



German-Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany – CoCiMex

Virtual Meeting, 9-11 February 2021

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German-Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany – CoCiMex

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On behalf of the German Foreign Office (AA), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) is implementing the project “Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico”. In Mexico, more than 70,000 people are considered officially disappeared. At the same time, there are thousands of as yet unopened graves and over 37,000 unknown dead. The aim is to provide relatives with certainty by identifying more of the unknown deceased, thereby contributing to social peace in Mexico and strengthening trust in the Mexican constitutional state.

In this context, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is funding the programme “German–Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany – CoCiMex”. Over a period of 13 months, the DAAD-GIZ cooperation will establish a German-Mexican research collaboration in the field of forensic identification, thus improving the reputation of forensic medicine in Mexico and creating the conditions for the application of the results of the bilateral university cooperation in forensic medical institutes in Mexico.

German-Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany – CoCiMex

Virtual meeting, 9-11 February 2021

Tuesday, 9 February 2021 (16.00-18.45 GMT+1 | 9.00-11.45 GMT-6)

GMT+1
Germany

GMT-6
Mexico

15.45	8.45	Login and short technical briefing (1 x 15 min)
16.00	9.00	Opening of the virtual matchmaking event and words of welcome (3 x 5 min + 5 min moderation) Ilona Daun Project Manager German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany Dr Katharina Fleckenstein Regional Office director for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Mexico Marita Brömmelmeier Country Director Mexico Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Mexico Carlos Fierro Facilitator, Ecuador
16.20	9.20	The rule of law and the importance of the project in cooperation with Mexico followed by Q&A (1 x 15 min + 10 min Q&A) Mirko Schilbach Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mexico City, Mexico
16.45	9.45	Short break (1 x 10 min)
16.55	9.55	Overview on the project followed by Q&A (1 x 20 min + 10 min Q&A) Maximilian Murck Head of the Project "Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico" Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Mexico Jimena Fuentes Senior Technical Advisor Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico Programme Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Mexico

17.25	10.25	<p>"Interaction between forensic experts" followed by Q&A (1 x 20 min + 10 min Q&A)</p> <p>Dr Christoph G. Birngruber Department of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Frankfurt Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany</p> <p>Prof Nallely Elizabeth Ramírez Corona Medical Expert Instituto Jalisciense de Ciencias Forenses Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico</p>
17.55	10.55	<p>Short break (1 x 10 min)</p>
18.05	11.05	<p>Funding conditions and monitoring followed by Q&A (1 x 15 min + 10 min Q&A)</p> <p>Ilona Daun and Anja Munzig Project Managers German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany</p>
18.30	11.30	<p>Closure for the day and preview of the next day (1 x 15 min)</p> <p>Carlos Fierro Facilitator, Ecuador</p>
18.45	11.45	End of day 1

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (15.30-19.00 GMT+1 | 8.30-12.00 GMT-6)

GMT+1 Germany	GMT-6 Mexico	
15.15	8.15	<p>Login (1 x 10 min)</p>
15.30	8.30	<p>Short introduction to day 2 (1 x 5 min)</p> <p>Carlos Fierro Facilitator, Ecuador</p>
15.35	8.35	<p>Project presentations and brief Q&A – part 1 (5 x 10 min presentation + 5 x 5 min Q&A)</p>
15.35	8.35	<p>Bone find database</p> <p>Maximilian Borja Hagen Doctor Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Münster Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany</p>

15.50	8.50	<p>Medical specialism of legal medicine</p> <p>Prof Dr Ramón Bonilla Virgen Coordinator of Medical Speciality in Legal Medicine University Center for Health Sciences (CUCS) Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico</p> <p>Prof Dr Gabriela Guadalupe Carrillo Núñez Chief of the Department of Morphology University Center for Health Sciences (CUCS) Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico</p>
16.05	9.05	<p>Virtual anthropology and human identification: 3D imaging techniques applied to forensic anthropology</p> <p>Dr Mirsha Emmanuel Quinto-Sánchez Associate Professor Forensic Science Institute, Faculty of Medicine National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico</p>
16.20	9.20	<p>Unification of strategies for the identification of unidentified human corpses in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico</p> <p>Dr Alicia Fonseca Muñoz Professor Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca (UABJO), Mexico</p>
16.35	9.35	<p>Holistic approach towards a safer society – Identification of unknown deceased and supportive academic exchange in forensic sciences in Mexico</p> <p>Dr Antonia Dorothea Elisabeth Fitzek Resident Medical Doctor Institute of Legal Medicine University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany</p>
16.35	9.35	<p>Short break (1 x 15 min)</p>
16.50	9.50	<p>Project presentations and brief Q&A – part 2 (4 x 10 min presentation + 4 x 5 min Q&A)</p>
16.50	9.50	<p>Master's degree in Forensic Genetics and Human Identification</p> <p>Dr Andres Lopez-Quintero Associate Professor Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico</p>
17.05	10.05	<p>Methodological transdisciplinarity for the forensic investigation of missing persons</p> <p>Dr Eliseo Lázaro Ruíz Senior Researcher Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales (INACIPE), Mexico</p>

17.20	10.20	Human identification and certification of the cause of death Dr Citlalli Ixchel Treviño Gomez Forensic Medical Expert Fiscalía General del Estado de Coahuila de Zaragoza (FGE), Mexico
17.35	10.35	Implementation of clinical forensic medicine and forensic histopathology in medical education and daily forensic routine Theresa Erika Nicole Ohlwärther Physician Institute of Legal Medicine Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany
17.35	10.35	Short break (1 x 15 min)
17.50	10.50	Project presentations and brief Q&A – part 3 (4 x 10 min presentation + 4 x 5 min Q&A)
17.50	10.50	Multi-disciplinary involvement in human identification Prof Nallely Elizabeth Ramírez Corona Medical Expert Instituto Jalisciense de Ciencias Forenses Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico
18.05	11.05	Increase awareness of the importance of documenting and linking AM data of missing persons and PM data of unknown decedents - in education, research, routine, and all institutions involved Dr Christoph Gerhard Birngruber Senior Forensic Pathologist Institute of Legal Medicine Frankfurt, University Hospital Frankfurt Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany Dr Franziska Holz Physician Institute of Legal Medicine Frankfurt University Hospital Frankfurt Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany
18.20	11.20	Application of virtual anthropology methods for human identification in forensic contexts Dr Lumila Paula Menéndez Principal Investigator Department Anthropology of the Americas Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany
18.35	11.35	Identification of unknown corpses that enter INCIFO by applying forensic disciplines such as medicine, anthropology, dentistry, photography, and fingerprint analysis Prof Carlos Enrique Díaz Otañez Head of Research and Education Institute of Forensic Sciences (INCIFO), Mexico

18.35	11.35	Closure for the day and preview of the next day (1 x 25 min) Carlos Fierro Facilitator, Ecuador
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19.00	12.00	End of day 2
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Thursday, 11 February 2021 (15.30-19.00 GMT+1 | 8.30-12.00 GMT-6)

GMT+1 Germany	GMT-6 Mexico
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15.15	8.15	Login (1 x 15 min)
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15.30	8.30	Introduction to day 3 (1 x 10 min) Carlos Fierro Facilitator, Ecuador
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15.40	8.40	Parallel breakout sessions – part 1 (4 x 40 min)
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Group 1	Uni Münster Uni Bonn	UNAM
Group 2	Uni Hamburg	UdG 1 (Bonilla)
Group 3	Uni Frankfurt	UABJO UdG 2 (Lopez) INACIPE
Group 4	Uni Giessen	FGE INCIFO UdG (Ramirez)

16.20	9.20	Short break (1 x 5 min)
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16.25	9.25	Parallel breakout sessions – part 2 (4 x 40 min)
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Group 1	Uni Hamburg	UNAM
Group 2	Uni Frankfurt	UdG 1 (Bonilla)
Group 3	Uni Giessen Uni Bonn	UABJO UdG 2 (Lopez) INACIPE
Group 4	Uni Münster	FGE INCIFO UdG (Ramirez)

17.05	10.05	Short break (1 x 5 min)
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17.10	10.10	Parallel breakout sessions – part 3 (4 x 40 min)												
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17.50	10.50	Short break (1 x 5 min)												
17.55	10.55	Parallel breakout sessions – part 4 (4 x 40 min)												
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18.35	11.35	Short break (1 x 5 min)												
18.40	11.40	<p>Wrap up and next steps followed by Q&A (1 x 20 min)</p> <p>Ilona Daun and Anja Munzig Project Managers German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany</p> <p>Dr Katharina Fleckenstein Regional Office director for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Mexico</p> <p>Maximilian Murck Head of the Project “Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico” Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Mexico</p> <p>Carlos Fierro Facilitator, Ecuador</p>												
19.00	12.00	End of day 3												

German-Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange Between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany – CoCiMex

Virtual matchmaking meeting – WebEx, 9–11 February 2021

SYSTEMATIZATION REPORT

By Carlos Fierro, Facilitator

As per: 19/02/2021

List of abbreviations:

CoCiMex	German-Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange Between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany
COVID-19	The SARS-CoV-2 (2019) coronavirus pandemic
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (a leading German agency for international cooperation)

1. PREPARATIONS FOR MATCHMAKING WORKSHOP

1.1. Background

On behalf of the German Foreign Office (AA), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) is implementing the project "Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico". In this context, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is funding the program "German-Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange Between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany – CoCiMex". Over a period of 13 months, the DAAD-GIZ cooperation will establish a collaborative research project between these two countries in the field of forensic identification. The main aims of the project are to improve the reputation of forensic medicine in Mexico and establish conditions under which the results of the bilateral university cooperation can be applied at Mexico's forensic medical institutes.

