

Courses

PLSC 397c—Populism and Democracy in the Americas. Western Washington University (2019).

PLSC 433—*Vigilantism and Drug War* (Senior Seminar in Comparative Politics). Western Washington University (2018).

PLSC 370—*Global Issues in International Politics: “Development and Inequality.”* Western Washington University (2016).

PLSC 291—*Introduction to Comparative Politics*. Western Washington University (2016).

PLSC 405—*Gangs, Organized Crime, and the State in the Americas*. Western Washington University (2017).

PLSC 395—*Politics of Latin America*. Western Washington University (2017).

POLS 440—*Civil Wars*, University of New Mexico (2015).

POLS 320—*Politics and Culture in Brazil*. University of New Mexico (2015).

POLS 220—*Introduction to Comparative Politics*. University of New Mexico (2015).

POLS 240—*Introduction to International Relations*. University of New Mexico (2013).

Professional Affiliations

Western Political Science Association (2017)

Midwest Political Science Association (2016)

Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies (2013)

Latin American Studies Association (2013)

Prior Professional Experience

2005—2011 Spanish/English interpreter and translator (sole proprietorship)

2010 Group Leader, Experiment in International Learning, Spain Program

2005—2006 Case Manager at *Enlace Comunitario* (assisting Spanish speaking victims of domestic violence)

2003—2004 Legal Assistant at *Catholic Charities* VAWA program

2000—2001 Human Rights Observer, *Global Exchange* Mexico Program

Service and Advisement

Faculty Advisor, PSA 2018-present

Reviewer the following journals: *Latin American Politics & Society*, *Global Crime*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *American Political Science Review*

Member, Latinx Politics Search Committee, 2018

Member, PSA Conference Committee, 2017-2018

Member, Technology Committee, 2016-2017

Honors Advisement and Directed Independent Studies

- Hannah Blank. University Honor's Faculty Advisor: "Seeking Asylum: Immigration Law in the Context of Human Rights" (Spring 2019)
- Juliet Knowles. Faculty Honor's Thesis Advisor: "Women in Movements of Collective Action" (Spring 2019)
- Saniah Naim DIR: "Favelas and Medinas: A comparative study of the urban slum in Latin America and the Middle East" (Spring 2019)
- Benjamin Weimer DIR: Economic development and democracy in Costa Rica, (Summer 2018).
- Michael Staight, Honors thesis on Palestine and the global refugee crisis (Spring 2018).
- Anna Kemper, DIR: Comparative economic development in Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia (Winter 2018).
- Abigail Ramos, DIR on politics of transgender movement in Cuba, Summer 2017.
- Claire Carlton DIR: Comparative study of drug trafficking in Mexico and Afghanistan, Western Washington University (Spring 2017).
- Udell Calzadillas, thesis on the construction of identity among bi-national "Dreamers" in Mexico and the US, *Honors Thesis*, University of New Mexico, 2015.
- Wesley Hill, thesis on the spread of civil wars in Africa, *Honors Thesis*, University of New Mexico, 2015.

External Advisement

- Carlos Augusto Alves Marx, Master's Thesis on Causes of Violence in Salvador, Bahia, UNISACS, University of Salvador, December 19, 2017.
- Julimarcia Coutinho, Master's Thesis on Organized Crime in Salvador, Bahia, UNISACS, University of Salvador, August 9, 2017.

Languages

English (native)

Spanish (fluent)

Portuguese (fluent)

French (basic)