

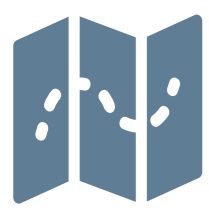
## An Empirical Analysis on Organized Crime Dynamics and Business Practices in Mexico.



### Motivation

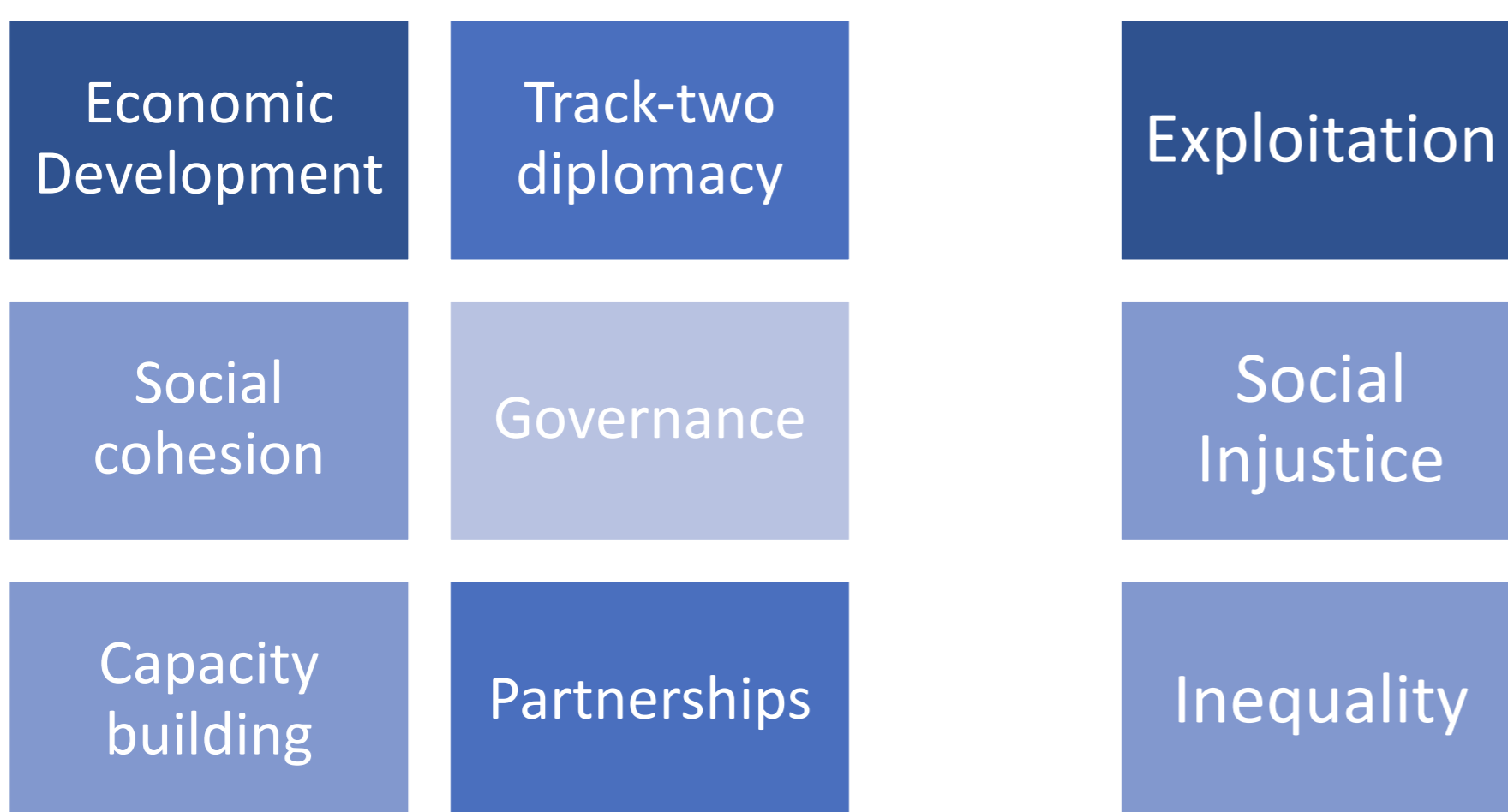
- Democracy is in reverse (EIU, 2024) and global peace is threatened.
- MNCs – powerful and influential actors - operate in non-democratic and/or conflict-ridden areas.
- The endeavor to cultivate peace emerges as a **deliberate** and *potentially* transformative endeavor.

→ How do corporations perceive and contribute to a more peaceful world?



### Theoretical Background

#### 1. Direct violence activities      2. Indirect violence activities



(Fort and Schipani, 2007; Oetzel et al., 2009; Katsos and Forrer, 2022).

(Katsos and Forrer 2022; Galtung, 1968)



### Case & Context

The effects of cartels on Mexico's society are well-established (Prieto-Curiel et al., 2023):

- Cartels are the **5th largest employers** in MEX
- Reducing recruitment (350/week) could substantially curtail violence and lower cartel size.

