

Dr. César Estrada Pérez

CV

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SUMMARY

I am a professional with extensive experience in research, teaching, and public policy work in the areas of security, human rights, conflict resolution and peace. I've served in senior positions in Mexico's federal government, where I led the design and implementation of diverse projects and programs on human rights and peacebuilding. I'm a scholar with a deep understanding of the dynamics of violence and conflict, with strong fieldwork experience in some of the regions in Mexico most affected by criminal activity. I am disciplinary trained in international relations, political science, development studies, sociology of violence, and conflict analysis and resolution. I am open to continue growing professionally in new settings delivering ethical and high-level work.

EDUCATION

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| 2020 | Ph.D. Conflict Analysis and Resolution
The Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
George Mason University, Arlington, VA. USA |
| 2014 | M.S. International Cooperation for Development
Instituto Mora. Mexico City, Mexico |
| 2012 | B.A. International Relations
El Colegio de San Luis, A.C., San Luis Potosi, Mexico |

AFFILIATIONS

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| 2024-present | Peace Futures Consortium
Founding Steering Committee Member. |
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EXPERIENCE

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| 2021-present | Adjunct Lecturer (Jan 2021–present)
Undergraduate Program of International Relations
Western Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESO) , Guadalajara, Mexico. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I design and teach online classes in English on mass violence and peace for national and international students. |
| 2023–2025 | Director General of Human Rights Public Policy (Nov 2023–Jan 2025)
Government of Mexico. Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB).
Undersecretariat of Human Rights, Population and Migration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the head of a team of more than fifty public servants, during my tenure I led efforts to design and monitor Mexico's National Agenda for Human Rights; to direct human rights training for public servants and officers; and to implement on-the-ground strategies for the protection of vulnerable groups, including relatives of missing persons, youth, and journalists. As part of my responsibilities, I produced reports to the Secretary of the Interior on human rights issues and co-headed projects in coordination with other federal agencies, local governments, and civil |

society groups.

- 2022–2023 **Director of Operations and Monitoring** (Jan 2022–Nov 2023)
Government of Mexico. Secretariat for Security and Civilian Protection (SSPC)
Unit for Policies and Strategies for Peacebuilding.
- I was responsible for producing analysis on criminal activity and designing and implementing violence prevention strategies and regional peacebuilding policies in the municipalities most affected by criminal violence in Mexico. As part of my responsibilities, I produced weekly reports regarding projects of relevance for Mexico Security Cabinet.
- 2021 **Visiting Research Fellow** (Aug–Dec 2021)
University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies & Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Keough School of Global Affairs
- I participated in seminars, conducted research on the intersections between genocide and violence in the contexts of criminal conflicts, and submitted articles on the topic to scholarly journals.
- 2021 **Director of Operations and Monitoring** (Feb–Aug 2021)
Government of Mexico. Secretariat for Security and Civilian Protection (SSPC)
Unit for Policies and Strategies for Peacebuilding.
- I participated in the design and implementation of special peacebuilding projects and other security strategies. I oversaw the work of activities of peacebuilding cabinets in nine states in the center and northeast of Mexico. I produced biweekly reports on criminal violence, wrote political speeches, and participated in interagency violence prevention projects such as the Security Strategy during the electoral process and the *Constructores de Paz* (Peacebuilders) strategy.
- 2020 **Graduate Lecturer** (May–Jun 2020)
George Mason University, Virginia, USA.
The Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
- I taught modules of online courses on *human rights* for undergraduate and graduate students under the supervision of the main instructor Dr. Dan Jacob.
- 2020 **Instructor** (Feb 2020)
Certificate program on “Violence, insecurity, and public discourse in Mexico”, at El Colegio de San Luis, Mexico.
- 2019–2021 **Associate Graduate Researcher** (Jan 2019–Jan 2021)
George Mason University, Virginia, USA.
The Raphaël Lemkin Genocide Prevention Program.
- I conducted research on the intersections of Mexico’s War on Drugs and the scholarship on genocide to identify new interpretive frames to better understand extreme criminal violence.

- 2019 **Lecturer** (Aug–Dec 2019)
El Colegio de San Luis, Mexico
- I designed and taught a course on mass violence and peace for the undergraduate students of the International Relations program.
- 2018–2019 **Graduate Lecturer** (Aug 2018–May 2019)
George Mason University, Virginia, USA.
The Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
- I designed and taught conflict resolution courses for undergraduate and graduate students.

PUBLICATIONS

Published:

1. Estrada, César (2012). “La Iniciativa Mérida y el combate al narcotráfico: Cooperación bajo concepciones inadecuadas” (“The Merida Initiative and combating drug trafficking: Cooperation under inadequate conceptions”), in *Revista de El Colegio de San Luis, Nueva época*, year II, no. 3, January-June, pp. 266-279.

Accepted:

1. Estrada, César “Violencia genocida durante los conflictos criminales: el caso mexicano” (“*Genocidal violence amidst criminal conflicts: the Mexican case*” Accepted with minor changes (September 10, 2024) for *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, RMCPs*.

