

Lucía Tiscornia

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Academic appointments

University College Dublin

2022– *Assistant Professor* (with tenure) School of Politics and International Relations

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Mexico

2019–2022 *Assistant Professor* of International Studies

Academic affiliations

2025– Fellow, Uruguayan National Council of Science and Technology (ANII)
2022– Faculty Fellow, University College Dublin, Geary Institute for Public Policy
2020– Research Affiliate, University of Notre Dame, Violence and Transitional Justice Lab
2022–2025 Junior Fellow, Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT)

Other affiliations

2023–2027 Member, Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Security Sector Reform
2020– Member, Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)

Education

2019 *PhD* Political Science, University of Notre Dame
2012 *MA* International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame
2008 *BA* Political Science Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Publications

BOOK

Accountability Shock: Why Transitional Justice Deters Criminal Wars in New Democracies, with Guillermo Trejo and Juan Ablarracin, (forthcoming in 2026) Cambridge University Press

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2025 “From Cocaine to Avocados: Criminal Market Expansion and Violence,” with Chelsea Estancona, *International Organization*, 79(3): 417–455

- 2025 “Law Enforcement at the Margin of the Law: Information provision and support for militarization in Mexico,” with Abby Cordova, *Journal of Peace Research*, 62(5): 1428–1446
- 2024 “Mall Cop or Robocop? Political Determinants of Police Militarization in Brazil,” with Juan Albarracin, *Political Research Quarterly*, 77(4):1381–1396
- Winner of the 2025 Best Article Award from LASA’s Section on Defense, Public Security and Intelligence.
- 2024 “Uruguay 2023: Security as a Persistent Challenge and the Decline of Non-policy Politics as a Political Asset,” with Ines Fynn and Veronica Perez Bentancur, *Revista de Ciencia Politica*, 44(2):441–462, **open access**
- 2024 “Police Reform in the Aftermath of Armed Conflict: How Militarization and Accountability Affect Police Violence,” *Journal of Peace Research*, 61(3):383–397, **open access**
- 2024 “Iteration in Mixed-methods Research Designs Combining Experiments and Fieldwork,” with Veronica Perez Bentancur, *Sociological Methods & Research*, 53(2):729–759
- 2023 “How Climate Change Affects Organized Criminal Group Behavior,” *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 58(1):29–54
- 2022 “Dilemmas of substitution: Why the urban poor support punitive policing in a Latin American city,” with Veronica Perez Bentancur, Special Issue on Policing in the 21st Century, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 46(8), 1623–1643.
- 2022 “Transparency and Replicability in Mixed-Methods Designs Using Experiments,” with Veronica Perez Bentancur, *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research*, Fall 2021 - Spring 2022, Vol. 19.2 / 20.1, **open access**
- 2018 “Breaking State Impunity in Post-Authoritarian Regimes: Why Transitional Justice Processes Deter Criminal Violence in New Democracies,” with Guillermo Trejo and Juan Albarracin, *Journal of Peace Research*, 55(6):787–809
- Media Coverage: [The Weeds Podcast](#)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2022 “International Influence,” with Michael Coppedge, Ben Denison, Paul Friesen and Yang Xu. In Michael Coppedge, Amanda B. Edgell, Carl Henrik Knutsen and Staffan I. Lindberg (eds.), *Why Democracies Develop and Decline*, Cambridge University Press
- Juan Linz Book Award, APSA Democracy & Autocracy Section (honorable mention)

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2023 “Police: A Field Guide,” *Australian Outlook*, Australian Institute of International Affairs
- 2021 “Authoritarian Police in Democracy,” *Perspectives on Politics*, 19(3):1028–1029

NOT PEER-REVIEWED

- 2021 “International Influence: The Hidden Dimension,” with Michael Coppedge, Benjamin Denison, Paul Friesen and Yang Xu, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 119
- 2015 “Varieties of Democratic Diffusion: Colonial and Neighbor Networks,” with Michael Coppedge, Benjamin Denison, Staffan I. Lindberg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 2

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

“Assessing the quality of evidence in qualitative research: lessons from research on criminal governance strategies in Montevideo, Uruguay,” with Ines Fynn and Veronica Perez Bentancur (revise and resubmit)

“Gendarmes and Soldiers: Exploring Drivers of Police and Military Specialization during Civil Wars,” with Peter White

“Supporting Mano Dura: Police Reform and Public Opinion Perceptions of Deservingness” with Veronica Perez Bentancur, Juan Albarracin and Leslie MacColman

