

Doctoral Project from Mr. Stiven Tremaria

Working Title:

Policing and Regime Transformation: Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine from a Comparative Perspective

Supervisor:

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Abstract:

The dissertation analyses police reforms under the context of political regime transformation from a cross-regional case study-based comparative analysis among Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine. Political regime change and police restructuring are reviewed at two different moments: Firstly, during democratisation endeavours and the adoption of legal-normative reforms grounded on the model of democratic policing; and secondly, under contexts of democratic stagnation, backsliding and autocratic consolidation and the rollback of such police reforms.

Drawing on macro-level actor-based theoretical explanations from the system transformation and the sociological police research, it is held that in scenarios of autocratisation, ruling political elites set in motion a counter-police reform as a strategy for power consolidation and co-optation of the police institution. Consequently, focus of the research is placed on identifying and analysing the mechanisms and manifestations through which a counter-reform of the police occurs gradual and incrementally in the scope of the transition to different forms of autocratisation.

The research is methodologically carried out through a mixed-method design combining theory-testing process tracing and a cross-case comparative analysis (based on the Most Different System Design) and founded on the critical review of primary sources and expert interviews through field research.