Workshop

'Global Perspectives on Kidnapping and Crimes of (Im)mobility'

Hotel Hilton Garden Inn El Paso / University, 25-26 April 2019
El Paso, Texas (USA)

Kidnapping is a pervasive presence across a range of insecure global settings: fragile states where crime, violence and impunity reign; diverse conflict-zones; unstable regions where global inequalities play out; and, increasingly, the precarious paths of migrant flows. Whilst this illicit phenomenon is often presented in sensationalist terms by the media, as a research topic kidnapping remains under-examined and under-theorised. It is also an illicit practice that, despite its prevalence, has been somewhat neglected by global crime policy intervention. Certainly, elite-kidnappings for ransom and abductions by militant groups are recognised as important concerns. However, the (often-uncritical) concentration upon these more orthodox manifestations of kidnapping, and state-led responses to them, masks other variants of this illicit practice, as well as innovations in counter-kidnapping from beyond the state.

In this context, increased academic attention and exchange is required to address this research deficit. There is a pressing need to better understand the contextual factors, the local-global
interplay and the licit-illicit intersections that shape kidnapping dynamics, as well as counter-kidnapping responses, across the world. Further, kidnapping must be appreciated as sitting within a fluid spectrum of criminality: one where it overlaps with other illicit activities and markets; one where the status of both victims and perpetrators is fluid and temporally evolving; and, one where the immobilizing impulse of kidnapping also triggers multiple mobilities and mobilizations. For these reasons, we host this event to bring more coordinated research attention to kidnapping, as well as to promote broader academic exchange that encompasses its connections with wider, often intersecting, crimes of (im)mobility.

Through this workshop, we aim to spotlight the complexities of kidnapping across diverse global regions and to bring new impetus to what is a remarkably neglected research field. Gathering academics and activists concerned with kidnapping, we work to create a forum through which to: share research findings; exchange and develop new conceptual frameworks; spotlight innovative counter-kidnapping mechanisms; promote kidnap interventions from below; and ultimately, work to better assist those most affected by this mass insecurity.

This workshop forms part of the research programme for the Newton Fund project ‘Mobile Solutions to the Mexican Kidnapping Epidemic: Beyond Elite Counter-Measures, Towards Citizen-Led Innovation.’ We are also grateful for the additional support received from the School of Law, University of Leeds and the Center for Law and Human Behavior at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Organising Committee

Conor O’Reilly | University of Leeds
Camilo Tamayo Gomez | University of Leeds
Gabriella Sanchez | European University Institute
Ernesto Schwartz-Marin | University of Exeter
Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr., Ed.D. | The University of Texas at El Paso

Chairs

Arely Cruz-Santiago | Durham University
Caitlyn Yates | IBI Consultants and the Strauss Center for International Security and Law
Camilo Perez-Bustillo | Hope Border Institute
Camilo Tamayo Gomez | University of Leeds
Ernesto Schwartz-Marin | University of Exeter
Gabriella Sanchez | European University Institute
Gustavo Duncan | EAFIT University
Howard Campbell | The University of Texas at El Paso
Nicholas Natividad | New Mexico State University

**Presenters**

Arely Cruz-Santiago | Durham University
Caitlyn Yates | IBI Consultants and the Strauss Center for International Security and Law
Camilo Perez-Bustillo | Hope Border Institute
Camilo Tamayo Gomez | University of Leeds
Carlos Spector | Spector Law Firm
Cate Bird | ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross
Christian Captier | Médecins Sans Frontières
Conor O’Reilly | University of Leeds
Cynthia Werner | Texas A&M University
David Shirk | University of San Diego
Deborah Ruiz Verduzco | ICMP - International Commission on Missing Persons
Emiliano Ignacio Díaz Carnero | El Colegio de la Frontera Norte
Ernesto Schwartz-Marín | University of Exeter
Everardo Gonzalez | Filmmaker
Gabriella Sanchez | European University Institute
Georgina Jiménez | Data Cívica
Gustavo Duncan | EAFIT University
Ilka Vega | Hope Border Institute
Jeremy Slack | The University of Texas at El Paso
Mauricio Builes | CNMH – Centro Nacional de Memoria Historica de Colombia
Roberto Forin | Mixed Migration Centre
Samuel Schmidt | UT Austin
Temitope Oriola | University of Alberta
Zulia Yanzadig Orozco Reynoso | Justice in Mexico

**Other Participants**

Alejandra Díaz de Leon | London School of Economics
Claire Moon | London School of Economics
Workshop Programme

April 25th

8:45-9:15 REGISTRATION
Del Norte 1, Hotel Hilton Garden Inn El Paso/University

9:15-9:30 WELCOME ADDRESS
Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr., Ed.D. | The University of Texas at El Paso

9:30-9:45 OPENING REMARKS
Conor O'Reilly & Gabriella Sanchez | University of Leeds & European University Institute

9:45-10:30 OPENING DAY PLENARY
Camilo Perez-Bustillo & Ilka Vega | Hope Border Institute
Transnational Dimensions of Transitional Justice for Migrants in the U.S-Mexico Border Region