Among the initial activities of the project, the DAAD was responsible for organizing a matchmaking event where interested parties could come together and share their ideas. These parties included universities and other institutions from Mexico and Germany that had project proposals with the potential to receive funding.

This report summarizes the development and results of the matchmaking event.

1.2. Objective

The purpose of the CoCiMex matchmaking event was to provide a networking platform on which researchers from universities and forensic experts in both Germany and Mexico could explore possible forms of cooperation in the relevant thematic areas and projects. This included discussions of joint applications for the program call, which the participants also had the chance to draft during the event.

1.3. Event methodology and preparation

As part of its organizational efforts, the DAAD prepared the terms of reference for the call for research projects, published these terms on the DAAD webpage, and preselected a number of interested parties for the matchmaking event. It was also responsible for preparing and uploading the matchmaking event website, the application form, the registration platform, and the project briefs submitted by interested institutions, as well as for handling event logistics. Finally, the DAAD was in charge of the matchmaking matrix, including the timeslots and potential cooperation partnerships.

Due to the travel- and health-related limitations related to COVID-19, the event was carried out in a virtual format, with participants connecting from Germany and Mexico via the web platform Zoom.

The logistics and technical management of the event were arranged in collaboration with the Berlin-based event agency MICHEL International Relations & Services. Professional simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish was available during the workshop.

1.4. Participants

A total of 47 university and institutional experts participated in the event (Annex 1). Overall, it drew 65 participants on day one, 43 on day two, and 55 on day three, including the representatives of collaborating institutions and organizers.

1.5. Agenda

This section summarizes the agendas of each working day (for the full agenda, please see Annex 2).

Tuesday, 9 February

- Welcome addresses
- Speeches on the general framework and purposes of the “Rule of Law” project and the cooperation as a whole
- Overview of the project and the interaction between forensic experts
- Funding conditions and procedures

Wednesday, 10 February

- Project presentations and ideas from the participating institutions

Thursday, 11 February

- Matchmaking sessions in groups
- Discussion of the steps ahead
- Conclusion

2. BACKGROUND: THE MATCHMAKING WORKSHOP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE “RULE OF LAW” PROJECT

Day 1 | Tuesday, 9 February

2.1. Opening of matchmaking event and welcome addresses

The workshop began with some introductory remarks from the facilitator. After that, welcome addresses were given by Ilona Daun, project manager at the DAAD; Dr. Katharina Fleckenstein, the DAAD’s regional office director for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean; and Marita Brömmelmeier, country director for Mexico at GIZ.

In particular, the three speakers highlighted how the “Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico” project is working to improve the reputation of forensic medicine in the country through German-Mexican collaboration at the institutional level. Ilona Daun described how this was to be supported by the workshop’s overview of the project and its call for proposals. The participants would also be able to learn more about the German and Mexican institutions present and determine which they might be interested in collaborating with on an application submission.

In her address, Dr. Fleckenstein underscored the common theme uniting all those in attendance: the fundamental need to identify more than 37,000 deceased individuals in Mexico, along with all the courage, precision, dedication, and expertise this effort will require. In working together and sharing their knowledge on this specific topic, the experts from the two countries would not only be contributing to their own fields of expertise, but strengthening the overall scientific relations between Germany and Mexico, as well. These ties are already quite strong, however, with more than 450 cooperation agreements now in place between German and Mexican universities. More than 3,000 Mexican students are currently studying in Germany, and recent months have seen a very significant increase in the number of students and scholars interested in Germany.

Finally, Marita Brömmelmeier began by recognizing the commitment of the Mexican government and the German Federal Foreign Office to providing technical assistance to Mexican institutions in their ongoing effort to confront the crisis of forced disappearance and human identification. She then cited the pragmatic and tactical solutions GIZ has already managed to come up with in support of identification over the past several years of the “Rule of

Law” project. Brömmelmeier also stressed the overall objective of this forensic endeavor, which is to provide certainty and closure to thousands of families and victims in Mexico and thereby contribute to social pacification. She concluded with some remarks on the importance of the rule of law, human rights, and the cooperation of various stakeholders in the public and private sectors when it comes to making progress on sustainable development.

The first day of the event then continued with presentations on the current situation in Mexico, each of which was followed by a brief Q&A session.

2.2. Presentation: “The Rule of Law and the Importance of the Project in Cooperation with Mexico”

Mirko Schilbach

Deputy Head of Mission

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mexico City, Mexico

In his presentation, Mirko Schilbach started with an overview of the political framework in which the “Rule of Law” project is being conducted and the nature of the activities involved.

Normally, projects with long-term funding such as this are seen more often in a developmental context. This project, however, is not a traditional development project. It is being funded by Germany’s Federal Foreign Office rather than by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development because the German government sees it as part of its political engagement and partnership with Mexico. In Berlin, the project is being managed by officials at the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Assistance, Crisis Prevention Stabilisation, and Post-Conflict Reconstruction.

Unfortunately, the forensic crisis in Mexico is indeed of a magnitude that can be compared to a post-conflict situation. The grief and sorrow of the family members of those who have disappeared is an everyday aspect of Mexican life, and it is a political burden that the government of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is determined to tackle and resolve. Germany is ready to provide support wherever it is needed and welcome, and Schilbach described this as where the three-day matchmaking event would come in.

In the past two years alone, more than 24,000 people have been reported missing and remain so to this day. Statistically, this means that every month, 1,000 people disappear without a trace in Mexico. As tragic as it is, it must be assumed that the vast majority of these people have died. At the same time, the morgues in many Mexican federal states are full of unidentified human remains, while hundreds of colectivos – local search committees made up of mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers of the disappeared – continue searching for their loved ones. Clearly, there is a gap between that which Mexican families rightfully expect of their government and the ability of the Mexican state to deliver.

This gap is what the German government is trying to help fill. In Schilbach’s view, the current political context offers a unique window of opportunity. The government of President Lopez Obrador has come to power with a promise to transform the country, especially with regard to the human rights situation. The crime of enforced disappearances was high on the government’s agenda from its very first day. For example, President Lopez Obrador created a truth commission to follow up on the most well-known unresolved case (involving the disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers’ College), and he has also strengthened the national search system. In addition, an extraordinary mechanism for forensic identification is currently being created that will establish a federal framework for enhancing cooperation between the authorities at the state and federal levels.

Meanwhile, the “Rule of Law” project made a substantial contribution in mediating among the different actors involved in the creation of this mechanism. The aim of the project is not only to help shape policy, however; it also offers a very pragmatic, hands-on approach. Schilbach cited this as the reason why the new component of academic exchange is so useful and important: Ideally, the expertise of those who participate will directly support decision making in the political realm.

Schilbach then introduced the two German forensic doctors working within the framework of the project, Dr. Christoph Birngruber and Dr. Franziska Holz, who came to Mexico in 2019 to work at the Jalisco Institute of Forensic Sciences in Guadalajara. Jalisco is one of the states in Mexico with high numbers of missing persons. Unfortunately, many of them end up at the forensic institute and stay there for far too long. Dr. Birngruber and Dr. Holz have worked hand in hand with Mexican forensic doctors, sharing their knowledge and helping to implement new methods of identifying the deceased. This direct and practical exchange has become difficult under the current conditions of the pandemic, of course, but there is hope that the situation will improve sometime soon and make travel and work experiences abroad possible again.

Ultimately, what the German government hopes to help achieve in Mexico is a sustainable increase in forensic

capacity. The staggering numbers being dealt with in this project are not declining – quite the opposite, in fact, and the country's suffering grows more acute with each additional unidentified body that is brought to a morgue. Schilbach described having spoken with the parents and siblings of the disappeared who want nothing more than to get their loved ones back, dead or alive. They want certainty. They want a place to mourn. They want to find peace. And this is by no means just an issue of certain social groups. The victims have disappeared overnight from normal lives, and from all walks of life.

The aim of the "Rule of Law" project is to help reinstate confidence in Mexican institutions and authorities, and thereby contribute to social peace and healing. This lone endeavor being funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by GIZ is only one part of the puzzle, of course, but it is an important one. Since it has already been underway for several years, the project has gained the trust and recognition of those involved on the Mexican side. Progress has been made as a result, but the goal is to achieve more. Here, Schilbach stated that the German embassy is currently in talks with other embassies and international institutions to see where and how it can support the Mexican state and significantly scale up its capacities. He went on to point out that while a political framework is important, capable and experienced doctors that can fulfill the tasks at hand are even more essential.

Schilbach ended his speech by applauding Mexico's forensic doctors and related workers for their untiring professional work, and also for their courage. In his view, this new component of the project will help promote a fruitful exchange between Mexico and Germany on the very important matter of forensic identification. This in turn will hopefully result in many more Mexican families gaining certainty about the whereabouts of their disappeared loved ones and the ability to start their lives again without constant worry.

