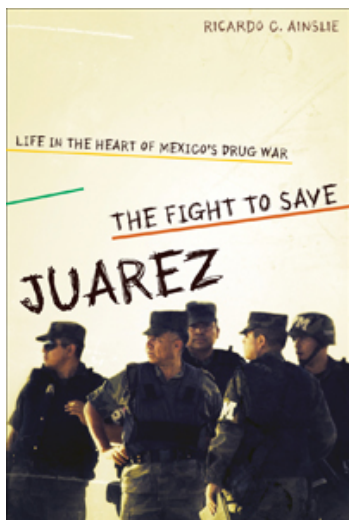


Mexican Drug Wars and Community Violence

The on-going drug war and community violence have become synonymous with Mexico. I have carried out two major projects in Mexico related to these horrors.

The most recent is my book - *The Fight to Save Juárez: Life in the Heart of Mexico's Drug War* (University of Texas Press, 2013).



In 2008 a battle for control of drug routes into the United States led to the eruption of tremendous violence in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. More than 10,000 people were murdered in that city between 2008 and 2011. For eighteen months, during this most violent period, I travelled to Juárez, researching the impact of that violence on the city's residents. I interviewed victims of crime and their families, policy makers, people working in NGOs, law enforcement, and a broad array of other individuals to tell the story of what was taking place in Juárez and why, as well as its effects on the community. This work was supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship (2010). *The Fight to Save Juárez* describes what took place in this city and some of the key characters whose lives reflect that tragedy. As a result of my work, I was invited to testify

before the United States Congress' Committee on Homeland Security on the topic of "U.S. Homeland Security Role in the Mexico War Against the Drug Cartels" (March, 2011).

Documentary Film: *Ya Basta! Kidnapped in Mexico* (TRT:75-minutes).

I am a native of Mexico City and in 2004 I returned to discover that the country was awash in a wave of crime that had developed since the economic crisis of the 1990's. The signature crime was kidnapping. Between the fall of 2004 and January 2007, I directed and produced a documentary film, *Ya Basta: Kidnapped in Mexico* (TRT:75-minutes). Using interviews with victims, Mexican law enforcement, journalists, academics, and a variety of other experts, I explored the problem of kidnappings and other crime that had Mexico in its grip. The centerpiece of the film is two families whose experiences of having suffered tragic kidnappings led them to



found one of the most influential civic groups pressuring the Mexican government to take action on behalf of its citizens, including a million-person protest march in 2004 – at the time the largest in the nation’s history. *Ya Basta!* Premiered at SXSW Film Festival in 2007 and was screened at six other film festivals (see below under “Talks”).

Articles

Ainslie, R.C. (2012), “Ciudad Juárez, Violence, and the Social Fabric”, *Portal*, Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies, Issue No.7

Ainslie, R.C. (2011), “Mexico’s Law Enforcement Challenge: The Case Study of Ciudad Juarez”, *International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*. Vol. 14, No.2.19-26

Talks Related to Crime in Mexico and Mexico’s Drug War

“Broader Thoughts on Border”, Texas Book Festival, Moderator, October 2014

“Narrating Narcos: Culiacán and Medellín”, Discussion of Gabriela Polit Book Presentation, Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies, September 2014

“Individual and Community Trauma in the Mexican Drug War”, Houston Psychoanalytic Society, September 2014

“Border Wars Near and Far”, Tucson Festival of Books, March 2014

Humanities Texas Book Fair, December 2013

“Psychoanalysis, Visual Representation, and Documentary Forms of Social Intervention”, Association for Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society, New Brunswick, November, 2013

“Mexico’s Drug War: Origins and Future”, Alpine/Marfa Library Foundation, November, 2013

“The Fight to Save Juárez”, El Paso Community Foundation, November 2013

“Psychoanalytically-Informed Interventions in Communities Marked by Unconscious or Disavowed Collective Processes”, Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology, October, 2013

“Lessons from Juárez and the Future of Mexico’s Drug War”, Centennial Lecture Series, University of Texas at El Paso, October, 2013

“Border Politics”, Texas Book Festival – CSPAN event, October 2013

"The Changing Face of Mexico's Drug War", Institute of the Americas, University of California at San Diego, August 2013

"Juárez Violence as Community Trauma", Dallas Center for Psychoanalytic Studies, June, 2013

"The Fight to Save Juárez", Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies, University of Texas at Austin, April, 2013

"Beyond the Consulting Room: How Psychologists Can Help Shape our Communities in the 21st Century", Plenary Address for Wisconsin Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Madison, April 2013

"Engaging and Consulting with Communities", Wisconsin Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Madison, April 2013

"Psychologist as Filmmaker: The Uses of Documentary Film in Psychology", Wisconsin Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Madison, April 2013

"Diversity Challenge, What to do about Race and Culture and Violence", Boston College, October, 2012

"Mexico's Drug War: Current State of Affairs", Lyndon Baines Johnson Library: Future Forum, September, 2012

"Mexico's Drug Cartels: The Effect they Are Having on the U.S. Business Market", Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce August, 2012

"Mexico's Drug War, Violence, and Community Trauma", Amherst University, April, 2012

"Individual and Collective Trauma in Mexico's Drug War", Chicago Psychoanalytic Society, March 2012

"The Role of Transference and Countertransference in Understanding Socio-Political Conflicts: A Reflection on Three Incidents in Mexico's Current Drug War" (with Luis Sandoval and Andrew Costigian), Association for Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society Annual Meeting, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, November 2011

"Border Security and Violence", Jornadas Fronterizas, University of Texas at Austin, November 2011

"Understanding Mexico's Drug War Through its Epicenter, Ciudad Juarez", NOVA, University of Texas at Austin, May 2011

"The U.S. Homeland Security Role in the Mexican War Against Drug Cartels", U.S. Congress congressional testimony: Homeland Security Subcommittee Hearing, April, 2011

"Making Sense of Mexico's Drug War", LAMP, University of Texas at Austin, April 2011

"Juarez as Collective Trauma: Theorizing the Psychic Consequences of the Unraveling of the Social Fabric", Annual Meeting of The APA Division of Psychoanalysis, New York, April 2011

"Border Violence and Its Impact on Children, Youth and Families", School of Social Work, University of Texas, March 2011

Greater Austin Crime Commission and the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, LBJ Library, University of Texas, March 2011

"Mexico's War Against the Cartels", World Affairs Council, Springfield II, March 2010

"Violence in Ciudad Juárez: Life at the Epicenter of Mexico's Drug War", Republics of Fear: Understanding Endemic Violence in Latin America Today, Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies, Austin, Texas, March 2010

"Psychoanalysis and the Art of Community Engagement", Philadelphia Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology, Swarthmore, PA, April 2010

"Psychoanalytic and Cultural Perspectives on Violence", Annual Meetings of the Division of Psychoanalysis, April, 2009

Ya Basta! Festival Screening - Festival Internacional de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, November 2008

Ya Basta! Festival Screening - Lonestar International Film Festival, Fort Worth, November 2007

Ya Basta! Festival Screening - Leeds Film Festival, Leeds, United Kingdom, November 2007

Ya Basta! Festival Screening - Festival de Morelia, Morelia, Mexico, October 2007

Ya Basta! Festival Screening - Festival en Corto, San Miguel de Allende/Guanajuato, Mexico, June 2007

Ya Basta! Festival Screening - Cine de las Americas Film Festival, Austin, Texas, April 2007

Ya Basta! Festival Screening - South by Southwest Film Festival, Austin, Texas,
March 2007

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