10:30-10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45-12:00 SESSION I. Kidnapping, Detention & Migration Flows
Chair: Gabriella Sanchez | European University Institute
Caitlyn Yates & Stephanie Leutert | IBI Consultants & the Strauss Center for International Security and Law
Migrant Kidnapping in Mexico: Regional Differences
Gabriella Sanchez | European University Institute
Intersectional Approaches in Kidnapping Scholarship
Chris Horwood & Roberto Forin | Mixed Migration Centre
Criminal Impunity: The Prevalence of Kidnapping & Detention in Mixed Flows

12:00-13:00 LUNCH

13:00-14:15 SESSION II. Kidnapping Dynamics in the US-Mexico Borderlands
Chair: Nicholas Natividad | New Mexico State University
Jeremy Slack | The University of Texas at El Paso
Beyond the Ransom Narrative: Migrant and Deportee Kidnapping in Mexico
Conor O’Reilly & Camilo Tamayo Gomez | University of Leeds  
Intimacy Interrupted: Kidnapping and Kidnap-Prevention in the US-Mexico Borderlands

Zulia Yanzadig Orozco Reynoso | Justice in Mexico  
Real Estate & Kidnapping in Tijuana, Mexico

14:15-14:30  COFFEE BREAK

14:30-15:45  SESSION III. Gender Perspectives on Crimes of (Im)mobility and Absence

Chair: Caitlyn Yates | IBI Consultants & the Strauss Center for International Security and Law

Arely Cruz-Santiago | Durham University  
The Untold Journeys of Citizen-Led Forensics in Mexico

Cynthia Werner | Texas A&M University  
How Does Bride Kidnapping Inform Broader Studies of Kidnapping? The Case of Bride Kidnapping in Eurasia

16:00-17:30  BREAK

17.30-19.30  FILM SCREENING. ‘The Devil’s Freedom’ followed by Q&A with the director Everardo Gonzalez

Chair: Ernesto Schwartz-Marin | University of Exeter

UTEP Union Cinema | Registration: [http://tiny.cc/flif4y](http://tiny.cc/flif4y)

20.00-22.00  WORKSHOP DISSERATION

April 26th

9:00-9:45  SECOND DAY ADDRESS

Legal Impediments to Extortion/Kidnapping-Based Asylum Claims
Carlos Spector | Spector Law Firm

9:45-11:00  SESSION IV. Political Kidnapping, Civil Society and Social Justice

Chair: Gustavo Duncan | EAFIT University

Temitope Oriola | University of Alberta  
Kidnapping and Oil Politics: The Case of Nigeria

Camilo Tamayo Gomez | University of Leeds  
From Resilience to Memory: Understanding Kidnapping in Colombia from a Civil Society Perspective

Carlos Spector | Spector Law Firm
11:00-11:15 COFFEE BREAK

11:15-12:30 SESSION V. Kidnapping, (Im)mobility and Frontier Spaces
Chair: Howard Campbell | The University of Texas at El Paso
Gustavo Duncan | EAFIT University
David Shirk & Zulia Yanzadig Orozco Reynoso | University of San Diego & Justice in Mexico
Kidnapping in the San Diego-Tijuana Region
Emiliano Ignacio Díaz Carnero | El Colegio de la Frontera Norte
Violencias, Diálogo y Construcción de Condiciones de Paz

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

13:30-14:30 SESSION VI. Mapping, Crime-Apping and Kidnapping
Chair: Arely Cruz-Santiago | Durham University
Ernesto Schwartz-Marin | University of Exeter
Hydraulic Democracy: From the Uros in Titicaca to Crime-Apping ‘Secuestro’ in Mexico
Georgina Jiménez & Carolina Torreblanca | Data Cívica
Is There a Kidnapping Epidemic in Mexico’s Subway?

14:30 – 14:45 COFFEE BREAK

14:45 – 16:00 SESSION VII. Kidnapping, Crimes of (Im)mobility and the International Humanitarian Community
Chair: Camilo Perez-Bustillo | Hope Border Institute
Christian Captier | Médecins Sans Frontiéres
Experience and Reflections from a Medical Humanitarian NGO
Deborah Ruiz Verduzco | International Commission on Missing Persons
Rule of law based approach to crimes of (in)mobility
Cate Bird | International Committee of the Red Cross
Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Families of Missing Migrants

16:00-17:00 TRANSMEDIA PROJECT PRESENTATION
Chair: Camilo Tamayo Gomez | University of Leeds
Mauricio Builes | Centro Nacional de Memoria Historica de Colombia
Project Recuerdos de Selva (“Memories of the Jungle”)
17:00-17:20  PANEL DISCUSSION: How Can Academic Research Inform Counter-Kidnapping Policy?

17:20-17:30  CLOSING REMARKS
Conor O’Reilly & Ernesto Schwartz-Marín | University of Leeds & University of Exeter

17:30  END OF WORKSHOP