Dr. Christoph Birngruber to Mirko Schilbach:

"We're really grateful for all the support you gave us during our mission in Jalisco. It was a very fruitful collaboration with both you and GIZ, and those of us at the institute just wanted to express our thanks. We were flown out in a hurry at the beginning of the pandemic, which didn't really give us the time to say goodbye and thank you. It's good to see you guys and to see that you're in good health. Thank you!"

2.3. Presentation: "Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico"

Maximilian Murck

Head of the Project "Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico"

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Mexico

Thomas Favennec

Executive Director

Lab-Co

Mecanismo Extraordinario de Identificación Forense (MEIF), Mexico

Jimena Fuentes

Senior Technical Advisor for "Strengthening the Rule of Law in Mexico"

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Mexico



QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>What are the four NGOs that are involved in the project (according to your slide)?</p> <p>(Dr. Christoph Gerhard BIRNGRUBER Dr. Franziska HOLZ)</p>	<p>There are many national NGOs involved in the process of supporting families in the technical and legal aspects, but four in particular: SERAPAZ, Centro de Colaboración Cívica (CCC), FUNDAR, and Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia (ENAH). All of them have participated in the dialogs.</p>

<p>We have 40 forensic doctors specialized or accredited in necropsy. We are interested in this collaboration, so how can we undergo further preparation or training in the framework of this project? Does it include the Instituto de Ciencias Forenses de México?</p> <p>(Prof. Carlos Enrique DÍAZ OTAÑEZ)</p>	<p>Yes, there will be a collaboration agreement with the MEIF (<i>Mecanismo Extraordinario de Identificación Forense</i>).</p>
<p>Who is in charge of providing the genetic typing and the genetic references of the bodies at the moment? Is somebody involved in developing a reference database for missing people?</p> <p>(Prof. Dr. Marielle VENNEMANN)</p>	<p>Unfortunately, there is no centralized database of DNA in Mexico. The different states have different software and databases, which makes comparison impossible. If a person has disappeared in one state and been found in another, identification is unlikely.</p> <p>Therefore, we will try to use different methods like tattoos and other characteristics. If DNA can ultimately be used to achieve 100% confirmation of an identification, that's obviously a good thing. Families believe only in DNA because they do not trust the institutions.</p>

2.4. Presentation: "Experiences from the Past"

Dr. Christoph Gerhard Birngruber
Senior Forensic Pathologist
University Hospital Frankfurt
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Dr. Franziska Holz
Physician
Institute of Legal Medicine Frankfurt / University Hospital Frankfurt
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany



QUESTIONS

Why was Jalisco selected for the project?

(Prof. Carlos Enrique DÍAZ OTAÑEZ)

ANSWERS

Jalisco actually chose us. There were preexisting contacts between IJCF and GIZ, as well as with other cities, but Jalisco was chosen for the cooperation. There are cooperations with four states.

2.5. Presentation: "Interaction Between Forensic Experts – Germany-Mexico"

Prof. Nallely Elizabeth Ramírez Corona
Medical Expert
Instituto Jalisciense de Ciencias Forenses
Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico



QUESTIONS

None

ANSWERS

2.6. Presentation: “Funding Conditions and Monitoring”

Ilona Daun and Anja Munzig

Project Managers

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany



QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>We are developing a master's degree program that is under evaluation, and I am not sure if we can fulfill objective number three under these conditions.</p> <p>(Dr. Andres LOPEZ-QUINTERO)</p>	<p>We recommend that you find another German or Mexican university that can help you fulfill that objective. If your university is unable to do so, your German partner university could probably do it.</p>
<p>How long can exchanges of Mexican and German experts last? How many members of a team can travel?</p> <p>(Dr. Alicia FONSECA MUÑOZ)</p>	<p>There are no limitations on length of stay or team members; it depends on the project in question.</p>
<p>How can we look for a German institution for the project? We do not have a German partner at the moment.</p> <p>(Prof. Carlos Enrique DÍAZ OTAÑEZ)</p>	<p>Helping you all find partners is exactly what this matchmaking event is meant to achieve.</p>
<p>Will the funding be for only one project between Mexico and Germany? And will it have to be divided between the Mexican university and the German university?</p> <p>(Prof. Dr. Benjamin ONDRUSCHKA)</p>	<p>The amount of funding is intended to cover three projects in total; it could be one German and two Mexican universities, or vice-versa. The German universities are responsible for managing the money and transferring it to their Mexican partners. The costs of equipment, travel, and so on can also be managed by the Mexican universities.</p>
<p>Are there companies or other enterprises collaborating in this project?</p> <p>(Prof. Carlos Enrique DÍAZ OTAÑEZ)</p>	<p>No. Companies may collaborate in the project, but they cannot be funded by the project.</p>
<p>Are there any restrictions or rules regarding travel because of the pandemic?</p> <p>(Dr. Andres LOPEZ-QUINTERO)</p>	<p>There are some specific rules, and the DAAD is not allowed to travel right now, but the universities should ask their country's Foreign Minister about such restrictions. The universities should plan trips carefully to avoid cancellations until the pandemic situation becomes clearer. It may be easier to travel later in the year, probably by the end of the summer.</p>
<p>Who is included in "other personnel"?</p> <p>(Dr. Antonia Dorothea Elisabeth FITZEK)</p>	<p>The personnel needed for the project. The main person in the project can be funded with an amount corresponding to 50% of a comparable salary in Germany.</p>

Will the German or the Mexican universities decide who they will work with at the end of the project? In the case of two local universities, does it matter if the institutions are from different states?

(Dr. Alicia FONSECA MUÑOZ)

The matchmaking workshop is meant to enable you to get to know the other participants, decide which institution would be your ideal partner, and start developing ideas together.

Yes, internal travel is allowed.

Day 2 | Wednesday, 10 February

3. PRESENTATION OF PROJECT IDEAS

After a brief summary of the previous day, the session continued with a short keynote by Ilona Daun on the activities to be held during the second day. In particular, she reminded the participants to have all their questions ready for the matchmaking session. She also noted, however, that there would be further opportunities to communicate with one another.

3.1. Presentations of project ideas and potential collaboration

All the participating institutions presented their project ideas in three blocks of consecutive presentations, some of which were followed by questions and answers.

PRESENTATION 1

BONE FIND DATABASE

Institute of Legal Medicine
University Hospital Münster, Germany

Maximilian Borja HAGEN
Prof. Dr. Marielle VENNEMANN



QUESTIONS

Has the protocol we already talked about been implemented? Is the database already developed, or are you working on its implementation?

(Dr. Franziska HOLZ
Dr. Christoph Gerhard BIRNGRUBER)

ANSWERS

The algorithm we use is the one we are using in our institute. It sometimes has to be adapted depending on the type of bones we are using – which are mainly femurs – but sometimes we only have skulls and so on. The database is not yet implemented, but some companies working on archaeological databases similar to this have said that it would be easy to adapt.

PRESENTATION 2

MEDICAL SPECIALISM OF LEGAL MEDICINE

University Center for Health Sciences (CUCS)
Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico

Prof. Dr. Ramón BONILLA VIRGEN

Prof. Dr. Gabriela Guadalupe CARRILLO NÚÑEZ



QUESTIONS

What are the most common injuries you see at your institution (stabblings, shootings, etc.)?

(Dr. Franziska HOLZ

Dr. Christoph Gerhard BIRNGRUBER)

ANSWERS

There used to be car accidents, stabblings and shootings, but the latter are the most common nowadays – especially high-caliber gunshot wounds, which account for up to 80% of such injuries.

PRESENTATION 3

VIRTUAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN IDENTIFICATION: 3D IMAGING TECHNIQUES APPLIED TO FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Forensic Science Institute
National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico

Dr. Mirsha Emmanuel QUINTO-SÁNCHEZ

Dr. María Elena BRAVO-GÓMEZ

Dr. Zoraida GARCÍA CASTILLO



QUESTIONS

Is this methodology sensitive to differences in race or ethnicity, especially with regard to the paranasal sinuses?

(Prof. Dr. Ramón BONILLA VIRGEN)

ANSWERS

Yes, it is sensitive to gender, age, and ethnicity. There are clear differences in ancestry, as we have seen in our databases.

Can you compare data that was collected on people two or three years prior to their disappearance to data on full-grown people?

(Maximilian Borja HAGEN)

Frontal sinuses change over time as a person matures, and that is a limitation. You also need prior medical records from hospitals for that person.

In how many actual cases have you used this methodology? Is it useful in the real world, or only for research purposes?

(Prof. Dr. Benjamin ONDRUSCHKA)

We are only in the initial steps of using this methodology, and Mexico does not yet have the databases we need for comparisons. So far, we haven't had any real-life cases, and we also need to apply more expertise in radiology and anthropology.

Where could the databases for this methodology be obtained? It is not common procedure to take tomographies of patients' frontal sinuses, and doing so for the general population could be very expensive.

(Prof. Manuel Jorge CARREÓN PEREA)

For instance, the General Hospital in Mexico City has a registry of 1.2 million tomographies. We also have a collaboration project with them, so that could be a good sample. Along with 3D tomography, radiology procedures and registries are useful as well.

PRESENTATION 4

UNIFICATION OF STRATEGIES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN CORPSES IN THE STATE OF OAXACA, MEXICO

Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca (UABJO), Mexico

Dr. Alicia FONSECA MUÑOZ



QUESTIONS

Do you have statistical data on how many people have tattoos in the state of Oaxaca?

