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PENSAMIENTO  
PROPIO

**“Militarization and Public Security in the Americas”**  
*Special Issue*

*Call for Papers*

Guest Editors

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The deployment of military forces in public security crises is an increasing trend all across the Americas. The use of the military in policing missions is rooted in processes of local and national historical formation, as well as in the activities of repressive apparatuses created during the ages of Cold War authoritarianism in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The social and governmental sense of urgency in reclaiming the efficiency of security forces' personnel and *modus operandi* has impacted police tactics. In regard to training and equipment, as well as mindset, changes tend to emulate practices of militarization directed against domestic/*intermestic* targets. Militarization's ultimate goal? Crushing the competition dismantling the State's core definition – the legitimate monopoly of the use of violence. Non-state actors such as gangs, guerrillas, private military companies, and self-defense groups would all amount to competition and yield different levels of repression.

Since the 1960s, the US Hemispheric security strategy has boosted this phenomenon. Yet, US external pressure is just one of the many explanatory variables of a complex scenario. Transnational organized crime groups or the many actors within internal conflicts are among local dynamics that critically influence the production of various political and security outcomes.

In the beginning of the 21st century, the Americas are home to the most lethal cities in the world. Homicides rates exceed absolute figures in countries officially going

through wars/civil wars. The States' response, nevertheless, has emphasized the militarization option even though stirring matching violent reactions on the side of illegal organizations.

Peacebuilding has hence increasingly framed the construction of peace in a multifaceted manner, including causes and ways to mitigate chronic criminal and state violence. Such analytical effort demands innovative research that generates empirical data, performs comparative studies, and aims at forging original theoretical and methodological frameworks.

In light of the relevance of the militarization of public security to the analysis of violence, democracy and peacebuilding in the Americas, **Pensamiento Propio** is calling for submissions for this special issue. It is our goal to gather articles that can offer original approaches to these phenomena from innovative theoretical and methodological perspectives. Besides other contributions, we are looking for case studies on the militarization of public security not only in Latin America and the Caribbean, but also in the US and Canada.

The editors seek a plurality of theoretical and methodological approaches, the presentation of elucidative empirical research, as well a diverse sample of cities, countries, regions and other geographic categories.

The submissions will pass through a *double-blind peer review* process, according to editorial guidelines available at [http://www.cries.org/?page\\_id=33](http://www.cries.org/?page_id=33)

The deadline for submissions is January 20, 2020, at [pensamientopropio@cries.org](mailto:pensamientopropio@cries.org).