

MEXICO VIOLENCE RESOURCE PROJECT



CALL FOR ESSAYS

More than a decade after the start of the drug war, violence in Mexico has become increasingly difficult to understand. Despite popular portrayals of the bloodshed as the product of cinematic conflicts between cartels, experts now recognize that the drivers of violence are not so straightforward. Yet the perpetuation of sensationalist and oversimplified narratives has real consequences, shaping both public understanding and policy discussions. The Mexico Violence Research Project seeks to create a bridge between researchers and the public, encouraging nuanced analysis and intelligent security strategies, contextualizing the diverse regional experiences of violence, and elevating the voices of those who understand it best.

Housed at UC San Diego's Center for US-Mexican Studies, the project compiles and maintains facts and data surrounding violence, provides straightforward explainer articles about topics related to violence and security policy, and publishes original essays from a range of researchers, journalists, activists, and policymakers, with an emphasis on new, thoughtful voices. These contributions not only help illuminate the causes of violence, but also document citizen responses and explore strategies for building peace.

The project is actively seeking contributions from academics, journalists, policy researchers, and activists. Most contributions will be 1,000 to 3,000-word essays that present original analysis and information. We are interested in a range of topics, but with particular emphasis on:

- Causes of violence, with an emphasis on local dynamics
- The politics of security policy
- Essays that reconsider assumptions about organized crime and drug trafficking
- Peacebuilding, community resilience, and alternative security approaches

Contributions are welcome in both English and Spanish. For more information, contact mlettieri@mexicoviolence.org