(Dr. Christoph Gerhard BIRNGRUBER
Dr. Franziska HOLZ)

ANSWERS

Dr. Marco Antonio Velasquez: At the moment, we have 92 unidentified bodies with full medical diagnoses in Oaxaca.

PRESENTATION 5

HOLISTIC APPROACH TOWARDS A SAFER SOCIETY IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN DECEASED AND SUPPORTIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE IN FORENSIC SCIENCES IN MEXICO

Institute of Legal Medicine,
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf,
Germany

Dr. Antonia Dorothea Elisabeth FITZEK
Prof. Dr. Benjamin ONDRUSCHKA
Dr. Eilin JOPP-VAN WELL
Johanna MENDER



QUESTIONS

What project do you have to analyze wounds within the uncertainty period before and after death?

(Dr. Eliseo LÁZARO RUÍZ)

ANSWERS

There are different ways to analyze wounds. It depends on whether we have only a skeleton or other elements, as well as on aspects of physiology and anthropology – whether you find a body in a mass grave or a hospital morgue, for example. If there is any remaining soft tissue, it is possible to use histology or chemistry depending on the degree of putrefaction.

What specific necropsy support are you proposing?

(Prof. Carlos Enrique DÍAZ OTAÑEZ)

Again, it depends on what is available in terms of bones and soft tissue. External examination is very important: Tattoos, scars, DNA and toxicology samples – all of these could lead to an identification.

PRESENTATION 6

MASTER IN FORENSIC GENETICS AND HUMAN IDENTIFICATION

University of Guadalajara (UdeG)

Dr. Andres LÓPEZ-QUINTERO



QUESTIONS

So the idea is to have a postgraduate title that is recognized by CONACYT?

(Prof. Manuel Jorge CARREÓN PEREA)

ANSWERS

Yes, the idea is to produce professionals with master's degrees. In the short term, however, we want to achieve the same aim through a postgraduate research course.

PRESENTATION 7

METHODOLOGICAL TRANSDISCIPLINARITY FOR THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION OF MISSING PERSONS

Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales (INACIPE), Mexico

Dr. Eliseo LÁZARO RUÍZ



QUESTIONS

None

ANSWERS

PRESENTATION 8

HUMAN IDENTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH

Fiscalía General del Estado de Coahuila de Zaragoza (FGE), Mexico

Dr. Citlalli Ixchel TREVIÑO GOMEZ



QUESTIONS

None

ANSWERS

PRESENTATION 9

IMPLEMENTATION OF CLINICAL FORENSIC MEDICINE AND FORENSIC HISTOPATHOLOGY IN MEDICAL EDUCATION AND DAILY FORENSIC ROUTINE

Institute of Legal Medicine
Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Germany

Theresa Erika Nicole OHLWÄRTHNER
Prof. Dr. Dr. Reinhard DETTMAYER



QUESTIONS

It will be important to have our departments of pathology interact, and we are very interested in making that happen.

(Prof. Carlos Enrique DÍAZ OTAÑEZ)

ANSWERS

Thanks for that; we will discuss this further in our matchmaking conversations.

PRESENTATION 10

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN IDENTIFICATION

Instituto Jalisciense de Ciencias Forenses
Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico

Prof. Nallely Elizabeth RAMÍREZ CORONA



QUESTIONS

None

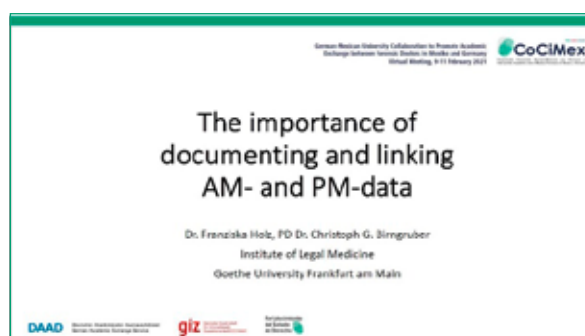
ANSWERS

PRESENTATION 11

IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTING AND LINKING AM DATA OF MISSING PERSONS AND PM DATA OF UNKNOWN DECEDENTS - IN EDUCATION, RESEARCH, ROUTINE, AND ALL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

University Hospital Frankfurt
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Dr. Christoph Gerhard BIRNGRUBER
Dr. Franziska HOLZ



QUESTIONS

Do you have a protocol for the procedure?

(Dr. Andres LÓPEZ-QUINTERO)

ANSWERS

We do have a protocol in our institutions to use dental information, primary identifiers, DNA, and so on, but we have to look at each individual case to determine what to use first.

What do you use when DNA is not enough for identification and you have no other evidence? This is very common in Mexico. Are your methods of social-cultural anthropology, forensic criminology, and sociology based on social evidence? In Mexico, we support this kind of procedure when we have no other sources of evidence. What do you think about that?

(Dr. Eliseo LÁZARO RUÍZ)

To start with anthropology, we begin with sex, age, and ethnicity. Then we can continue with facial recomposition – there is a lot of this data in Germany – or by trying to obtain data from the Red Cross or other sources of identification. In the case of Mexico, it is important to use all the sorts of information you have. The problem is that when you need a positive identification at some point, you have to compare data from the actual individual. Social methods are important, but in the end, we need to give the body to the family. That means you need to compare data on the individual to confirm the identification.

PRESENTATION 12

APPLICATION OF VIRTUAL ANTHROPOLOGY METHODS FOR HUMAN IDENTIFICATION IN FORENSIC CONTEXTS

Department Anthropology of the Americas
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn,
Germany

Dr. Lumila Paula MENÉNDEZ



QUESTIONS

How valid is this technique, and what is the corresponding error margin (in the context of cross-examination at trial)? What is the general level of confidence in it? Lawyers in Mexico have faced questions doubting the validity of some techniques.

(Dr. Eliseo LÁZARO RUÍZ)

ANSWERS

Our methods have not been applied on a widespread scale in Mexico, but others with a lot of correlation have been used, including on some cranial structures (the inner labyrinth, for instance). No registries have been made because the methods in question have not yet been applied to forensic science. Since these techniques can narrow down the population of origin of the victim, the data is qualitative and useful when DNA is not available for recognition. Any technique has to be used in combination with other tools.

Radiological comparisons are useful in any cases where DNA is not useful for identification.

(Dr. Franziska HOLZ
Dr. Christoph Gerhard BIRNGRUBER)

PRESENTATION 13

IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN CORPSES THAT ENTER INCIFO BY APPLYING FORENSIC DISCIPLINES SUCH AS MEDICINE, ANTHROPOLOGY, DENTISTRY, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS

Institute of Forensic Sciences (INCIFO), Mexico

Prof. Carlos Enrique DÍAZ OTAÑEZ



QUESTIONS

Can you use fingerprints on a daily basis in Jalisco?

(Dr. Christoph Gerhard BIRNGRUBER
Dr. Franziska HOLZ)

ANSWERS

Yes, adequate and complete fingerprints are necessary for this identification; 70% are identified by dactyloscopy, odontology, and so on. Fingerprints are taken and compared against a system of existing prints. All the ante-mortem and post-mortem procedures are followed.

Day 3 | Thursday, 11 February

The third day of the matchmaking event began with a summary of the previous day's activities, followed by an explanation of the matchmaking methodology from Rebecka Michel (MICHEL IRS).

4. SIMULTANEOUS BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The matchmaking consisted of four chatrooms where different participants met for four 40-minute sessions in a pre-arranged order, with five-minute breaks between the consecutive sessions.


The purpose of the groups and sessions was to enable potential partners to exchange ideas on their possible collaboration and discuss ways to turn their ideas into project proposals that could be presented to the DAAD for funding.

The four groups were distributed to give each institution the opportunity to interact with everyone else. Simultaneous interpretation was available in two of the groups.

15.40 8.40 **Parallel breakout sessions – part 1**


(4 x 40 min)

Group 1-3 remain in Zoom session 1 and will be allocated to their designated breakout rooms by the host.

Group 1	Uni Münster Uni Bonn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximilian B. Hagen • Marielle Vennemann • Lumila P. Menéndez 	UNAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirsha Quinto-Sánchez • María Elena Bravo-Gómez • Zoraida García Castillo
Group 2	Uni Hamburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Ondruschka • Antonia D.E. Fitzek • Eilin Jopp-van Well 	UdG 1 (Bonilla) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramón Bonilla Virgen • Gabriela Carrillo Núñez
Group 3 	Uni Frankfurt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christoph G. Birngruber • Franziska Holz 	UABJO UdG 2 (Lopez) INACIPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Fonseca Muñoz • Marco A. Velasquez Guerrero • Andres Lopez-Quintero • Manuel Jorge Carreón Perea • Eliseo Lázaro Ruíz • Rafael Ruíz Mena

Group 4 is kindly requested to use the following link to get to Zoom session 2:

<https://zoom.us/j/98601661948?pwd=UG5iMUcwQU9xUCtrZWVlVXlwQ0Q0UT09>


Group 4 	Uni Giessen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa E. Ohlwärther • Reinhard Dettmeyer 	FGE INCIFO UdG (Ramirez) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citlalli Ixchel Treviño • Carlos Enrique Díaz Otañez • Raquel Huerta González • Nallely E. Ramírez Corona • Javier Jiménez Pérez • Juan López
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16.25 9.25 **Parallel breakout sessions – part 2**

(4 x 40 min)


Group 1-3 will take place in Zoom session 1. Mexican institutions will remain in their designated breakout rooms while the German institutions will be allocated by the host.

