Transnational Organized Crime Dashboard

An Overview of Involved Processes and Utilization of ArcGIS Products









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Agenda

Project Overview

- Problem Statement
- Involved Processes and Deliverables

Conceptualizing and Operationalizing TOC

- The Role of the **Conceptualizer Team**
 - Identifying Criminal Organizations which Facilitate TOC
 - Gathering Information Sources surrounding TOC

Gathering and Reviewing Information Sources

- The Role of a **Programming Team**
 - Development of a Web-Scraper
- The Role of **Database Reviewers**
 - Manual Verification and Extraction of Key Variables and Entities

Utilization of ArcGIS Products

- ESRI Online Workspace
- **Development** of a Dashboard



Project Overview

- **Problem:** While challenges posed by corruption, financial crimes, and criminal networks are *pervasive* throughout South America, there remains a <u>lack of</u> transnational data-driven reliable analytics to define the scope of these challenges.
- **Objective:** To <u>enhance policy decision-making</u> and <u>guide foreign assistance programming</u> decisions, we have *standardized* a method to assess the scope and scale of transnational organized crime in the Latin America and Caribbean regions.
- **Deliverable:** The <u>outcome</u> of this method was the development of an interactive dashboard, hosted by the *Office of International Research Partnerships (OIRP)* at *John Jay*. This product <u>serves as a resource</u> to monitoring TOC including that of homicide, drug trafficking, money laundering, and corruption.



Figure 1.1

Transnational Organized Crime

Definition:

The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime(UNTOC) does not contain a precise definition of "transnational organized crime".

According to the Article 2(a) of UNTOC, organized crime is:

- a group of three or more persons that was not randomly formed;
- existing for a period of time;
- acting in concert with the aim of committing at least one crime punishable by at least four years' incorporation;
- in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

"Transnational" means:

- 1) offences committed in more than one State
- 2) that take place in one State but are planned or controlled in another.
- 3) crimes in one State committed by groups that operate in more than one State
- 4) criminal activities affecting more than one country [Y. Zobyolind

Figure 1.2

Homicides to be considered TOC

Definition:

Homicides committed by criminal organizations, in relation to criminal activities that are aimed, directly or indirectly, at obtaining illicit profits, eliminating rivals or State representatives, and imposing illegal order.

TOC Inclusion criteria

- a) Selection filter for homicides linked to organized crime- in general:
- Use of assault weapons.
- Signs of mutilation or torture
- Execution-type homicides (for example "tiro de gracia"")
- Participation of a group of armed men
- Homicides carried out by hitmen ("sicario")
- Presence of signs, brands or messages linked to organized crime.
- Bodies in clandestine graves, found in abandoned vehicles or containers.

b) Selection filter for homicides linked to transnational organized crime:

- Homicides that occur in border areas.
- Homicides that occur in the areas of influence of national organized
 arouse linked to TOC.
- Homicides carried out by foreign organized crime groups.

TOC Exclusion criteria

- Homicides carried out by insurgent or terrori:
- Homicides related to the occurrence of minor crimes (such as theft)
- Reports that do not present the information on the events individually, but rather add up the victims of various actions.

Criminal Organized groups in Latinamerica Tier 1 Transactions Organized Crime Tier 2 National Organized Crime Some criminal organizations that 'work' at a transnational level are clearly identified, as are their main members, areas of influence, associated crimes, and more. InsighCrime provides reports by country.

Understanding *Transnational Organized Crime*

- An initial definition of TOC is provided by the *United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)*, as presented in *figure 1.1*
 - Working with this definition, the team reviewed empirical literature and worked with scholars in the field to conceptualize and operationalize TOC.
 - In <u>differentiating</u> a *common crime* from one attributable to *transnational* organized crime, this required the establishment of conceptual standards to create classification criteria for different crime types (see figure 1.2)

Gathering and Scraping Information Sources

- Having established the parameters of the study, the next step was to identify information sources to extract and be subsequently analyzed for the dashboard.
 - This required the development of a web scraper to compile and structure available information sources to supply data into the dashboard.
- The challenge of structuring and populating a dashboard based on news published in open access media made the use of automated web search tools critical.
 - The web scraping process consists of a technique used for the extraction of unstructured text from websites and then transforming it into structured information as observed in *figures 1.4* and *1.5*.

