

**October 20, 2020**

**Call for Papers: Journal of Illicit Economies and Development (JIED), LSE Press**

**Special Issue: From the Local to the Transnational: Linkages in the North and Central American Drug Trades**

Special Issue Guest Editors: Cecilia Farfán-Méndez, Romain Le Cour Grandmaison, Nathaniel Morris and John Collins

We are now inviting proposals from social scientists and scholars in the humanities working on illicit drug production, trafficking, and consumption in Central America, the Caribbean, and North America—Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

While there is extensive research on the drug trade in the northern half of the Americas, this literature remains heavily divided among disciplines, country focus, and scales of research, with little inter-regional or inter-disciplinary cross-over.

This journal special issue will advance the conversation on illicit drug markets in the Americas by fostering cross-fertilization among different methodologies and perspectives that have been previously analyzed as self-contained phenomena. It will provide an opportunity to observe the full cycle of illicit drugs production, trafficking, and consumption throughout North America, Central America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, it will promote a more comprehensive understanding of the social dynamics of development, violence, and drug policies; the way that these issues are addressed by the twenty-three national governments of the region, and the many more regional or local institutions that exist within each; and the mutual dependencies that exist between all of the region's multiple drug trades.

We would like to connect multiple territories and scales of analysis in order to reveal the profound and constantly evolving local and regionally intertwined dynamics of illicit economies which are too often neglected by solely macro perspectives.

Suggested themes:

- Drug production in Mexico, and consumption in the US;
- drug trafficking and its social impact at the local level across multiple nations;
- comparisons between urban and rural drug production and consumption;
- the gendered dynamics of production or trafficking;
- the articulations between legal and illegal markets at local, national and international levels;
- the long durée history of the many North and Central American drug trades and the evolution of public security policies;
- policy lessons learned from the region;
- the impacts of COVID-19 on local or regional drug markets and policies.

In order to offer a broad empirical, qualitative approach, we welcome contributions from various disciplines, including sociology, economics, anthropology, history and international

relations, as well as policy analyses from activists, NGO leaders, or practitioners. In this time of COVID-19 lockdowns and uncertainty within academia, we particularly encourage submissions by female scholars, precariously employed faculty-members, and academics from less traditional backgrounds.

The special issue will also contribute to the creation of a Research Cluster focused on North American Drug Markets. A closed authors virtual workshop will be organised in Autumn 2020 (details forthcoming) in order to present the Cluster, its partners, and activities, as well as to discuss early findings and contributions.

Research Cluster

**JIED calls for two types of contributions in Spanish or English:**

- Research articles: based on unpublished original research that makes a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding to this special issue. Length: 8,000 words (abstract 250 words).

- Policy commentaries: which cover commentary on novel policy interventions, or review pre-existing interventions. Length: 3000 words (abstract 250 words).

**If you are interested in responding to this call, please submit the following information:**

- Article type: \_\_Research Article / \_\_Policy Commentary \_\_ / Methodology Article
- Tentative title of article
- Name, affiliation and place of residence of authors(s)
- Abstract of the manuscript (max. 500 words)

**Prospected date of publication:** Winter 2021

**Deadline for Submission:** December 4, 2020

Please submit to all Editors: Cecilia Farfán-Méndez, [cfarfanmendez@ucsd.edu](mailto:cfarfanmendez@ucsd.edu); Romain Le Cour Grandmaison [romain.lecourgrandmaison@noria-research.com](mailto:romain.lecourgrandmaison@noria-research.com); Nathaniel Morris, [n.morris@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.morris@ucl.ac.uk); John Collins, [john.collins@globalinitiative.net](mailto:john.collins@globalinitiative.net).