<https://zoom.us/j/99564475411?pwd=TkpzNG5RbjFGKy9IREREZHNqOU1YZz09>

Group 1	Uni Hamburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Ondruschka • Antonia D.E. Fitzek • Eilin Jopp-van Well 	UNAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirsha Quinto-Sánchez • María Elena Bravo-Gómez • Zoraida García Castillo
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Group 4 will take place in Zoom session 2. Mexican institutions will remain in the “room” while the German institution(s) is/are kindly requested to use the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98601661948?pwd=UG5iMUcwQU9xUCtrZWRuVXlwQ0Q0UT09>


Group 4 	Uni Münster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximilian B. Hagen • Marielle Vennemann 	FGE INCIFO UdG (Ramirez) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citlalli Ixchel Treviño • Carlos Enrique Díaz Otañez • Raquel Huerta González • Nallely E. Ramírez Corona • Javier Jiménez Pérez • Juan López
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17.10 10.10 **Parallel breakout sessions – part 3**

(4 x 40 min)

Group 1-3 will take place in Zoom session 1. Mexican institutions will remain in their designated breakout rooms while the German institutions will be allocated by the host.

<https://zoom.us/j/99564475411?pwd=TkpzNG5RbjFGKy9lREREZHhNqOU1YZz09>

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Group 4 will take place in Zoom session 2. Mexican institutions will remain in the “room” while the German institution(s) is/are kindly requested to use the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98601661948?pwd=UG5iMUcwQU9xUCtrZWVhVXlwQ0Q0UT09>


Group 4 	Uni Hamburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Ondruschka • Antonia D.E. Fitzek • Eilin Jopp-van Well 	FGE INCIFO UdG (Ramirez) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citlalli Ixchel Treviño • Carlos Enrique Díaz Otañez • Raquel Huerta González • Nallely E. Ramírez Corona • Javier Jiménez Pérez • Juan López
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17.55 10.55 **Parallel breakout sessions – part 4**

(4 x 40 min)


Group 1-3 will take place in Zoom session 1. Mexican institutions will remain in their designated breakout rooms while the German institutions will be allocated by the host.

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Group 1	Uni Giessen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theresa E. Ohlwärther Reinhard Dettmeyer 	UNAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mirsha Quinto-Sánchez María Elena Bravo-Gómez Zoraida García Castillo
Group 2	Uni Münster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximilian B. Hagen Marielle Vennemann 	UdG 1 (Bonilla) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramón Bonilla Virgen Gabriela Carrillo Núñez
Group 3	 Uni Hamburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benjamin Ondruschka Antonia D.E. Fitzek Eilin Jopp-van Well 	UABJO UdG 2 (Lopez) INACIPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alicia Fonseca Muñoz Marco A. Velasquez Guerrero Andres Lopez-Quintero Manuel Jorge Carreón Perea Eliseo Lázaro Ruíz Rafael Ruíz Mena

Group 4 will take place in Zoom session 2. Mexican institutions will remain in the “room” while the German institution(s) is/are kindly requested to use the following link:

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4.1. Workshop conclusion and farewell

To conclude the official part of the matchmaking event, Ilona Daun (DAAD) congratulated all the participants on their excellent work during the three-day workshop, noting that this boded well for a good crop of project proposals. She also announced that due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the project would likely not need the full amount of the funding indicated in the call. It was thus possible that four projects could be funded instead of three. The participants were asked to calculate their project proposals and budgets with the requisite care.

Ms. Daun expressed her thanks to Mr. Schilbach for his participation in both the opening and closing of the workshop. She also thanked her colleagues at the DAAD, GIZ in Germany and Mexico, the interpreters, the staff from MICHEL IRS, the facilitator, and all the participants. Despite the limitations of the virtual format and the lack of personal interaction at dinners and coffee breaks, Ms. Daun declared the event a success and wished all the participants luck in their future endeavors.

Mr. Murck thanked all those involved in the event, his colleague Aurora from GIZ, and all the participants for the good ideas that emerged during the workshop. He said he looked forward to receiving project proposals from the institutions and to seeing the German participants soon in Mexico.

Mr. Schilbach made a few remarks on the embassy's role in these projects and recalled the very fruitful conversations that were had during the workshop. He also expressed his desire to see more good cooperation between German and Mexican professionals, just as has been seen between the two countries in other fields.

Dr. Fleckenstein thanked GIZ, the German embassy, MICHEL IRS, and all her colleagues from the DAAD for their contributions to the workshop. She congratulated all those involved on a very successful event and said she looked forward to some quality collaboration projects. Dr. Fleckenstein also noted the common interest that was evident in both countries' participants, as well as the great expertise and competence of these professionals. She went on to remind the attendees of the ultimate goal of the "Rule of Law" project: increasing the number of identifications of Mexico's deceased, which is a matter of fundamental importance to the country and its families. While acknowledging that one month was a small amount of time for preparing project proposals, she called on the participants to consider not just the next thirteen months of the project, but also future collaboration in areas where other lines of funding are available. Finally, Dr. Fleckenstein reminded those in attendance to keep in touch with the DAAD (citing the programs available throughout Central America) and wished them luck in preparing their projects.

Ms. Michel thanked everyone for their participation and congratulated the teams and institutions on a successful workshop.

5. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND REMARKS

Regarding the execution of the workshop, all invited participants attended the event, and the planned matchmaking individual talks occurred on time and all the project presentations were given as scheduled and the project ideas were presented successfully. The participants had the opportunity to interact with each other during the virtual sessions as well as with DAAD and GIZ cooperation representatives. In this concern, the event can be considered successful.

Participants expressed that the presentations were clear and the meetings with colleagues were useful in order to establish the necessary collaboration links to prepare the project proposals.

The virtual platform and connections and the coordination from the organizers were satisfactory and worked quite well.

Considering the above the CoCiMex matchmaking event was a total success and fulfilled its purposes and objectives.

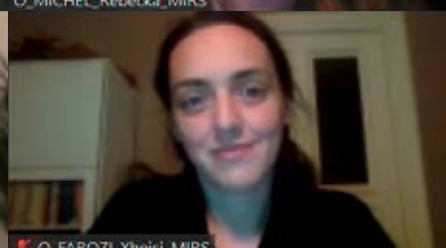
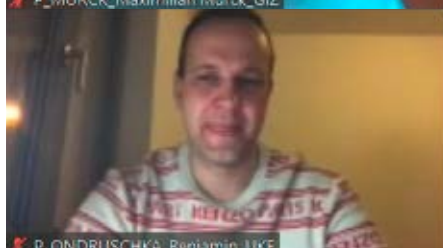
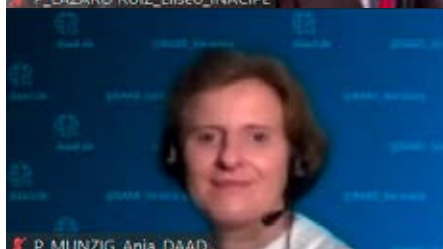
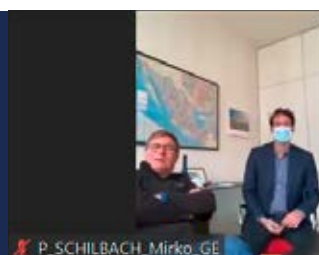
END OF REPORT



FED | GIZ | DAAD

CoCiMex

Cooperación Universitaria Alemana-Mexicana para Promover el Intercambio Académico entre Médicos Forenses en México y Alemania





GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Münster

Short profile of institution/faculty

At the Institute of Legal Medicine in Münster we are responsible for the four surrounding state prosecutor's offices and perform about 400 autopsies a year. In addition to forensic-medical questions concerning the dead and the living, our institute deals with toxicological as well as molecular-biological investigations. We analyse about 1400 DNA traces annually and provide an average of 100 identity reports on unknown corpses as well as tissues and bones. Important research foci are forensic age assessments of living adolescents and young adults, the identification of new psychoactive substances and tissue-specific as well as age-dependent DNA methylation.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

[...]

BONE FIND DATABASE

THE CHALLENGE

In cases of human bone finds, the determination of the post-mortem interval is a rarely solved task. For this reason, the problem is usually reduced to the inclusion

or exclusion of a fifty year time interval. That way, an initial assessment of the forensic relevance and an efficient distribution of one's own resources can be achieved. However, besides morphological criteria, many examination methods show a wide range of variation with regard

to their accuracy and practical applicability. We have implemented a standardised examination algorithm for bone finds based on current scientific research. However, these examinations require not only correct execution, but above all adequate experience and training of the examiner.

