

## Current positions and affiliations

- **Senior Multilateral Affairs Officer**, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexican Embassy in the UK (Since September 2024).
  - *Briefs:* Security, human rights, United Nations, and climate change and environmental policy in the International Maritime Organization.
- **Teaching Fellow**, King's College London, War Studies Department (Since September 2024).
- **Fellow, Higher Education Academy**, HE Advance, since August 2024.

## Education

2019-2023	<b>King's College London</b> <i>PhD in Sociology of War</i> <i>Research Groups: Conflict, Security and Development (War Studies)   Environmental Security (Defence Studies).</i> <i>Thesis:</i> The Making of a Sicario Class: Youth Mobilisation into the Mexican Drug War.
2013-2015	<b>El Colegio de México (Colmex)</b> <i>MPhil in Political Science</i> <i>Thesis:</i> Violence in Tierra Caliente: Criminal War and Federal Interventions from 2000 to 2014.
2008-2012	<b>National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)</b> <i>BA in Political Science and Public Administration</i> <i>Thesis:</i> United Nations Statebuilding in Weak States.

## Experience

### Teaching and research

- **Departmental Lecturer in Development Studies of Latin America**, University of Oxford, Department of International Development (September 2023 – August 2024)
  - *Member of:* Teaching and Admissions Committees.
  - *Lectures:* Post-Development Studies, Crime and Development, Mixed Methods, Conflict, Political Economy, Social Movements.
  - *Course supervisor:* 3 MPhil Students, 1 MSc Student.
- **Research fellow, Wolfson College**, University of Oxford (January 2024 – August 2024).
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, King's College London (2021-2023)
  - *Modules:* International Relations Theory (War Studies Department); International Political Economy of Production (European and International Studies Department); Climate and Capitalism (European and International Studies Department); Political Economy: Approaches, Concepts, and Issues (Political Economy); Contemporary Security Issues (War Studies Department).
  - *Member of the King's College London Education Committee as GTA Representative.*
- **Teaching Lecturer**, National Autonomous University of Mexico (2017-2019)
  - *Modules:* Comparative politics (FES Acatlán); Mexican economic policy (FES Acatlán); Power, Conflict and Cooperation (FES Acatlán); Theory of the State (Law School).
- **Researcher "B" on Politics and Federalism**, Belisario Domínguez Institute, Mexican Senate (November 2016 – June 2018)
- **Analyst for the Executive Academic Coordinator**, Belisario Domínguez Institute, Mexican Senate (October 2015 – October 2016)

### Relevant professional experience

- **Director General of Legislative Liaison**, Secretariat of Economy, Mexican Government (January – August 2019).
- **Advisor to the Undersecretary of Budget**, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, Mexican Government (July– December 2018).
- **Junior Head of Department, Democratic Culture and Crime Prevention**, Youth Institute, Morelos Government, Mexico (October 2012 – June 2013).

## Publications

### Books

- Zepeda Gil, Raul (forthcoming, under contract). *The Making of a Sicario Class: Youth Mobilisation into the Mexican Drug War*. New York: New York University Press.

### Peer reviewed journal articles

- Zepeda Gil, Raúl & Vargas Pineda, Luis Roberto (2025), "[Rushing infrastructure projects under austerity: the militarization of the Mexican public administration during AMLO's government](#)," *Armed Forces & Society*.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2024), "[Organised violence, inequality and work: Violence specialists as a classed occupation](#)", *Critical Sociology*.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2024), "[Escaping Precariousness: Criminal Occupational Mobility of Homicide Inmates During the Mexican Drug War](#)", *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 1-15.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2023), "[Conceptualising criminal wars in Latin America](#)", *Third World Quarterly*. Vol. 44, No. 4., pp. 776-794.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl & Pérez Ricart, Carlos A. (2023) "[Effects of long-term development and schooling expansion on the decline in homicide rates: Mexico from 1950 to 2005](#)", *Journal of Crime and Justice*. Vol. 46. No.1., pp. 1-23.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2018), "[Seven Explanatory Approaches about the Increasing of Violence in Mexico](#)", *Política y Gobierno*, 25(1), January, pp. 185-211.
- Zepeda Gil, Raul (2018), "[Violence in Tierra Caliente: Income inequality, economic development and education rates in the Mexican drug war](#)", *Estudios Sociológicos*, 36(106), January, pp. 126-163. [In Spanish]
- Zepeda Gil, Raul (2016), "[The Game of Budget Allocation for the State Public Universities in Mexico after Mexico's transition to democracy](#)", *Revista Mexicana de Investigación Educativa*, 21(70), July, pp. 901-928. [In Spanish]
- Zepeda Gil, Raul (2016), "[Democracy, the Military and Mexico's Foreign Policy: The Case of the Absence of Mexican Military in Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations](#)", *Foro Internacional*, 56(225), July, pp. 633-656. [In Spanish]

