

Dr. Chelsea L. Estancona

Department of Political Science
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Academic Appointments **University of South Carolina**

Associate Professor of Political Science, 2025-

Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2018-2025

Research Interests Militant groups' economic strategies, criminal groups and illicit finance, militias in civil war, offshore finance.

Education **The University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA

Ph.D., Political Science, 2018

- Concentrations:
International Relations and *Quantitative Methodology*
- Committee Chair: Dr. Navin Bapat
- Committee: Dr. Cameron Ballard-Rosa, Dr. Mark J.C. Crescenzi, Dr. Stephen Gent, Dr. David Siegel

M.A., Political Science, 2015

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia USA

B.A., *Government* and *Hispanic Studies*, May 2011

Publications Estancona, Chelsea and Menevis Cilizoglu. "Hide and Seek? Targeted Sanctions and Offshore Financial Networks." *Forthcoming at the British Journal of Political Science*, September 2025.

Estancona, Chelsea and Lucía Tiscornia. "From Cocaine to Avocados: Criminal Expansion into Markets for Licit Goods and Violence." *International Organization*, September 2025.

Estancona, Chelsea. "Rebel Commodity Markets, Price Shocks, and Supplier Victimization." *International Studies Quarterly*, August 2021.

Estancona, Chelsea. "Banditry or Business? Rebel Labor Markets and State Economic Intervention." *International Interactions*, October 2021.

	Estancona, Chelsea and Lindsay Reid. “Pro-Government Militias and Civil War Termination.” <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i> , November 2021.
	Estancona, Chelsea, Lucia Bird, Kaisa Hinkkainen and Navin Bapat. “Civilian Self-Defense Militias in Civil War.” <i>International Interactions</i> , January 2019.
Papers in Preparation	Estancona, Chelsea and Lindsay Reid. “Negative Peace: Pro-Government Militias and Post-Conflict Violence.” <i>In Progress</i> .
	Estancona, Chelsea and Rebecca Cordell. “Public Perception of Dissent and Repressive Response.” <i>In Progress</i> .
	Estancona, Chelsea and Lucía Tiscornia. “Supply Chain Disruptions and Criminal Strategies.” <i>In Progress</i> .
	Aba, Kenneth, Baily, Spencer and Chelsea Estancona. “Sustaining Rebellion? Resources and Rebel Conservation.” <i>In Progress</i> .
Book Chapters	Estancona, Chelsea. “Non-State Agents of Repression” in <i>De Gruyter Handbook of Political Control</i> , Eds. Jessica Maves Braithewaite and Jennifer Earl. 2025.
	Estancona, Chelsea. “Militias, Criminality, and Conflict” in <i>What do We Know About Civil Wars? 2nd Ed.</i> Eds. David Mason and Sara Mitchell. Rowman & Littlefield Publishing. 2023.
Other Publications	Estancona, Chelsea and Lucía Tiscornia. “Consumers Beware: The Price of Avocados is Higher than You Think.” <i>Political Violence at a Glance</i> , April 2023.
	Estancona, Chelsea and Menevis Cilizoglu. “Why Offshore Finance Limits U.S. Sanctioning Against Russia.” <i>Political Violence at a Glance</i> , April 2022.
Invited Talks and Workshops	Research Colloquium, <i>University of Kentucky</i> , January 2024.
	Watson Institute Security Seminar, <i>Brown University</i> , March 2023.
	Research Colloquium, <i>UC Dublin</i> , January 2023.
	Political Economy of Conflict Seminar, <i>Vanderbilt University</i> , April 2022.
	Political Economy of Security Seminar, <i>Boston University</i> , April 2022.

Perry World House Seminar Series, *University of Pennsylvania*, October 2021.

Security in Our Hemisphere, *Institute for Defense and Business*, September 2021.

Criminality and Conflict Workshop, *Organizer, Peace Science Society International*, November 2020.

Community Defense Forces Workshop, *Queens University, Belfast*, January 2020.

