

Mónica Unda-Gutiérrez, Ph.D.
Associate Professor (Teaching) Department of Political Science & International Relations
Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2011 Ph.D. Development Studies. University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
- 2003 M.Sc. Development Studies. University of London, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- 2000 B.A., Financial Administration. Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO) (4.0 GPA, valedictorian)
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CAREER HISTORY

- 2023-present Associate Professor (teaching), Political Science and International Relations Department, University of Southern California
- 2018-2023 Assistant Professor, Political Science & Economics (joint appointment) Marquette University
- 2017-2018 Research Professor, El Colegio de México, Center for Urban, Demographic, and Environmental Studies
- 2016-2017 Visiting Scholar, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Mass
- 2010-2016 Research Professor (tenured), Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente
- 2003-2006 Assistant Professor, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente
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SCHOLARSHIP

Books

- 2012 [El fracaso de la reforma fiscal de 1961](#) [The failure of the 1961 fiscal reform], (with Luis Aboites Aguilar), El Colegio de México
- 2003 Compendio de Política Económica de México: 1980-2000 [Compendium of economic policy in Mexico: 1980-2000], ITESO-Coecytjal.

Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Articles

In Print

- 2025 [“Electoral Democracy and Local Finances: Fiscal Populism in Mexico”](#) *Urban Affairs Review*, 61:4, pp. 1129-1164.
- 2023 [“La construcción del Estado tributario \(pobre\) mexicano”](#) [The building of the Mexican (poor) Tax State], *América Latina en la Historia Económica*, 30:3 (2023): 1-24.
- 2021 [“The Superfluous Congress: Executive Dominance and Business Lobbying in Mexico's 2013 Tax Reform”](#), *Mexican Studies*, 37:1 (2021): 93-122.
- 2021 [“Una hacienda local pobre: qué explica la recaudación predial en México”](#), [Poor local governments: what explains the property tax collection in Mexico], *Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos*, 36:1 (2021): 49-88.
- 2018 [“Los límites de la recaudación predial en los municipios urbanos de México: un estudio de casos”](#), [The property tax limits in Mexican urban municipalities], *Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos*, 33:3 (2018): 601-637.
- 2017 [“A Tale of Two Taxes: the Diverging Fates of the Federal Property and Income Tax Decrees in post-Revolutionary Mexico”](#), *Economic History Research*, 13:2 (2017): 107-116.
- 2015 [“La recaudación del impuesto predial: un análisis de sus determinantes económicos en el período 1969-2010”](#) [The property tax collection: an analysis of its economic determinants in the 1969-2010 period], (with Carlos Moreno), *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales*, 60:225 (2015): 53-84.
- 2015 [“La reforma tributaria de 2013: lejos de abordar los problemas de la hacienda pública”](#) [The 2013 tax reform: far from addressing the public finance challenge], *Espiral*, 23:64 (2015): 69-99.

In Progress

- 2025 “Sacrificing Revenue in Pursuit of Votes: The Mexican Tax on Vehicle Ownership” (with Emmanuel Chavez & Fausto Hernandez Trillo).
- 2026 “From Hope to Shortfall: the Income Tax in Mexico, 1925-2025” (with Diego Castañeda Garza).

