Mapping the Transnational Circulation and Control of Small Arms in Latin America

Small arms and light weapons play a central role in the political and criminal violence patterns observed in Latin America and beyond. Among the various types of small arms used in the region, military-style firearms are particularly prevalent and serve as a compelling case study for examining the emergence of violent dynamics and identifying effective entry points for policy responses and international cooperation initiatives. The aim of the project is to inform evidence-based policy interventions seeking to curb the proliferation of military-style firearms and promoting regional security in Latin America.

Our work intends to:

- Gather quantitative data on small arms flows over the past decade, along with qualitative data on sociocultural and gendered perspectives that shape gun cultures and their political economy; and
- Investigate the adoption and implementation of international, regional, and national norms on small arms and light weapons in Latin America, evaluating their policy impacts.







Video The anatomy of a rifle – circulation and control in Latin America Funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), this project has adopted a mixed-methods interdisciplinary research approach involving the following European and Latin American universities, NGOs, and international organizations: Geneva Graduate Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding; International Relations Institute at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio); Conflict Analysis Resource Center (CERAC); and Instituto Sou da Paz.

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