

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“Interacting Capacities: National Bureaucracies’ Contribution to Subnational Performance”



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12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

This research explores the relationship between a national deconcentrated bureaucratic capacity and subnational decentralized government capacity in Colombia’s secondary education provision. While Colombian schooling is decentralized at the subnational level, the national government indirectly contributes to schooling by administering child and youth protection services through a national agency (ICBF), which is highly deconcentrated over the country. Therefore, enrollment in secondary education is a salient issue for both subnational and ICBF bureaucracies. ICBF’s personnel and spending figures capture national government capacity at the subnational level while numbers of teachers and high schools assess subnational government capacity. Using panel data for the 32 Colombian *departamentos* (provinces) over 2004–2013, results reveal both deployed national bureaucracy and subnational capacity boost high school enrollment; meanwhile, ICBF seems to partially substitute subnational capacity with the weakest subnational governments gaining the most from ICBF presence in the territory.



[Ricardo Bello-Gomez](#) is a third-year PhD student in Public Affairs at SPEA. His research interests include public administration and management, decentralized governance, and social service provision in the developing world. His dissertation explores the institutional, organizational, and managerial factors affecting intergovernmental relations in Colombia. Ricardo holds a bachelor’s degree from the National University of Colombia and an MPA in Policy Analysis and International Development from IU SPEA.

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).