Book Chapters

In Print

- 2024 "The Local Government in Mexico," (with Reyes Alejandra), In N. Steytler (Ed.) *Forum of Federations Handbook on Local Government in Federal Systems*. Palgrave MacMillan, [2024](#), pp. 313-345.
- 2024 "Tax systems and concentration of wealth: the problems of the Mexican tax system," (with Carlos Brown-Solá), in Burchardt, Hans-Jürgen & Irene Lungo Rodríguez (Eds.), *Wealth in Latin America: New Insights for the World's Most Unequal Region*, Routledge, [2024](#), pp. 79-98.
- 2023 "A Close Relationship with the Economic Elite: The Historical Roots of the Poor Mexican Tax State," in Burchardt, Hans-Jürgen & Fehling, Philip (Eds.) *New Perspectives on Tax Regimes in Latin America*, Routledge, Series Global Challenges in Political Economy, [2023](#), pp. 176-195.
- 2022 "Pesos y contrapesos en la política fiscal latinoamericana," [Check and Balances in Latinoamerican Fiscal Policy], (with Carlos Brown-Solá), *10 años de gestión pública intergubernamental en Iberoamerica: finanzas, instituciones y nuevos retos*, Asociación Iberoamericana de Financiación Local (AIFIL), & Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, [2022](#), pp. 67-89.
- 2018 "El papel de los contribuyentes en la introducción de impuestos directos en la década de 1920" [The role of tax payers during the adoption of direct taxes in 1920's Mexico], *De Contribuyentes y contribuciones en la fiscalidad mexicana, siglos XVIII-XX*, Colegio de México y Universidad Veracruzana, [2018](#), pp. 319-357.
- 2018 "La baja recaudación y la poca progresividad del sistema tributario y el impuesto sobre la renta en México: un primer acercamiento" [The low revenue and tax progressivity of the tax system and the income tax: an exploratory analysis], *México 2018-2024. Nueva estrategia de Desarrollo: Equidad Fiscal*, Juan Pablos Editor, 2018, pp. 191-226.
- 2016 "El sistema tributario mexicano en perspectiva histórica e internacional después de la reforma de 2013" [The Mexican tax system in historical and international perspective after the 2013 reform], *Nueva ronda de reformas estructurales en México, ¿nuevas políticas sociales?*, Colegio de la Frontera Norte, 2016, pp. 155-176.
- 2012 "La reforma tributaria en México durante la época del desarrollo estabilizador: reformas al ISR de 1961 y 1964" [Tax reform in Mexico during stabilizing growth: income tax reforms in 1961 and 1964], *Reforma Fiscal Integral*, Juan Pablos Editor, 2012, pp.137-164.

Other Publications and Public-Facing Work

Working Papers

- 2019 “Finanzas municipales en México: porqué unos municipios recaudan más y gastan mejor”, [Municipal Finance in Mexico: why some cities extract more and spend better], *Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Working Paper*. [WP19MU1SP](#), May 2019.
- 2017 “Una hacienda local pobre: un análisis de los determinantes del predial en México 1990-2010”. [Poor municipal governments: an analysis of the property tax determinants in Mexico, 1990-2010], *Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Working Paper*. [WP17MU1SP](#). October 2017.

Public Talks

- 2025 Public talk “[La Justicia Fiscal Asunto de Mujeres](#)”, OXFAM México & El Colegio de México, June 19, 2025 (3 hr 12 min onward)
- 2024 Public talk “[Towards a Progressive Fiscal Reform in Mexico](#)”, [OXFAM Mexico](#), [Comisión Independiente para la Igualdad con Justicia Fiscal](#) and [Alianza por la Justicia Fiscal](#), Mexico City, June 2024 (1 hr 56min onward & 2 hr 27min onward).
- 2022 Public talk on “The Challenges of Mexican Municipalities,” virtual conference, organized by Civil Society Organization (CSO) [Plan Estratégico de Juarez](#), November 18, 2022.
- 2022 Public talk on “Urban Finance in Mexico: land-based tools,” at the [Urban Forum](#), organized by CSO [CoRE](#), Mexico City, November 8, 2022 (55 min onward).
- 2022 Public talk on “Tax progressivity and Tax Moral”, at Conference on “[Inequality and Taxation](#)” organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation & OXFAM Mexico, June 9, 2022, Mexico City.
- 2022 Public talk on “Fiscal challenges in Mexico at the local level”, at Conference “[Toward a New Fiscal Pact](#)”, organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Guadalajara, March 14, 2022.
- 2021 Public talk on "A proposal to improve the property tax in Morelos, Mexico" organized by the NGO: Mexico Rinde Cuentas, Dec. 7, 2021.
- 2021 Speaker at the Webinar: [Why is Mexico so unequal?](#) Center for US-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, Nov. 15, 2021.
- 2020 Speaker at the Webinar: [Reforma Fiscal para acortar la brecha](#), organized by Local Political Party: Futuro, Aug. 18, 2020.
- 2019 Guest Speaker at [UCLA Luskin Latin American Cities Initiative Seminar Series](#), Jan. 2019.
- 2019 Guest Speaker at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Presenting paper on Property Tax, Jun. 2019.