“Socialization in the Colombian Armed Forces and Implications for Post-Conflict Transitions,” with Alejandra Ortiz-Ayala

“Deterrent effect of DTO presence on legal cannabis market access,” with Joaquín Alonso, Inés Fynn, Rosario Queirolo, Verónica Pérez-Bentancur and Emiliano Tealde

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Post-conflict Police Reform and Criminal Violence: Lessons from South Africa”

“Criminal Governance in Mexico amid the Covid-19 pandemic,” with Sandra Ley, Tiago Ventura

“Supply Chain Disruptions and Criminal Governance in Mexico,” with Chelsea Estancona

“Do list experiments reduce social desirability bias?” with Sandra Ley and Tiago Ventura

“An application of network methods to estimate the size of hard-to-reach populations,” with Gustavo Diaz, Verónica Pérez Bentancur and Inés Fynn

“Organized Criminal Violence in Uruguay,” with Veronica Perez, Ines Fynn and Gustavo Diaz

Policy reports

2025 “Addressing Security Actors’ Involvement in Serious and Organized Crime,” SOC-ACE, Royal United Services Institute.

2023 “En las Grietas del Estado: Gobernanza Criminal en Montevideo,” ANII, Fondo Sectorial de Seguridad Ciudadana, July

- Media coverage:

[La Diaria July 10, 2023](#)

[La Diaria July 11, 2023](#)

[Insight Crime](#)

2020 “Capacidad, practicas y percepcion ciudadana: Analisis del Programa de Alta Dedicacion Operativa,” ANII, Fondo Sectorial de Seguridad Ciudadana, September

2017 “Opportunities and Challenges in Civil and Political Rights in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, 30 years after Esquipulas II, using VDem data,” white paper, University of Notre Dame–Keough School of Global Affairs–USAID

2011 “On Corruption in South Africa: an Alternative Interpretation for the Case of the Police Service.” Occasional Papers Series, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town, South Africa, 2011 *South Africa Reconciliation Barometer Report*, with Kate Lefko-Everett and Ayanda Nyoka, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town, South Africa

“Economic Security in a Time of Uncertainty: A South African Public Opinion Perspective,” with Jan Hofmeyr. In *Transformation Audit 2011*, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town, South Africa

Other Writing

Varieties of Criminal Governance in Latin American Democracies, *Lasa Forum*, August 1, 2025, with Ines Fynn and Veronica Perez Bentancur

Consumers beware: the price of avocados may be higher than you think, *Political Violence at a Glance*, April 17, 2023, with Chelsea Estancona

“Colombia: Derecho a la Protesta y Violencia Policial”, *CIPER Académico*, May 12, 2021

“Crime and Conflict: Where we are and Where we are Headed in Research”, *PEV-CIDE*, November 23, 2020, with Chelsea Estancona

“¿Por qué persiste la violencia policial?”, *CIPER Académico*, October 3, 2020

“Sobre los Costos del Punitivismo”, *La Diaria*, June 25, 2020, with Veronica Perez

“Para Vivir Sin Miedo”, *La Diaria*, October 23, 2019, with Veronica Perez

Grants, honors & awards

GRANTS

2025	“CRIMLATAM: Criminal Governance in Unexpected Contexts,” ERC Starting Grant (PI, \$1,500,000)
2025	“Criminal Governance in Uruguay,” Fondo Clemente Estable (Co-PI, \$30,000)
2024	“Research Grant to study police in Colombia,” Folke-Bernadotte Academy (Co-PI, \$16,000)
2023	“Enterprise Ireland Research Grant,” University College Dublin (PI, \$16,000)
2023	“Small Grant to gather data on criminal organizations,” University of South Carolina (Co-PI, \$10,000)
2022	“Small Grants to Develop Studies on Hard to Reach Populations,” WZB Berlin Social Science Center (Co-PI, \$ 2,600)
2021	“Attitudinal Change and Support for the Militarization of Public Security: Evidence from a Panel Study in Mexico,” Notre Dame International Mexico Grant, University of Notre Dame (Co-PI, \$ 10,000)
2021	“Organized Crime Presence in Montevideo, Uruguay,” National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII) of Uruguay (Co-PI, \$ 25,000)
2021	“Criminal governance amid the COVID-19 pandemic: Explaining violence and goods provision as public health responses by organized crime groups in Mexico,” Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) (Co-PI, \$ 10,000)
2019	“Police Capacity, Practices and Citizen’s Perceptions,” National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII) of Uruguay (Co-PI, \$ 25,000)
2019	Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Department of Political Science, Keough School of Global Affairs, Gender Studies Program, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Grant to organize the conference New Research by Women Studying Violence (\$ 15,000)
2018	Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Department of Political Science, Keough School of Global Affairs, Gender Studies Program, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Grant to organize the conference New Research by Women Studying Violence (\$ 10,000)
2016	Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Graduate Student Research Grant (\$ 7,000)
2016	Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Graduate Student Research Grant (\$ 3,000)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2024	PSAI Teaching & Learning Prize (honorable mention)
	UCD Impact Case Study Competition (runner up)