THE APPROACH

Our algorithm is based on morphology, the UV fluorescence of the fresh bone cut surface and the assessment of the chemiluminescence. These procedures are not time-consuming, require little material and are inexpensive, yet the results can generate reliable estimations. Taking into account the local examination material, the implemented procedures can be adapted or updated. The focus will lie on the development of a standardized documentation in writing and graphics as well as the conservation of the samples. This will allow the comparability and later evaluation of the data as well as the establishment of a mutual, consistent database. This digital database would resemble a directory of decentralised

preserved bone samples. The successful establishment of such a database will not only require a lasting cooperation but also at least a partial narrowing of the respective post-mortem interval by means of identifying the person in question or further investigation.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

This project will address the main problem of assessing the postmortem interval of bone finds. The available literature is usually limited by their small sample size and the examiner might not have enough experience. Given the situation in Mexico, it will be possible to build a registry that includes bones with a low interval, and once the framework is ready, further partners could be included. In the long term, such a registry will be of great value and can be used for training, improving already established methods, and can also pave the way for future research projects. Right away, in cases where mass graves are found, an initial assessment of the bones might help to determine the approximate time of burial and therefore help narrow the group of potential victims.

Contact

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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

1 Examples representing the three main procedures. a) Right femur with the typical morphological correlate of a high postmortem interval. b) A series of fresh bone cut sections taken from samples of different ages. c) The positive control test for assessing the chemiluminescence using a blood sample.





GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG)

Short profile of institution/faculty

The University Center for Health Sciences (CUCS) of the University of Guadalajara (UdG), is in the process of issuing three postgraduate programs – Forensic Psychology, Forensic Genetics and Human Identification, and Legal and Forensic Medicine. The objectives of the **medical specialism of Legal Medicine** are based on the current need to train contributing professionals with the tools to apply scientific and technological advances in forensic investigation, while respecting the legal framework in which investigations in the field are conducted, and that, with the use of these integrated professional competences, the contributing professionals can be leaders in the transfer of knowledge, in Jalisco society, and at the national and international level.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

Institute of Forensic Medicine from Frankfurt

MEDICAL SPECIALISM OF LEGAL MEDICINE

THE CHALLENGE

Due to not having a complete data file, time is wasted in the identification process, which diminishes the prospect of identification by the deceased's relatives. The goal of this project, therefore, is to be able to implement in public hospitals that receive legal medicine patients, a database (sample for DNA, ten fingerprints, facial and dental photography, photographic catalog of tattoos) enabling it to be compared with databases of official identifications and police agencies, which help the identification of people who have died.

THE APPROACH

The Legal Medicine program is a medical specialism with the objective of training competent personnel capable of:

- attending to the problems inherent to the medical and legal systems, based on evidence and attached to ethical-bioethical principles;
- generating certainty and improvement in the investigation, practice and expert teaching in the procurement and administration of justice in response to social needs and demands from the community.

This bilateral project is intended to build a bilateral exchange, where expert professors of the institution can be trained in the specialism of forensic medicine, as well as the use of state-of-the-art technology for the identification of individuals. Finally, it is expected to engender related research projects in which new knowledge is generated that will allow a positive impact on the high rates of unidentified missing persons and the training of highly specialized personnel.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

One of the main problems for society and for the Mexican legal system is violence and criminality manifested in situations such as the increasing number of unidentified deceased persons – in 2019, about 830 bodies were added to the morgues of Mexico. The significant number of unidentified persons requires strategies that contribute to the accurate identification of persons, victims and offenders, and that also provide scientific and technological support to the judicial processes of the criminal and civil courts.

In this regard, Forensic Genetic and Human identification for Medical Specialism in Legal Medicine can be very useful. The need to incorporate scientific and technological advances is recognized, as well as to strengthen multi- and inter-disciplinary work through collaboration in resolving cases of social or legal interest.

Contact

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Prof Dr Gabriela Carrillo Núñez
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Forensic Science, Medicine School, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

Short profile of institution/faculty

Since its creation in 2013, Forensic Science has trained ethical, critical and humanistic forensic scientists, capable of conducting forensic investigations of scientific quality standard and of assisting the justice system so that legal decisions are solidly supported by evidence. Forensic Science has two main areas of intervention: academic and research.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

Dra. Lumila Paula Menéndez

Bonn University (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn)

VIRTUAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN IDENTIFICATION: 3D IMAGING TECHNIQUES APPLIED TO FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

THE CHALLENGE

This proposal is to generate specific human identification standards for the Mexican population. Traditionally, forensic anthropology practice involves only AM-PM or one-to-one data matching. Here this tradition is challenged, replacing it with a population probabilistic paradigm where the probability of a person's coincidence in a reference sample universe is evaluated.

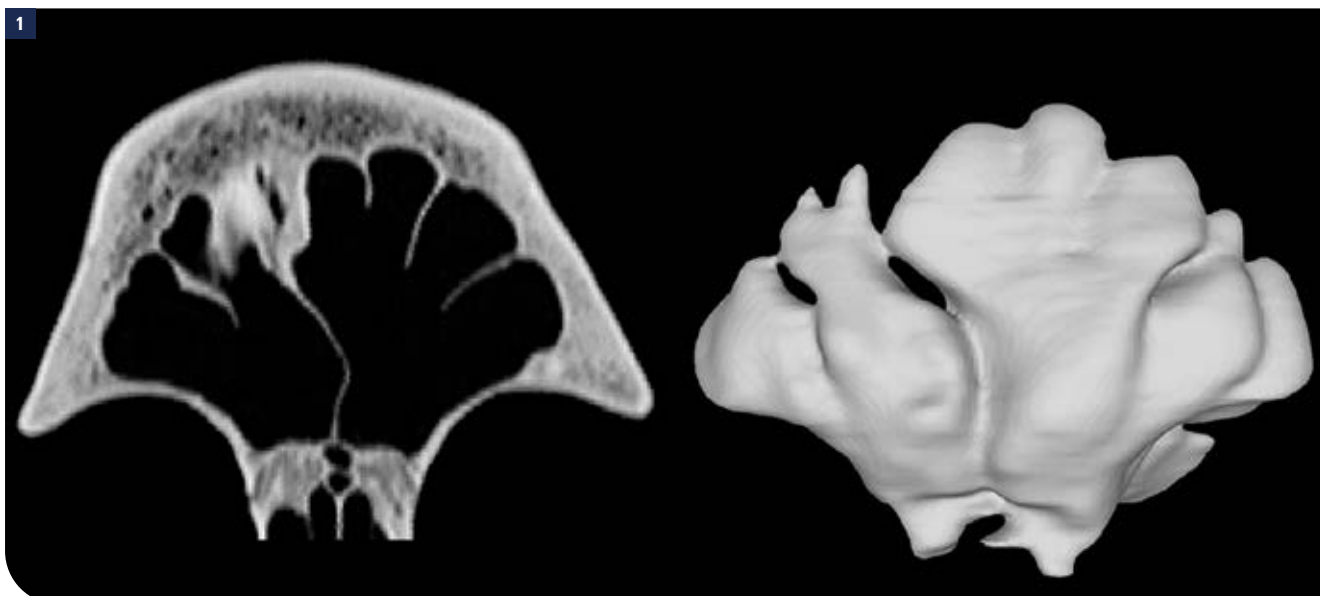
The core questions of the project are to assess whether the ear and frontal sinuses have relevance as phenotypes in the human identification process: do these phenotypes serve for the individualization of an unidentified person?

The principal aim of the project is to generate proposals for human or personal identification through 3D cranio-facial reconstruction techniques and the generation of free population databases.

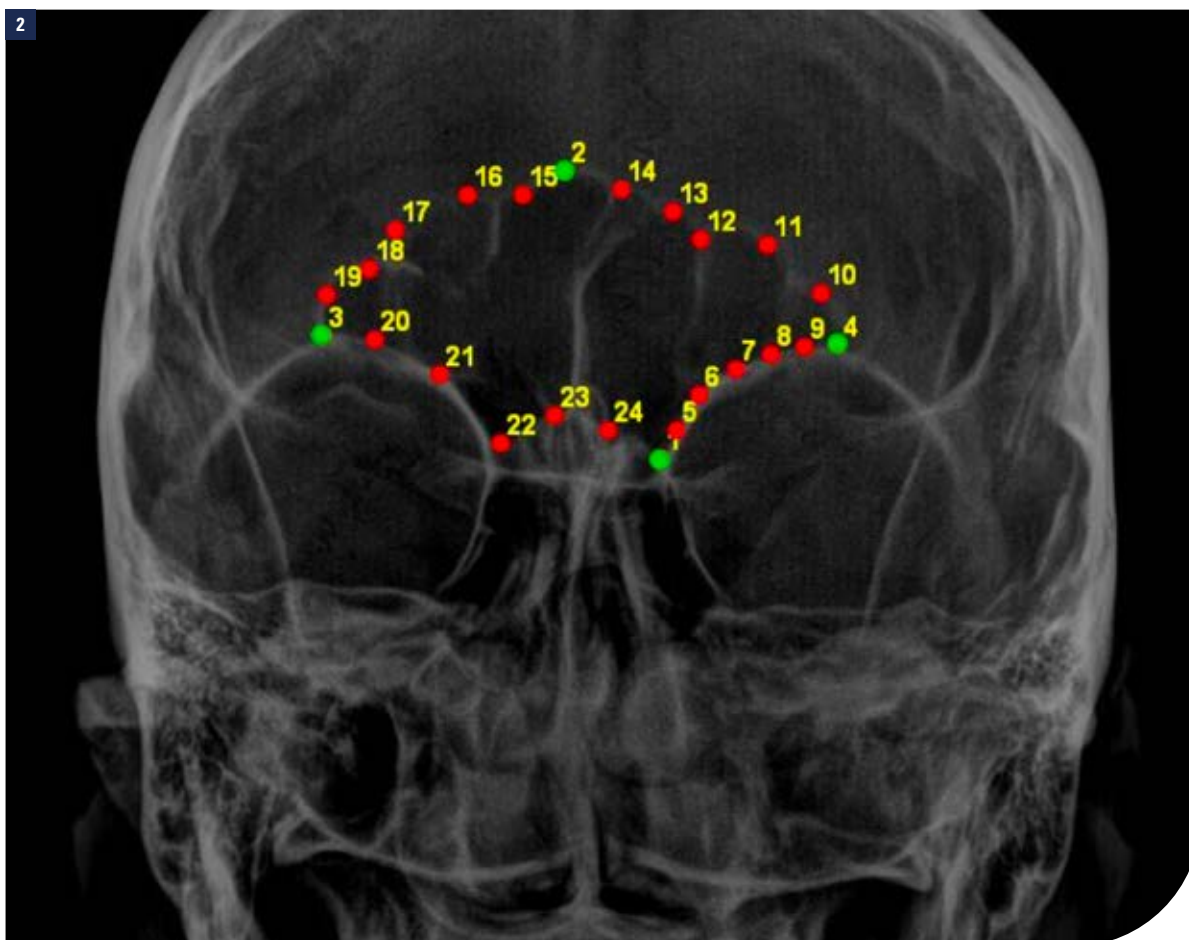
The field of virtual anthropology in Mexico is frontier/ cutting-edge research, so this collaboration is important for continuing to build standards of human identification in Mexico.

