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Order and Crime: Criminal Groups' Political Legitimacy in Michoacán and Sicily

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Order and Crime:
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Rodrigo Peña González
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in 1987

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Curriculum Vitae

Rodrigo Peña González was born in Tlalnepantla, Mexico. He studied International Relations at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), where he received his bachelor's degree in 2011. In 2014 he obtained a master's degree in Political and Social Studies also at UNAM. Since 2015, he is a member of CASEDE, a Mexican Think Tank focused on security and violence phenomena. In 2016 he was awarded a scholarship from the Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACyT) to conduct a four-year doctoral research at Leiden University. For this purpose, he joined the research group From Disorder to Order: Conflict and the Resources of Legitimacy.

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At some point during my Ph.D. studies at Leiden University, a fragment of the poem “The Road Not Taken,” by Robert Frost, was installed outside one of the University’s buildings. The fragment goes as follows: “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— / I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference.” Indeed, choosing Leiden for carrying my doctoral studies made all the difference. Traveling to such a remote place and converting it into my home was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made and, yet, it was also one of the best. Nevertheless, it was the people I found on this “less traveled” path who made this a great experience. First of all, thanks to the members of the reading commission. Their commitment to critically reading this work served to enrich its content. Thanks to Leiden University. The support I received throughout the research project, “From Disorder to Order: Conflict and the Resources of Legitimacy” was essential to achieve success in this work. Thanks to the National Council for Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACyT). The scholarship which I was awarded to carry out my doctoral studies let me take every step in this academic journey.

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