2023–2027	Folke Bernadotte Academy International Research Working Groups Member
2022–2025	Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) Fellowship
2018–2019	Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Dissertation Year Fellowship
2018	Outstanding Doctoral Student Contributions Award, Kellogg Institute for International Studies
2017	Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award, Graduate Student Union Honorable Mention
2017	Department of Political Science, Professional Development Award
2017	USAID–Notre Dame Initiative for Global Development, Research Fellowship
2017	Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Professional Development Award
2015	USAID, Research and Innovation Fellowship
2014–2015	Varieties of Democracy Project, University of Notre Dame, Research Fellowship
2014	Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Professional Development Award
2014	University of Notre Dame, Professional Development Award
2013	University of Notre Dame, Professional Development Award
2012–2017	Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, PhD Fellowship
2010–2012	Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, MA Full scholarship

Talks, seminars & workshops

INVITED TALKS

2026	University of Manchester, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (scheduled)
2024	Dublin City University, School of Law and Government seminar series
2023	Parliamentary Commissioner’s Office for the Penitentiary System in Uruguay
2022	University of Oxford, Latin American Center seminar series
2021	University of Konstanz, Department of Public Administration
	University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Police Militarization: Notes for Debate
	Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Centro de Estudios sobre Seguridad, Inteligencia y Gobernanza
	The University of Utah, Department of Political Science
2020	Universidad ICESI, Colombia, Department of Politics, Violence and Security Sector Reform: Elements for Debate
	Emory University, Department of Political Science seminar series
	CIDE, Department of Political Studies seminar series

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

2025	Evidence in Governance and Politics Latin America Regional Hub Annual Meeting, Lima, Peru
2024	Methodological Advances in Peace and Conflict Research, CPR Annual Meeting, University College Dublin
	Workshop Political Violence in Democracies, University of Amsterdam
2023	Non-state Armed Governance Research Group, virtual
	Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research, University of Notre Dame
	Critical Perspectives on Peace and Conflict, CPR Annual Meeting, University College Dublin
2022	Effective and Innovative Policymaking in Contested Contexts Colloquium, University of Erfurt
	EGAP Annual Meeting, Cornell University

	Illicit Economies and Informal Actors Mini-conference, University of California San Diego
	Hard-to-reach Populations in Political Science Research, WZB Berlin Social Science Center
2021	Facebook as a Research Tool workshop, Demed, University of Glasgow
	US-Mexico Center Workshop, University of California, San Diego
	Global Law and Politics Workshop, University of Texas at Austin (virtual)
	Programa para el Estudio de la Violencia, CIDE
	Carolinas' Conflict Workshop, University of South Carolina
2020	Peace Science Society workshop
	Security and Criminality in the Americas Conference, University of Oxford (cancelled)
	Kellogg-Kroc Workshop on Crime and Violence, University of Notre Dame
2019	Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México
2018	Klau Center for Civil and Human Rights, University of Notre Dame
2017	Notre Dame Initiative for Global Development–USAID, San Salvador, El Salvador
	Center for Criminology seminar series, University of Cape Town, South Africa
	The Notre Dame International Security Center, University of Notre Dame
2016	Varieties of Democracy Launch Workshop, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame

Conference presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2023
 Asociacion Colombiana de Ciencia Politica, 2014
 European Initiative for Security Studies Annual Meeting, 2023
 International Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023
 International Studies Association Junior Scholar Symposium, 2015, 2016
 Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2023, 2024
 Peace Science Society International Annual Meeting, 2016, 2020, 2022
 European Peace Science Society Annual Meeting, 2024
 Political Studies Association of Ireland, 2023
 Western Political Science Association, 2018