THE APPROACH

In Mexico, personal identification techniques are little used, and they can help increase the number of positive identifications in forensic medical and / or anthropological services. Currently, UNAM has developed research



1



on personal identification with 2D cranio-facial phenotypes with promising results, but 3D spaces have been poor explored. In contrast, in biological anthropology and paleoanthropology, the use of 3D reconstruction techniques has developed greatly, which generates an area of opportunity for collaboration between these disciplines.

As a partnership, we have created a collaborative project with Dr. Lumila Menendez, an anthropologist specializing in virtual anthropology (VA), specifically in the application of 3D cranio-facial reconstruction techniques. We have outlined the application of VA techniques in the forensic field, specifically to the human ear structure and frontal sinuses. We will apply VA techniques to some osteological collections in Mexico and CT databases. 3D software, geometric morphometrics and multivariate statistics will be applied in all these dimensions of the collaboration.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

Knowledge transfer and confirmation of program research on VA applied to human identification. We have defined three main results: 1) course on VA for Mexican researchers, students and experts; 2) publication of articles or protocols on VA applied to human identification;

and 3) database and web repository of project results. Given the forensic emergency that Mexico is experiencing, the generation of knowledge is necessary for human identification, professionalization of experts and the configuration of specific databases. These three aspects should mitigate the effects of the crisis that is occurring in the country.

Contact

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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

1 Frontal sinuses used for personal identification. The structural complexity of the phenotype can be seen on the radiograph (left) and on a CT scan (right) Credit: Quinto-Sanchez Mirsha-UNAM. | **2** 2D Radiographic approach to personal identification by geometric morphometrics methods. Credit: Quinto-Sanchez Mirsha-UNAM.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca

Short profile of institution/faculty

The Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez Oaxaca is a Mexican public institution of higher education, commonly known as the Maximum House of Studies of Oaxaca.

It is located in the center of the state capital and is the host of many young students, including from other states. It offers various fields of knowledge and study. The Faculty of Medicine is the most requested for its academic accomplishments.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

[...]

UNIFICATION OF STRATEGIES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN CORPSES IN THE STATE OF OAXACA, MEXICO

THE CHALLENGE

The learning of new techniques and procedures by the multidisciplinary team of forensic sciences of the state of Oaxaca, and Germany, will strengthen the unification of ideas for the improvement in the management of Un-identified Corpses.

in each of the communities. The majority of them are helped by the Medical Experts of the State of Oaxaca, who are part of the General's Office of Justice of the State of Oaxaca. It has extensive experience working in this area and handling unidentified corpses.

For that reason, forensic doctors and collaborators must act. We believe that the sharing of techniques on the identification process of unidentified corpses between Mexico and Germany will improve the trust in the Mexican rule of law.

THE APPROACH

[...]

The training of expert personnel in forensics will be the fundamental objective of improving the identification of corpses of unidentified people, for wider social purpose.

The exchange of procedures and knowledge between Mexico and Germany will create a good relationship between them.

During the academic exchange, we intend to have:

- Exchange of experiences, equipment and human material.
- Monitoring of the corpse identification processes
- Unification of criteria in all areas.
- Generation of scientific and technological research products.
- Training of high-level personnel through the bilateral exchange.
- Support with the identification process.
- Application of new forensic identification techniques.



What strategies can be used for the identification of corpses in a short time?

The state of Oaxaca is located in the southeast of Mexico. It is divided into seven regions, where forensic medical practices differ between them. The treatment of the corpses can be very particular in each area. There are some difficulties faced by the forensic medical doctors



The University and the Medical Experts of the State of Oaxaca, who are part of the General's Office of Justice of the State of Oaxaca, have the following areas of responsibility in the analysis of the Corpses of Unidentified People:

- Forensic Medicine
- Forensic anthropology
- Forensic fingerprint
- Forensic Odontology
- Forensic Chemistry
- Forensic entomology
- Forensic Photography
- Equipped classrooms and auditoriums
- Forensic Medical Service, with four plates for corpses.
- Laboratories for each of the areas of intervention in the identification of corpses.

Project implementation

We can have our theoretical classes or meetings in classrooms or auditoriums of the UABJO Faculty of Medicine and the School of Biological Systems and Technological Innovation.

We will have our workshops in controlled environments in the Forensic Medical Service at the General's Office of Justice of the State of Oaxaca, carrying out legal, medical autopsies and oral necropsies with corpses of unidenti-

fied people that are at the Institute of Expert Services. The practical activities can be carried out in the court-yards of the Faculty of Medicine or the Institute of Expert Services.

We can have access to databases with prior authorization from the corresponding authority. The importance of the databases of clothing, personal signs rpses of unidentified persons in practical training.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

During the academic exchange, it is intended to have:

- Exchange of experiences, equipment and human material.
- Monitoring of the corpse identification processes
- Unification of criteria in all areas.
- Generation of scientific and / or technological research products.
- Training of high-level human resources through bilateral exchange.
- Support to the prosecution with the identification process.
- Application of new forensic identification techniques.



Contact

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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

1 General's Office of Justice's collaborators | 2 During the practice | 3 Seminar room



GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Institute of Legal Medicine,
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf

Short profile of institution/faculty

The University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) has been one of Europe's leading hospitals since it was founded in 1889. With more than 11,000 employees and more than 1,700 beds, the UKE is one of the largest employers in the City of Hamburg. The Institute of Legal Medicine (ILM) is part of the Diagnostic Center of the UKE and offers a comprehensive range of forensic medical services for the Hamburg metropolitan region. The ILM has its own working areas for forensic pathology, radiology, toxicology, molecular genetics and clinical forensic medicine, as well as forensic age diagnostics, odontostomatology and anthropology. Due to its interdisciplinary structure, the institute is actively involved in operational case analyses of the surrounding state criminal investigation departments.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

German collaborations:

- Various State Criminal Investigation Offices (HH, Lower Saxony, Saxony) - operative case analyses
- Charité Berlin - age estimation
- DERMALOG - Biometry
- Lower Saxonian preservation of historical monuments - Archaeology
- Legal Medicine Freiburg - Toxicology
- Fraunhofer IWU Dresden - Biomechanics
- Legal Medicine Leipzig - Entomology
- TU Hamburg Harburg - Robotics/ Imaging

For abroad:

Current international and university-based collaborations in Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Switzerland and Austria.

HOLISTIC APPROACH TOWARDS A SAFER SOCIETY – IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN DECEASED AND SUPPORTIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE IN FORENSIC SCIENCES IN MEXICO



THE CHALLENGE

Academic exchange and multiprofessional forensic medical cooperation, as well as a capacity for identification of unknown deceased in Mexico, through a partnership between the ILM and university centers in Mexico, using scientific and technical methodology through

bilateral collaboration with associated companies, such as DERMALOG. In the past years, the ILM acquired, besides numerous international experiences in capacity building and identification of unknown deceased, a proven expertise in the field of forensic anthropology. Due to the application-oriented cooperation with the company DERMALOG Identification Systems, there are advantages with regard to dactyloscopic identification and deep learning algorithms for forensic facial identification for the envisaged German-Mexican Cooperation.

THE APPROACH

- Bilaterally developed curricula on site (or online), harmonization of the level of education and training of various professionals in the fields of forensic pathology, forensic anthropology, forensic molecular



genetics and forensic toxicology with the initiation of topic-specific continuing education programs.