Blogs and Media

- 2022 Ministry of Housing (INFONAVIT) Magazine, article: "[El Predial en México ¿por qué se recauda tan poco?](#)" ["The property tax in Mexico: why such low yield?], June 2022.
- 2021 University of California Press Blog, article: "[The Lessons of Mexico's Tax Reform Efforts](#)" Mar. 2021
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TEACHING

University of Southern California, Dept. of Political Science and International Relations

- POSC 320 Urban Politics, Fall 2023, 2024, 2025
- IR 364 The Political Economy of Latin American Development, Fall 2023, 2025
- GESM 130 Latin American Development, Spring 2024, 2025
- POSC 392 Honors II: Undergraduate Thesis, Spring 2024
- IR 466 Contemporary Issues in Latin American Politics, Spring 2024, Fall 2025
- POSC 469 Tax and Welfare Systems in the Global South, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

Marquette University, Dept. of Political Science

- Comparative Urban Political Economy in the Global South. Fall 2018, 2020, 2022; Spring 2019, 2021, 2022
- Engaging the City: Urban Challenges in Milwaukee and Guadalajara. Spring 2020
- Urban Public Policy: the case of Guadalajara, Summer 2022
- Latin American Politics, Spring 2023

Marquette University, Dept. of Economics

- Principles of Microeconomics (in Spanish). Fall 2018, Spring 2019
- Urban Public Policy and Finance in Latin American Cities. Fall 2020, 2022; Spring 2021
- Local Development: social entrepreneurship. Faculty-led course in Guadalajara. Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2023

El Colegio de México, Center for Demographic, Urban and Environmental Studies, CEDUA

- Urban Political Economy, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

ITESO University, Dept. of Politics and Public Policy

- Development Theory and Policy, Springs of 2011 to 2015
- Public Finance, Falls of 2011 to 2015

ITESO University, Dept. of Economics and Business

- Development Theory and Policy, Springs of 2004 to 2006
- Mexican Economic History, Falls of 2004 to 2006

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Latin American Political Economy Network (REPAL), Sao Paulo, Brazil. June, 2025.
- 2024 Urban Affairs Association 52nd Conference, ([UAA](#)), New York, April.
- 2023 Urban Politics in the Global South Conference, ([UPGS](#)), online, October.
- 2022 Asociación Iberoamericana de Financiación Local ([AIFIL](#)), IX Conference on Local Finance, Uruguay, Montevideo. September. International.
- 2022 Center for Advanced Latin American Studies ([CALAS](#)), “[The Rich Latin America](#): Towards fiscal justice and greater equality.” (Weingarten, Germany). June. International.
- 2022 Center for Advanced Latin American Studies ([CALAS](#)), “[Confronting Inequalities in Latin America](#): Perspectives on Wealth and Power”. (Guadalajara, Mexico). May. International.
- 2022 Center for Advanced Latin American Studies ([CALAS](#)), “[The de-regulation of wealth](#) in Latin America”. (Quito Ecuador). April. International.
- 2021 Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, (Washington, D.C.). October. National.
- 2021 Latin American Political Economy Network (REPAL), **Virtual** (Cornell University). July.
- 2020 Local Finance Iberoamerican Association (AIFIL), **Virtual** (Lima, Perú). October.
- 2020 Latin American Studies Association (LASA), **Virtual** (Guadalajara, Mexico). May.
- 2019 Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Boston, USA. May. National.
- 2019 Latin American Political Economy Network (REPAL), New Orleans, USA. May. National.
- 2019 Western Political Science Association (WPSA), San Diego, USA. April. National.
- 2018 Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Barcelona, Spain. May. International.
- 2017 Association of Researchers on Mexican Local Governments (IGLOM), Mexico City. December. National
- 2017 Annual Conference on Public Policy, U. Iberoamericana, Mexico City. March. National.
- 2015 Latin American Studies Association (LASA), San Juan, Puerto Rico. May. International.

