

Presentation title:

Security provision by non-state actors: Militias and community police in Mexico

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In second contribution, we will present preliminary results of a research cooperation between Stanford University's PovGov Lab and the Osnabrück University on NGPs in southern Mexico. As a result of decentralisation Mexican federal states have far-reaching autonomy to determine their own security and sub-national government policies. We find considerable variation in terms of NGP types and strategies of providing local security. Accordingly, we offer a typology of federal state regulation of NGPs (or the lack of it) and the resultant types of NGPs that have emerged throughout the country. We also show that under benevolent state regulation, NGPs do indeed contribute positively to objective (homicide rates, victimisation) and subjective (our survey) security. We also note only very limited complaints against regulated / legalised NGPs regarding abuse of power, while unregulated NGPs are more likely to turn rouge. Finally, we explain how NGP policing and security provision functions and how it leads to the mentioned positive outcomes. We finally discuss which specific state policies are associated with positive societal outcomes.