

## Dr. Raúl Zepeda Gil

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### Current position

- **Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations**, National Autonomous University of Mexico (Since May 2026)

### 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: The Making of a Sicario Class: Youth Mobilisation into the Mexican Drug War.</i>
2013-2015	<b>El Colegio de México (Colmex)</b> <i>MPhil in Political Science</i> <i>Thesis: Violence in Tierra Caliente: Criminal War and Federal Interventions from 2000 to 2014.</i>
2008-2012	<b>National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)</b> <i>BA in Political Science and Public Administration</i> <i>Thesis: United Nations Statebuilding in Weak States.</i>

### Experience

#### Teaching and research

- **Teaching Fellow**, King's College London, War Studies Department (September 2024 – May 2026).
- **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

- **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.
- **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 & Patiño Zarco, Salvador (2026), "Fuelling Polarisation: AMLO, Gasoline Subsidies and the 2018 Mexican Presidential Election." *Journal of Latin American Studies*. Accepted for publication.
- 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 & Ang, Milena (2026), "Criminal Exposure, Support for AMLO and the Army in Mexico".

#### 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*). "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]
- Zepeda Gil, Raul (2026), "The Populist Reframing of Idle Youth 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.
- Podder, Sukanya & Zepeda Gil Raúl (2024), "Working for 'Minor Utopias': Youth Employment in Sierra Leone and Liberia", In Waldow, Valerie: Bargaúes, Pol & Chandler, David (cords). *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 Ramirez, 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, Trends in Organized Crime.
- **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. Fellow, Higher Education Academy, HE Advance.
- **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

Reader in Post-War Reconstruction and Peacebuilding  
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### Dr. Simukai Chigudu

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