



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-Marin | 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 Diaz de Leon | London School of Economics
 Claire Moon | London School of Economics

David Danelo | Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime

Marisol Aguilar Contreras | UNODC Mexico

Sarah Lamb | Médecins Sans Frontières

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>]

20.00-22.00 WORKSHOP DINNER

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

Authorized Crime, Kidnapping, Extortion and the State in Mexico

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

Controlling people, Controlling Crime: The Case of Medellín (1970 - 2019)

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 Frontières

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-Marin | University of Leeds & University of Exeter
- 17:30** **END OF WORKSHOP**

*Cover Image: Mural *Secuestro* (2014) by [Nicolas Passarella](#).