In Progress:

3. Estrada, C. “*Violencia extrema en el Bajío mexicano: Conflictos criminales, políticas de seguridad y el poder de las narrativas en Guanajuato*” [“Extreme violence in the Mexican Bajío: criminal conflicts, security policies, and the power of narratives in Guanajuato”, will be submitted to *Revista Latinoamericana de Estudios de Seguridad*.
2. Estrada, C. & A. Ramírez, “The Role of Infrastructures for Peace in contexts of Extremely Violent Criminal Conflicts: A study of Mexico’s *Mesas de Paz* during the Presidency of Andrés Manuel López Obrador 2018-2024”, will be submitted to the *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*.
1. Estrada, C. “The atrocities of the drug war and the search for justice: Mexico and the Philippines in the face of the International Criminal Court”, will be submitted to the *Journal of Human Rights*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 01/2021– present **Adjunct Lecturer**
International Problems (undergraduate program of International Relations)
Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO)
- 2020 (summer) **Graduate Lecturer**
Human Rights and Inequality (undergraduate/graduate course).
Main Instructor: Dr. Dan Jacob
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University
- 2019 (fall) **Lecturer**
Critical Approaches to Violence in Mexico (undergraduate course)
El Colegio de San Luis, Mexico

2019 (spring)	Graduate Lecturer <i>Culture, Identity, and Conflict</i> (Peacebuilding Fellows Program) Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University
2018 (fall)	Graduate Lecturer <i>Simulation in Global Conflict Resolution</i> (undergraduate course) Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University Graduate Teaching Assistant <i>Culture, Identity, and Conflict</i> (undergraduate course), with Prof. Karina Korostelina Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2024 C. Estrada. Conference “Peacebuilding in Mexico: Reflections from the practice”. [Construcción de la Paz en México: Reflexiones desde la práctica] School of International Relations at Universidad Anáhuac, Querétaro. (September 2024)
- 2022 C. Estrada, A. Vázquez, E. Prado, M. del Valle & S. Meza "Construyendo la Paz: de lo individual a lo colectivo" ["Building Peace: from the individual to the collective"], *Jornada por la Paz con Justicia en México*, ITESO, Guadalajara, México (August, 2022)
- 2019 C. Estrada. “The Narrative Logics of Mass Violence: A case study in central Mexico”. *Latin American Studies Association*. Boston, USA (May 2019)
- 2019 C. Estrada. “Narratives of Mass Violence: Widespread Killings, Militarization, and Social Fear in Central Mexico”. *International Studies Association*. 60th Annual Convention. Toronto, CA (March 2019). (Panel co-organizer)
- 2018 C. Estrada. “Killable Youth in Contemporary Systems of Mass Violence”. Law & Society Association 2018 Annual Meeting. Toronto, CA (June 2018)
- 2018 C. Estrada. “Disappearances and Clandestine Graves in Mexico”. *International Studies Association*, 59th Annual Convention. San Francisco, California. (April 2018)
- 2017 C. Estrada “Narrativas sobre la Violencia: Un análisis del potencial de las narrativas sobre el sufrimiento humano para deslegitimar la violencia masiva en México (2010-2016)”. 4th Latinamerican and Caribbean Congress of Social Sciences, FLACSO. Salamanca, Spain. (July 2017)
- 2017 C. Estrada “Narratives amidst Mass Violence in Mexico: Collective judgments in the aftermath of atrocities”. *Law & Society Association*, 2017 Annual Meeting. Mexico City (June 2017)
- 2013 C. Estrada “International Responses on Human Trafficking: the need for a multidimensional approach in Mexico”. *Mexican Association of International Studies (AMEI)* 27th Annual Meeting. Oaxaca, Mexico (October 2013).

OPINION ARTICLES

- Estrada, César (September 10, 2020). “Fosas clandestinas y re-narrar el horror en México”, in *A dónde van los desaparecidos*. [See here](#).
- Estrada, César (January 26, 2015). “A 70 años de Auschwitz. Nunca más con nadie”, in *La Silla Rota*.

LEAD WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

- 2021 In February, April, and June 2021 I led the workshop titled “The Unit for Policies and Strategies for Peacebuilding with States and Regions” during the 8th, 9th, and 10th editions of the Course on Intelligence for Public and Citizen Security, taught to security and

intelligence agents at the School of Intelligence for National Security, National Intelligence Center (CNI), Mexico's Government.

SCHOLARSHIPS & RESEARCH GRANTS

Research Grants and Scholarships:

- 2020 George Mason University Dissertation Completion Grant (spring).
- 2018 George Mason University Summer Research Fellowship. Dissertation Research (summer).
- 2017 GMU School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution Faculty Scholarship Award (fall).
- 2015 Four-year Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT).
Doctoral Fellowship.
- 2012 Two-year Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT).
Graduate Fellowship.

Travel Grants:

- 2019 GMU School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Travel Grant. International Studies Association 60th Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada.
- 2018 Holodomor Research and Education Consortium. Travel Grant. Genocide in the Twentieth-Century History Conference, University of Alberta Toronto, Canada.
- 2018 GMU Graduate Student Travel Fund. Travel Grant. Law and Society Association Annual Meeting Toronto, Canada.
- 2017 GMU Graduate Student Travel Fund. FLACSO 4th Latin American and Caribbean Congress of Social Sciences. Travel Grant. University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain.
- 2010 El Colegio de San Luis. Research Assistantship and Mobility Grant. Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain.

MEDIA APPEARANCE

- 2020 "Violencia y Discurso Político en México." *Mundo de Negocios* magazine, March/April 2020. SLP. Mexico (April)
- 2019 "Violencia en México y transición política." *EntreVoces*, Radio Program of El Colegio de San Luis (September)

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 2013-2014 Internship on Gender, Child Migration, and Human Trafficking. International Organization for Migrations (IOM), Mexico City.
- 2013 Research Assistantship on Human Trafficking. Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Mexico City (summer).
- 2010 Research Assistantship on Political Violence. Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain (winter).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Reviewer
Narrative & Conflict: Explorations in Theory and Practice

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native speaker
English: Full fluent (speaking, reading, writing)
French: Intermediate (reading)