Heidelberg Institute Conflict Barometer: **Drug cartels**

- **Intensity:** limited-war (4)
- **Parties:** drug cartels vs. gov. vs. vigilant groups
- **Item:** subnational, resources



### Methodology

**Grounded theory approach** → the goal is to build theory within the field of B4P in the context of “**limited war**”.

#### Data Collection:

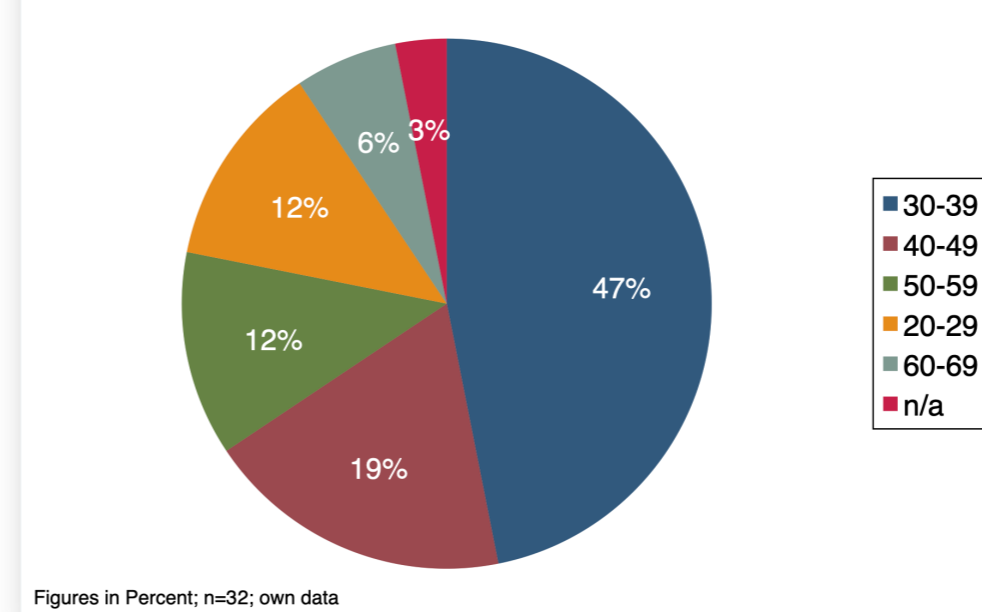
- In-depth, semi-structured interviews
- Participant criteria: managing > 3 employees.

→ **Sample size: 33**

#### Interviewee Demographics:

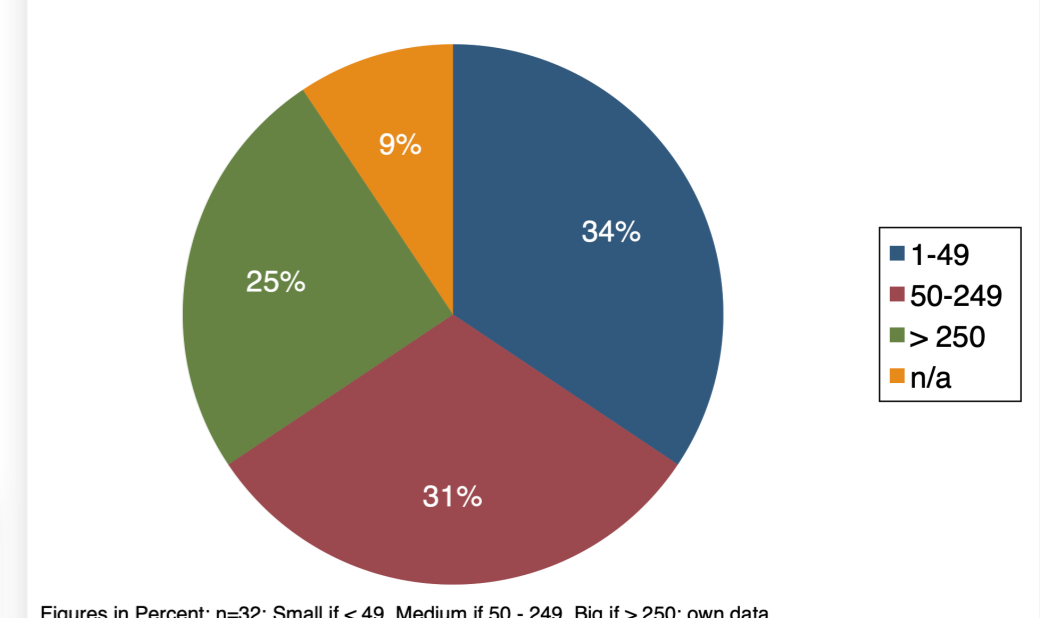
- Male 44%; Female 56%
- Mexicans 94%;
- Age group 30-39: 47%

Figure 2: Participant Demographics  
Age Group (in years)



Figures in Percent; n=32; own data

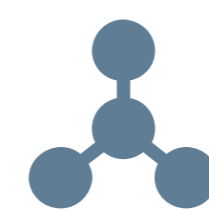
Figure 5: Participant Company Characteristics  
Company size (by employee number)



Figures in Percent; n=32; Small if < 49, Medium if 50 - 249, Big if > 250; own data

#### Company Characteristics:

- Small: 34%; Medium: 31%; Big: 25%
- HQ: National 66%; Int. 34%
- For-Profit: 94%



### Data Analysis

**MAXQDA** : recorded digitally, transcribed, coded

- 1<sup>st</sup> round: “Overarching” codes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> round: Codes grouped and refined
- 3<sup>rd</sup> round: Codes merged, newly introduced & updated

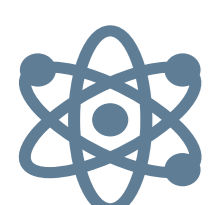


### Contribution

- Enriching the B4P theory
- Theory building in peacebuilding initiatives
- Doing business in 'limited war' regions



**Call for Papers** (JBE 2024): Responsible and Irresponsible Business in Times of Conflict.



### Researcher

- Milena Störmer; Germany
- Research Associate and Doctoral Researcher @ FAU
- Masters in Development Economics and Int. Studies @ FAU



### Business & Human Rights

- Understanding corporate perception and contribution to peacebuilding in conflict regions;
- the intersection between B4P and BHR literature