### Papers submitted to peer review

- Zepeda Gil, Raúl & Patiño Zarco, Salvador (2025), "Backlash Against Fossil Fuel Subsidies Phase-Out: Evidence from the 2018 Mexican Presidential Election".
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2025), "A Tight Ship with a Limited Chart: The Difficult Trade-offs that Shaped the IMO's Net-Zero Framework".

### Books coordinated

- Zepeda Gil, Raul y Aguayo Quezada, Sergio (2018) (eds.). [Construir el Estado, Construir la Paz en México: Memorias sobre la Segunda Conferencia sobre Violencia y Paz](#). Ciudad de México: El Colegio de México. [In Spanish]

## Book chapters

- Zepeda Gil, Raul (*forthcoming*), "Urban gangs and militarised rural drug cartels in the Mexican Drug War" in Mitton, K., Varsori, A., & Waseem, Z. (Eds.). (under contract). *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Violence*. Oxford University Press.
- Zepeda Gil, Raul (*forthcoming*), "The populist reframing of the NEET label in Mexican violent crime prevention policy" in Cavalcanti, R., Fonseca D., Vegh Weis, V., Karrington, K., Hogg, R. and Scott, J. (Eds.). *Palgrave Handbook of Criminology and the Global South, Second Edition*. Palgrave.
- Zepeda Gil, Raul (*forthcoming*), "La política como ocupación: sociología de las élites en México" in Urbina Cortés, G. y Cisneros Yescas, I. (Eds.). (under contract). *Cartografías del Poder. Exploraciones en la Sociología Política Contemporánea*. El Colegio de México. [In Spanish]
- Podder, Sukanya & Zepeda Gil Raúl (2024), "Working for 'Minor Utopias': Youth Employment in Sierra Leone and Liberia", In Waldow, Valerie: Bargués, Pol & Chandler, David (coords). *The Politics of Hope in the Anthropocene: Agency, Governance and Critique*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Pantoja García, Juan Camino & Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2023). "La Paz Total en Colombia. Un intento necesario". In Calderón Ríos, José Luis & Álvarez Rodríguez, Irene (coords.). *Cultura de derechos humanos para un futuro de paz. Experiencias en México y Colombia*. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica. [In Spanish]
- Zepeda Gil, Raul (2022), "[Micro-dynamics and Political Economy of the Criminal War in Tierra Caliente, Mexico](#)", In Solar, Carlos & Perez Ricart, Carlos (eds.) *Crime, Violence, and Justice in Latin America: Themes and Trends*. London: Routledge.

## Technical Reports

- Zepeda Gil, R. (2020). *Fin a la guerra. Una agenda para la paz, la justicia y los derechos humanos en México*. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/mexiko/16651.pdf> [In Spanish]
- Zepeda Gil, Raul; Huerta Pineda, Alejandra; Sánchez Correa, Mara Karina y Sánchez Ramírez, María Cristina (2018), [Mexico's climate change vulnerability: A Review of the National Risk Management System](#), Instituto Belisario Domínguez, Mexican Senate. [In Spanish]

## Conferences and presentations

- Gutiérrez Amaros, Fernanda; Zepeda Gil, Raúl & Castañeda, Diego (2024), "Violence and the new roving bandits of the Mexican Drug War: A political economy perspective", *Workshop on Conflict and Contentious Politics, University of Essex*, May 30th, 2024.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2024), [Drug-trafficking, organised crime and electoral processes in Latin America](#), Panellist, *Institute of Strategic Studies*, London. 15 April.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2024), [Mexican Youth in Drug Cartels](#), *Katz Center for Mexican Studies at The University of Chicago*, Feb 6.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2023), "The Political Economy of Drug Trafficking and Criminal Governance in the Brecha Triangle, Tierra Caliente, Mexico". [Do Criminals Rule in Mexico? The political economy of state capture and criminal impunity](#). Latin American Centre, University of Oxford, 15 March. [In Spanish]
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl & Sánchez Correa, Mara (2021), [When Tabasco drowns: the next crisis of climate refugees in Mexico](#). UNAM-UK and MexSocUK *Doctoral Seminar about climate change heading to COP 26*. 18 November. [In Spanish]