Teaching

School of Politics and International Relations, UCD

"The Politics of Organized Crime" (undergraduate)
"Qualitative Research Design" (graduate)
"International Security" (graduate)
Workshop Research Based Simulation in Teaching, Geary Institute Research Skills Initiative

Division of International Studies, CIDE

"Visualizing Politics" (undergraduate)
"International Security" (undergraduate)
"Crime and Violence in Mexico and Latin America" (short course, graduate)
"International Organization" (short course, graduate)

Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame

"Causes and Consequences of Terrorism" (undergraduate)

"Introduction to International Relations" (undergraduate, teaching assistant)

Department of Political Science, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

"Introduction to Public Policy" (undergraduate, co-instructor)

Advising

School of Politics and International Relations, UCD

PhD Examinations

2023–2024 Sarah King (STA)

2022–2023 Paula Montano (STA); Salsabil Abdalbaki (STA)

Masters Thesis Direction

2023–2024 Jennifer O’Keeffe, “Media Framing of Femicide in Ireland”

Zuzanna Krakowska, “Issue Ownership in Challenger Parties”

2022–2023 Lea Ianetta, “Decisions to Participate in Mass Violence in Civil War” (distinction)

Alais Diebold, “Militarization of Conservation Practices in the DRC”

Annabelle Hill, “Mass Media and Punitiveness in the United States”

Undergraduate Thesis Direction

2025–2026 Mariana Suarez, “China’s strategy of influence in Latin America”

2022–2023 Ciara De Buitler, “Populist leaders and right-wing violence” (distinction)

Division of International Studies, CIDE

Undergraduate Thesis Direction

2021–2022 Camila Rodriguez, “Policing Protest in Mexico” (distinction)

2020–2021 Pablo Paras, “State Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic” (distinction)

Natalia Sanchez, “Municipal Police Militarization in Mexico” (distinction)

2019–2020 Maria Fernanda Mercado, “Public Opinion and Violence in Mexico”

Teaching Qualifications

2025–2026 Professional Certificate in University Teaching and Learning, University College Dublin

2018 Online College Teaching Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Notre Dame

2017 Advanced Teaching Scholar Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Notre Dame

2016 Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Notre Dame

Media appearances & inquiries

Interview request, CBC, July 21, 2023

[Interview, *La Diaria*, July 22, 2023](#) (in Spanish)

Interview request, Caracol Radio, Bogota, June 8, 2021

[Live Interview on Police Violence in the USA](#), France 24, June 16, 2020 (in Spanish)

Professional experience

2024	Study on police reform to prevent organized crime, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), United Kingdom
2023	Research Day, Folke-Bernadotte Academy, Government of Sweden, Stockholm
2022	Ensuring Justice for Venezuela Conference, Caracas, Venezuela United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), Regional Meeting on Strategies to Combat Organized Crime, Panama Ministry of Interior – National Agency for Research and Innovation, Uruguay
2019	Research Policy Dialogue, UN DPO and Folke Bernadotte Academy, New York Folke Bernadotte Academy SSR Research Working Group Meeting, New York
2018–2019	Pulte Institute for Global Development, University of Notre Dame, Technical Assistance, Fundación Myrna Mack, Guatemala
2015	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town, Research Fellow, USAID
2011	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town, Research Fellow, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
2007–2010	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, Uruguay, Specialist

Service

TO THE DISCIPLINE

2022	Reviewer, U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine
2022	Organizing Committee, Latin American Peace Science Annual Conference
2021	Section Chair, MPSA Annual Conference
2018, 2019	Organizer, Women Studying Violence Workshop

REFEREE

Journals: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Politica y Gobierno*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Security Dialogue*, *Third World Quarterly*, *World Development*.

Funding Agencies: ANII (Uruguayan agency for research and innovation; Clemente Estable Fund, Vaz Ferreira Fund), FONDECYT (Chilean fund for science and technology).

TO THE UNIVERSITY

University College Dublin

2025–2026	SPIRe Director of Teaching and Learning (Director of Undergraduate Studies)
2023–2024	SPIRe Director of Teaching and Learning (Director of Undergraduate Studies)
2022–2023	Coordinator, SPIRe Seminar Series
2022–2023	Member, Research Committee
2022–2023	Member, Research Ethics Committee

CIDE

2020–2022	Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB)
2020–2022	Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee
2019–2022	Member, Library Committee
2021–2022	Member, Methods Curriculum Implementation Committee