- 2015 Association of Researchers on Mexican Local Governments (IGLOM), Puebla, Mexico. October. National
 - 2015 Series on Mexican Economic History (Jornadas de Historia Mexicana), Mexico City. February. National.
 - 2014 Latin American Conference on Economic History (CLADHE), Bogotá Colombia. July. International.
 - 2013 Association of Researchers on Mexican Local Governments (IGLOM), Guadalajara, Mexico. October. National.
 - 2013 Series on Mexican Economic History (Jornadas de Historia Mexicana), Mexico City. February. National.
 - 2012 Series on Mexican Economic History (Jornadas de Historia Mexicana), Mexico City. February. National.
 - 2012 Latin American Conference on Economic History (CLADHE), Bariloche, Argentina. July. Interntional.
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FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

- 2022 Marquette University, Center for Transnational Justice, Summer Research Fellowship Award, \$1,000
- 2020 Marquette University, Center for Transnational Justice, Course Revision Award, \$1,000
- 2016 Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Research Grant, \$43,261 USD, Project: Municipal public finance in Mexico: why some cities collect more and spend it better, 2016-2018
- 2014 Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Research Grant, \$40,000 USD, Project: Poor municipal governments: An analysis of the property tax determinants in Mexico, 2014-2016
- 2008 Central Research Fund, University of London, Fieldwork grant, £2,000
- 2006 National Science and Technology Council, Doctoral Studies Scholarship, 2006-2010, £88,400
- 2006 ITESO University, Doctoral Studies Scholarship, 2006-2010, £36,400
- 2002 ITESO University, Graduate Studies Scholarship, 2002-2003, £13,000
- 1998 Ministry of Public Education, Undergraduate Studies Grant, 1998-2000, \$150,000 Mx Pesos

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT

- 2023 Contributor to the OXFAM Mexico report: "[Quién paga la cuenta](#): los mitos detrás de los impuestos a las grandes fortunas en México"
- 2022 Contributor to the OXFAM Mexico report: [Reforma fiscal](#), punto de partida hacia la igualdad pospandemia en México.
- 2021 Consultant on the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy team for the proposal to reform the property tax in Bogotá.
- 2021 Report: "The property tax in Morelos: an assessment and some policy proposals," for the NGO Morelos Rinde Cuentas Centro de Investigación.
- 2019 Consultant on the "Report on the Mexican Property Tax," for Ethos Laboratorio de Políticas Públicas.
- 2018 Report: "Background Study on Fiscal Policies for Fairness: An Assessment of the Main Taxes of Each Level of Government in Mexico," for OXFAM Mexico and FUNDAR (Center for Analysis and Research) in their campaign on "Fiscal Fairness in Mexico."
- 2016 Team advisor for the Global Municipal Database Prototype, UN-Habitat-Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Instructor in Workshops/Courses for government personnel:

- 2021- Course Faculty. [Diploma in Socio-Legal Studies of Urban Land](#). Lincoln Institute of Land Policy UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico). Module 3: Cities and Finances. *Course Faculty in this program every year since 2021.*
- 2024 Lead Faculty. Capacity Building Program for the Development of Urban Planning Instruments. [INFONAVIT](#) (Housing Ministry)-Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. March 2024.
- 2023 Course Faculty. Course: Fiscal tools and financing of sustainable urban development. [Module 1. Urban Management and the Role of Government. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy-Secretariat of Territorial Development-GIZ](#). December 2023.
- 2021 Lead Faculty. Distance Education Course: [Salud Fiscal Municipal, Hacia ciudades más justas, resilientes y sostenibles](#). Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (with Claudia DeCesare, Enid Slack, Juan Pablo Jimenez. Module 4: Challenges & Innovations. April 2021.)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING & SERVICE

- 2021 Professional Certificate in Municipal Finance, The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, April 2021.
- 2014 Course in Challenges and Fiscal Policy in Latin America, Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), May 2014.
- 2003 Diploma on Latin American Literature, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO), 2003.

Referee for: *Publius, Urban Affairs Review, Local Economy, Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos, Foro Internacional, El Trimestre Económico, América Latina en la Historia Económica, Íconos Revista de Ciencias Sociales FLACSO, Desarrollo y Sociedad.*