Figure 1.4

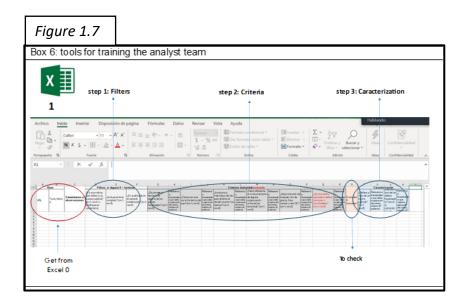
Figure 1.5

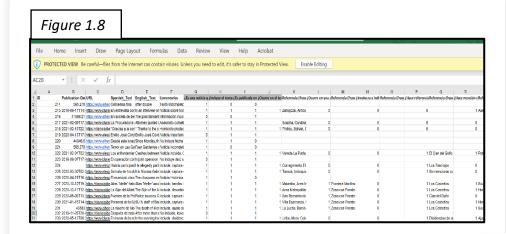
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Manual Verification of Gathered Data (*Part I*)

- **Objective:** In compiling and structuring information recorded by publicly available information, we aimed to ensure that all collected material met the specific criteria to be considered a TOC.
- **Processes:** To meet this goal, we conducted a manual verification (*figure 1.6*) of the collected information with the assistance of our programmers
 - This involved the extraction of entities to determine whether an event met TOC criteria
- **Deliverable:** In ensuring the quality of the gathered data for the dashboard, we also facilitated the next process in creating a final database with extracted variables and entities (*figure 1.7*) that could be visually represented and analyzed in the dashboard.







Manual Verification of Data (Part II)

- **Issue:** Presented with a multitude of <u>variables and entities</u> for each crime database, country, and year under analysis, our team was tasked with identifying key measures which could be presented in the ArcGIS dashboard.
- **Solution:** To <u>facilitate this process</u>, a text extraction and sentiment analysis software was needed. In using this tool, the software was able to *extract* variables such as the *name of a person*, the *location of an event*, the *type of crime*, the presence of a *criminal organization*, and other variables which could be further analyzed and eventually integrated into the dashboard.
 - An example of this process is displayed in *figures 1.9* and 2.0, where a database has undergone a complete text extraction, resulting in a new database with identified variables, extracted entities, and text classification.

Figure 1.9

1	Article_ID Publication Date	Spanish title	Meta Decription	Spanish_Text	English_Text	URL RA	IIZ Articl	e_Classification	
2	1000 2020-02-09T19:03	Robo cibernétic	La Policía detalló	La División de	Division Scams	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- organized crime
3	1001 2019-10-25T22:21	Estudiante que	El joven tenía sig	Un estudiante	A college stude	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- police
4	1002 2019-02-10T20:58	George Forsyth:	Participaron un t	El alcalde La V	Mayor La Victo	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- crime - drug trafficking
5	1003 2018-09-07T13:45	Fiscal pide 28 af	El plazo de su de	A poco de cun	Shortly met 36	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- organized crime
6	1004 2019-09-23T02:19	Difunden imáge	Actor de "La rosa	Cada paso que	Every step he t	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- police
7	1005 2019-09-02T02:10	?Imágenes inéd	Mario Peláez Bui	Mario Peláez	Mario Pelaez B	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- organized crime
8	1006 2018-10-27T20:18	Incautan 1,200 k	Miembros de la l	Los miembros	Members of th	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- crime - drug trafficking
9	1007 2018-11-01T17:13	?Incautan más d	Buque provenie	Más de 130 ki	More than 130	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- crime - drug trafficking
10	1008 2019-08-17T20:36	Incautan cerca d	La Policía, ademá	Los miembros	Members of th	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- crime - drug trafficking
11		Incautan más de	La organización o	Más de 5000 p	More than 5,00	https://di-di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- crime - drug trafficking
12		Venezolana hall	Joselyn Daniela	Joselyn Danie	Joselyn Daniel	https://di-di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- police
13		KFC fue clausura	Establecimiento	La Municipalio	The Municipali	https://di-di	ario <mark>politi</mark>	cs - regional auth	ority
14		Comunidad skat	Sus patinetas fue	Los skaters, d	Skaters, athlet	https://di-di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- police
15									
16									
17		Mafia de serbio	Subterráneo con	La mafia del s	Mafia Serbian 2	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- organized crime
18		Protestas contir	Agentes policial	Las protestas	Protests agains	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- police
19	1017 2018-05-16T15:37	Marihuana trans	Su proceso de si	Expertos de D	DEVIDA expert	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- crime - drug trafficking
20									
21	1019 2020-11-05T04:17								
22	1020 2020-12-05T01:41								· ·
23	1021 2019-09-28T21:59								
24									 judiciary (system of justice)
25									1
26									
27									
28									
29				-					0
30	1028 2020-12-07T18:46	Policía tiene la h	No obstante, Co	Comandante	General Police	https://di di	ario <mark>crime</mark>	, law and justice	- police - investigation