## Policy papers, working papers, and relevant opinion pieces

- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2024), "[Mexican government failing to provide decent jobs for vulnerable youth – leaving the door open to cartel recruitment](#)", *The Conversation*.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2024), "[Why Colombia sees legalising drugs as the way forward. Here's what's being proposed](#)", *The Conversation*.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2024), "[Climate change and public opinion in Mexico](#)", *Nexos Environmental Crisis Blog*: April 29. [In Spanish]
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2022), "[Mexico: new research shows the historic link between opening schools and falling murder rates](#)", *The Conversation*.
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2022), "[The climate change forecast for Mexico in the last IPCC reports](#)", *Nexos Environmental Crisis Blog*: June 6. [In Spanish]
- Zepeda Gil, Raúl (2021). "[Mexico in COP26: Paradoxes of a developing economy in the climate emergency](#)". *KCL Brazil Institute Blog*. 22 November.
- Zepeda Gil, R., & Vargas Pineda, L. R. (2021). *Global Britain: Views from abroad: Mexico*. The UK in a Changing Europe. <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Global-Britain-views-from-abroad.pdf>

## Thesis supervision

- José Alberto Pérez Martínez (2018), BA in Political Science, Metropolitan Autonomous University of Mexico (UAM-1). Completed.
- Ammar Ansari (2024), MSc in Migration Studies, University of Oxford. Completed.
- Bruno Cervantes (2024), BA in International Relations, UNAM. Current.
- Michel Cano (2024), BA in International Relations, UNAM. Current.

## Additional information

- **Consultancies and grants:** Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on drug policy (May 2023 – August 2023); Coordinator, Second Conference on Violence and Peace, Mexican Senate | El Colegio de México | National Commission for Human Rights (March – September 2017).
- **Other professional experience:** Research Assistant, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, UNAM (August – October 2012).
- **Awards:** Gold Crown for Contributing to student activities, Kings College London Student Union (2022); Mexican Council of Science and Technology's scholarship for PhD Studies (2019-2023); Fund for Development of Human Resources, Mexico's Central Bank, financial loan for PhD Studies (2019-2022); Mexican Council of Science and Technology's scholarship for MPhil studies (2013-2015); Second Place of the Contest of Essay "Mexico, The World and The Global Responsibility", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico (2014); First place of the National Contest of Political Debate, National Youth Institute, Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico.
- **Editorial boards:** Member of the Editorial Committee of *Argumentos. Estudios Críticos de la Sociedad*.
- **Referee:** Foro Internacional, Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas, Strife, Política y Gobierno, Governance, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Revista Latinoamericana de Población; European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Centre of Estudios Espinosa Yglesias (CEEY), International Journal of Drug Policy.
- **Service:** Graduate Teaching Assistant Lead, King's College London Doctoral Studies Association (August 2022 – August 2023), Postgraduate Representative King's College London LGBT+ Society (August 2021 – July 2022); President, Society of Mexican Students in the United Kingdom (MexSocUK), (July 2020 – August 2021); Delegate on behalf of King's College London Student Union, National Union of Students in the UK Conference (2020 – 2021); Centre of International Studies Representative, Student Society at El Colegio de México (November 2014 – July 2015); Deputy Secretary General, United Nations Model of the National Autonomous University of México (MONUUNAM) (June – October 2011).
- **Memberships:** Seminario de Violencia y Paz, El Colegio de México, Urban Violence Research Network, International Political Science Association, Mexico & Central America Noria Research Network, Latin American Studies Association.
- **Regular contributor:** Animal Político, Nexos, The Conversation.
- **Media appearances:** The Guardian, Financial Times, El Universal, Telemundo, Milenio.
- **Relevant skills:** Spanish (native speaker), English (fluent), Stata (advanced), R (basic), Geoda (basic), QGIS (intermediate), LATEX (basic), NVivo (intermediate), Interviews, Participant Observation. Focus groups.

## Academic references

**Dr. Sukanya Podder**  
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