New Research by Women Studying Violence. *Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame*, December 2019.

“Rebel Commodity Markets and Negotiation in Civil War.” *The College of William and Mary*, February 2019.

Journeys in World Politics, May 2017.

**Selected
Conference
Presentations**

Estancona, Chelsea and Lucía Tiscornia. “Drug Seizures, Cartel Size and Criminal Violence.” International Studies Association Annual Conference, March 2023.

Estancona, Chelsea and Lucía Tiscornia. “From Cocaine to Avocados: Criminal Expansion into Markets for Licit Goods and Violence.” UNU Wider Development Conference, October 2022.

Estancona, Chelsea and Lucía Tiscornia. “Supply Chain Disruptions and Criminal Strategies.” Peace Science Society (International) Annual Meeting, November 2022.

Estancona, Chelsea and Menevis Cilizoglu. “Hide and Seek? Offshore Financial Networks and Targeted Sanctions.” International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2022.

Estancona, Chelsea and Lindsay Reid. “Negative Peace: Pro-Government Militias and Post-Conflict Violence.” International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2022.

Estancona, Chelsea and Rebecca Cordell. “Public Perception of Dissent and Repressive Response.” International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2022.

Estancona, Chelsea and Lucía Tiscornia. “From Cocaine to Avocados:

Criminal Expansion into Markets for Licit Goods and Violence.” Public Choice Society Annual Meeting, March 2022.

Estancona, Chelsea. “The Rebels’ Resource Curse: A Bayesian Competing Risks Model.” Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, July 13, 2017.

Teaching Experience

The University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., USA

Graduate

- International Relations Pro-Seminar
- Theories of Political Inquiry
- Civil Wars and Political Violence

Undergraduate

- Introduction to International Politics
- Revolution and Political Violence
- Honors: Understanding Intrastate Conflict

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. USA

Instructor, Undergraduate

- Introduction to International Politics.

Teaching Assistant, Graduate

- Intermediate Statistics (OLS, GLM, Causal Inference) lab for Dr. Santiago Olivella.
- Introductory Statistics (Data management, probability, research design) lab for Dr. Stephen Gent.

The Odum Institute, Chapel Hill, N.C., USA

Instructor

- Instructor, R Open Labs
- Short Course, Introduction to Statistical Computing in R
- Short Course, Intermediate Statistical Computing in R
- Short Course, Introduction to L^AT_EX

Professional Development

Bridging the Gap

International Policy Summer Institute

Summer 2022

Empirical Studies of Conflict

Mentorship Program

2019-2020

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models

Summer Institute, Duke University

2016

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan 2015

- Network Analysis: Advanced Topics
- Advanced Bayesian Models for the Social Sciences

Awards and Honors

- CAS Faculty Research Initiative USC: \$10000 2023-2024
- ISA Research Workshop Grant: \$2200 2022
- UNC Dissertation Completion Fellowship: \$18000 2018-2019, *declined*
- Smith Richardson Foundation Dissertation Fellowship: \$7500 2017

Service

To Discipline:

- Co-founder and Organizer, *Carolinas Conflict Consortium* (2019 -)
- Co-founder and Organizer, *Illicit Economies and Extra-Legal Actors Conference* (2022-)
- Co-Organizer, *Online Peace Science Colloquium* (2022 -)
- Program Committee, *Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Meeting* (2025, 2022)
- Section Chair: *Southern Political Science Association* (2021), *Midwest Political Science Association* (2021)
- Reviewer (selected Journals): *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Interactions*, *International Studies Review*
- Poster Committee Chair, *Political Networks Conference*
- Poster Committee, *Peace Science Society International*

Department Service:

- Library Liaison
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- Graduate Curriculum Committee
- Search Chair, International Relations

Doctoral Students at U of S.C.:

- Emily Harmon
- Spencer Baily
- Kenneth Aba
- Jieun Byeon
- Anna Puente