Figure 2.0

C	D					
Topic Category	Туре					
Entity	Top>Organization>Company					
Entity	Top>Location>GeoPoliticalEntity>Country					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Тор					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Organization>InternationalOrganization					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Location>GeoPoliticalEntity>Country					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Location>GeoPoliticalEntity>Country					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Person>LastName					
Entity	Top>Location>Facility>StationTop>Port					
Entity	Top>Organization>InternationalOrganization					
Entity	Top>Organization					
Entity	Top>Person>LastName					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Person>LastName					
Entity	Top>Person					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Тор					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Organization>Government					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Person>FullName					
Entity	Top>Location>GeoPoliticalEntity>Country					

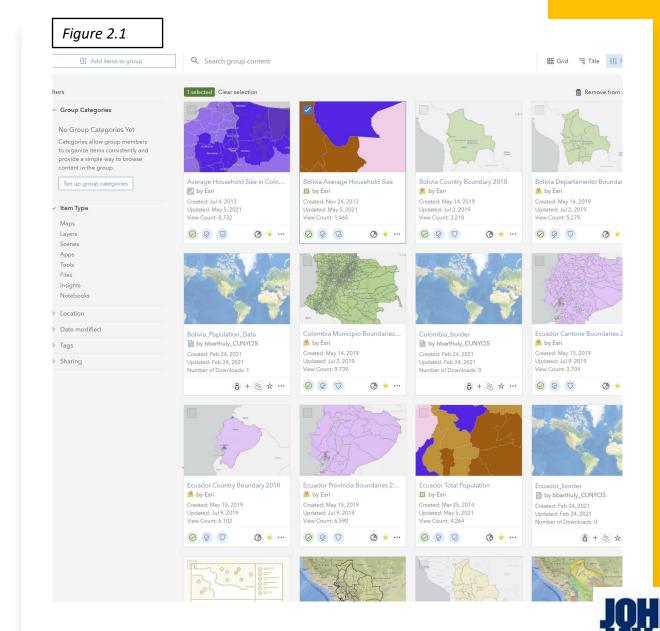


Dashboard Development Processes

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______ modifier_ob.
mirror object to mirror
irror_mod.mirror_object
peration == "MIRROR_X":
__irror_mod.use_x = True
!rror_mod.use_y = False
!rror_mod.use_z = False
  operation == "MIRROR_Y"
_irror_mod.use_x = False
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 Mirror mod.use_z = False
  Operation == "MIRROR_Z";
   _rror_mod.use_x = False
   rror_mod.use_y = False
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    text.scene.objects.action
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    ata.objects[one.name].se
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The Development of a Dashboard (*Part I*)

- Once the database had been created, the next step was to extract and upload the file into the ESRI Online platform.
 - In having a working project space (see figure 2.1), that contained all content, including spatial files, databases, and provided access to the dashboard, this has facilitated the creation and continued modification of a dashboard with newly reviewed data.



The Development of a Dashboard (Part II)

- After gathering, reviewing, extraction and creating a final database consisting of TOC events specific to the crime, geography, and timeframe under analysis, the next step was to present this information in the form of an analytics dashboard.
- **In using** ArcGIS Pro software, we integrated the database into the program and geocoded locations for each incident.
 - We are also able to incorporate the circumstances surrounding each incident into the dashboard (figure 2.2)
- **Finally,** we created filters in the dashboard to allow the user to interact with the geography, timeframe, and other variables.
 - A hyperlink was also incorporate that allowed the user to be directed to the information source (*figure 2.3*).

Figure 2.2



Figure 2.3

MONTERÍA

Alias 'Pollo Gordo' sería autor de crímines de líderes comunales en Córdoba

'Pollo Gordo' habría sido responsable de acciones armadas y delincuenciales contra la población civil, el sector empresarial y la Euerza Pública





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