

Oscar Alvaro-Montes de Oca

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JOB EXPERIENCE

Fellow at Civic Action Project

Boston, MA-US

Research consultant at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office

June-August, 2024

- Security brief spread of the criminal organization Tren de Aragua in different parts of the US.
- Report on the origins and operation of the criminal faction Primeiro Comando da Massachusetts
- Interviews and workshop with public and private sector professionals from Massachusetts.

The University of Massachusetts Lowell

Lowell, MA-US

Teaching and Research Assistant

January 2023 –

- Assistant in the courses: Introduction to Sociology, Environmental Politics, and Latin American Politics.
- Graduate Advisor at the Emerging Scholars Program: Mentor for undergraduate students interested in research. Guide students pursuing graduate studies.
- Active class participation, facilitating the process for students in group activities.
- Help teachers to grade assignments and papers.

The Autonomous University of State of Mexico

Toluca, Mexico

Faculty of Political and Social Sciences

Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant

August 2021 – August 2022

- Manage full project life cycle for thesis. This included being in close contact with students and keeping track of writing progress, literature, and research methodologies.
- Teacher Assistant at MA and BA level courses. Coordinate course content including planning, previous consultation of literature, progress assessment, and final evaluations.
- Assistance in quantitative and qualitative research, translation, and redaction of works for Faculty Professors. Participation in the publication of academic articles, seminars, congress presentations, and grammar-orthography in English.

Insight Crime

Home-based

Intern position

September 2021 – December 2021

- Monitoring, research, background investigations, and interviewing on topics related to drug trafficking, environmental crimes, money laundering, gun trafficking, financial crimes, and criminal governance by daily monitoring the leading news media in Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Argentina.

The Populism Dataverse Project/CEU-Harvard

Home-based

Encoder and data Analyst

September 2020- February 2021

- Led a multicultural group of 10 people to match up data on speeches from Ibero-American Presidents in the last 20 years.
- Encoding and translating speeches through the Hawkins method (holistic approach). Transferring the data into Excel sheets assigning quantitative value.

The Autonomous University of State of Mexico

Toluca, Mexico

Head of Department of Collegiate Bodies

February 2015 – August 2019

- Manage the election of new members of the University Council Training over 250 new University Council members on rights and obligations for compliance with the University Law.
- Develop and implement courses in University Law compliance imparting over 100 courses in 45 locations.
- Prepare presentations for the University Board of Trustees by analyzing quantitative and qualitative data of the university electoral process.

The Autonomous University of State of Mexico

Toluca, Mexico

Interim head of the Sociology Department-UAEMEX

July 2014 – January 2015

- Organization and implementation of the courses for the BA in sociology. Coordinate over 30 different courses, revise the syllabus, recommend literature updates, and corroborate the compliance of the requirements by the National Association of Social Sciences Universities. Advises students on course selection and student pathways for the BA.

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EDUCATION

Central European University
MA in International Relations

Budapest, Hungary/Vienna, Austria
June 2020

- Topic: Conflict and Security in International Relations.
- Thesis on Conflict Analysis on the War on drugs in North-Central America
- Selected Coursework: International Organizations in the Transnational Organized Crime's Conflict.
- Skills for Impact Certificate: Discipline, commitment, and responsibility. I graduated on time for the first Department's deadline for thesis submission.

Autonomous University of States of Mexico
Bachelor in Sociology of Latin America and Mexico

Toluca, Mexico
August 2009-July 2014

- Thesis on the Role of Civil Society in Democracy Building. Study Case of Transparency Office in Mexico.
- Selected Coursework: Political Sociology and Regional Integration, Methods
- Semester at the University of Quilmes, Argentina
- Academic stay at North Texas University, USA

Complementary activities

- Organization of the VI National Congress of Students of Sociology (Toluca, 2010)
- Moderator in the table of Rational Choice of the II Annual Meeting of the International Sociology Association (Buenos Aires, 2012)
- Founder of the Youth Chapter of the Latin American Sociology Association (Mexico City, 2013)
- Organization of the I National International Congress of Students Representatives (Toluca, 2013)
- Organization of the National Meeting of Youth Students (Toluca, 2014)
- Organization of the II National Conference of the National Network of Sociologist and Sociology institutions in Mexico (Toluca, 2014)

HONORS

- Scholarship award for the tuition fee for MA studies at Central European University (2019-2020).
- Scholarship award: "Fundación Cuauhtémoc Hank Rhon" (2012-2014; 2019-2020)
- "The Justice Award" for social activism awarded by the Government of the State of Mexico and the Direction of Family Integration (GEM-DIF, 2015)
- Scholarship award: "Jóvenes de Intercambio México-Argentina" (JIMA-2012)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (read)

Software: Rstudio, Stata, Microsoft Office package, Prezi, Google tools (drive, search strings, advance search, filters, calendar, classroom) Slack, and Mendeley

Selected Publication: Homann and Alvaro (2024) "From Prison Gang to Transnational Criminal Organization. A Social Network Analysis of the Tren de Aragua". Conference paper. Springer.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-78548-1_10