- Application of forensic anthropological methods on site for the identification of human remains using validated methods: species identification, age, sex and individual characteristics determination, body height estimation, survey and comparison of the dental status, combined with knowledge of archaeological excavation techniques, the prospection of sites and documentation of findings.
- Documentation of taphonomic changes and signs of pre-, peri- or post-mortem injuries. CT or micro-CT images can be made on site or at the ILM, genetic examinations with conceivable extension to Genetic Phenotyping, radiocarbon dating (C14 dating), or dactyloscopic comparison of fingerprints via DER-MALOG can be offered.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

Outputs:

- Critical set of professionals as a network for further development, modernization and self-responsibility of on-site forensic medicine institutes in Mexico.

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- Critical set of sound theoretically-trained professionals for forensic anthropology.
- Critical amount of anthropological intensive hands-on trained professionals with direct hands-on assignments at the sites or the forensic institutes.

Result and public outreach:

- Secure identification of unknown deceased, documentation of traces of injuries and illnesses, and reconstruction of events over time to stabilize the country's security;
- participation in the investigation of homicides, and longitudinal implementation of effective mechanisms to prevent torture and enforced disappearances.



PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

1 Archive Institute of Legal Medicine, UKE: Excavation | 2 Archive Institute of Legal Medicine, UKE: Cleaning | 3 Archive Institute of Legal Medicine, UKE: Identification | 4 Archive Institute of Legal Medicine, UKE: Documentation | 5 Project Timeline (using Microsoft PowerPoint)



GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG)

Short profile of institution/faculty

The UdG has hosted various postgraduate programs offered at the Health Sciences campus, such as the Specialism in Legal Medicine, the Master's in Forensic Sciences and the Master's in Forensic Sciences and Criminology. In particular, for the creation of the project "Master in Forensic Genetics and Human Identification", UdG has a staff of expert teachers in Genetics. At the UdG there is a diversity of physical spaces equipped for the development of scientific research throughout the entire University network. Currently, the university network of the University of Guadalajara is made up of six thematic university centers, which are distributed throughout the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, nine regional centers and the systems of upper secondary education and the virtual university.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

Institute of Forensic Medicine from Frankfurt

MASTER'S DEGREE IN FORENSIC GENETICS AND HUMAN IDENTIFICATION

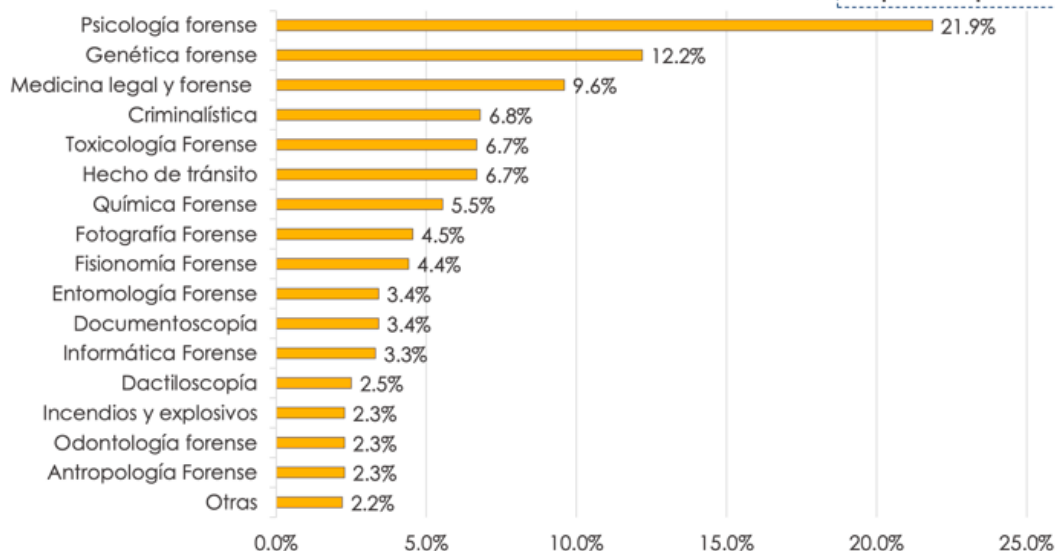
THE CHALLENGE

The search for social security, common welfare and respect for human rights raises the need not only to contribute to ministerial, police and expert professionalization, but to address the deficit of training professionals from the field of Forensic Genetics and Human Identification to contribute to the enforcement of justice.

Contributing to the above is a challenge and at the same time raises the obligation to train professionals with ethical attitudes and values, with skills that allow Human Identification from a molecular point of view, as well as that they have the ability to innovate, modify, update methods and techniques without neglecting the dissemination and transmission of knowledge that currently operates in this area.

¿Cuál es la principal área/campo disciplinar en la que quisiera tomar una Maestría?

Respuesta espontánea



Estudio de pertinencia para las ramas disciplinares de Ciencias Forenses 2020

Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud



THE APPROACH

The Health Sciences campus is currently evaluating the postgraduate programme "Master's in Forensic Genetics and Human Identification" whose objective is to train professionals of high academic level and with solid foundations in the area of Forensic Genetics, capable of always acting ethically in scientific research and in solving legal cases, in which human identification is relevant through the study of biological material.

The postgraduate project allows the UdeG to link with the Frankfurt Institute of Forensic Medicine, with which it is intended to build a bilateral exchange, where expert professors of the institution can be trained in genetic and molecular aspects, population, management of massive data, as well as the use of state-of-the-art technology for the accurate identification of individuals. On the other hand, it is expected that visiting professors from the Frankfurt Institute of Forensic Medicine can transmit their knowledge through the teaching of professorships within the graduate program. Finally, the collaboration is expected to generate related research

projects for both institutions, in which new knowledge is created that will have positive impact on the high rates of unidentified missing persons and the training of highly specialized personnel.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

One of the main problems for society and for the Mexican legal system is violence and criminality - in 2019 about 830 bodies were added to the morgues of Mexico. The significant number of unidentified persons requires strategies that contribute to the accurate identification of persons, victims and offenders, and that also provide scientific and technological support to the judicial processes of the criminal and civil courts.

In this sense, Forensic Genetics and Human Identification can be very useful. The need to incorporate scientific and technological advances is recognized, as well as to strengthen multi- and inter-disciplinary work in collaborative work to resolve cases of social or legal interest.

Conocimientos implícitos de la maestría

- Conocimientos interdisciplinarios como jurídicos, de sociología, psicología, química, medicina y matemáticas en relación con estadística para realizar protocolos de prevención
- Conocimientos básicos de ciencias forenses
- Conocimientos en genética forense
- Conocimientos en dactiloscopia
- Conocimientos en impartición de justicia
- Conocimientos basados en la praxis

Estudio de pertinencia para las ramas disciplinares de Ciencias Forenses 2020 | Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud | PROMOTECNA

Contact

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Associate Professor and Coordinator of the project
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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

Detección de las ramas disciplinares de las ciencias forenses con mayor grado de pertinencia. Percepción de alumnos potenciales, expertos y empleadores potenciales 2019-2020



GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales (INACIPE) (National Institute for Criminal Science)

Short profile of institution/faculty

The National Institute for Criminal Science (INACIPE) is a public research center dedicated to teaching and to scientific research in the field of criminalistics, criminology, criminal law, criminal policy, and victimology. INACIPE seeks to generate innovative and proactive knowledge in criminal sciences that helps the development of the country.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

[...]

METHODOLOGICAL TRANSDISCIPLINARITY FOR THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION OF MISSING PERSONS

THE CHALLENGE

The main challenge of this proposal is to approach the issue of the forensic investigation of missing persons from the methodology of complexity, taking into consideration the different variables and / or research units that affect this problem of national and international order. It seeks to integrate into a system the different forensic, criminalistic and criminological specialties for the location, identification, registration, and documentation of missing and unidentified persons, and to convene a series of conferences that will be broadcast. Regarding the scientific questions that have been raised, they are:

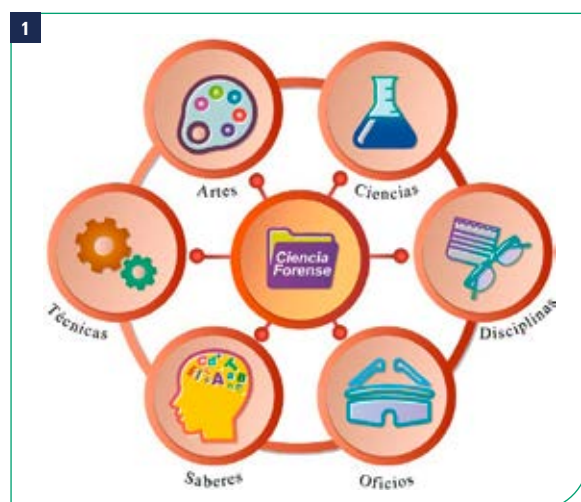
- How to integrate from the methodology of complexity the forensic specialties that have been legitimized for the forensic investigation of missing persons in the context of the accusatory criminal system?
- What expert document can the degree in forensic science issue for their intervention in the accusatory criminal procedure?

- What weight does the scientific evidence generated from the forensic meta-analysis applied in the context of missing persons have?
- What are the challenges and perspectives facing the issue of disappearance of people in the international arena, and based on bilateral relations?

THE APPROACH

The project approach is mixed. The research techniques proposed are surveys, documentary analysis, field analysis, and weighting of content; the scope is explanatory, the method is analytical-synthetic.

The diagnosis of the problem is the number of unidentified missing people; and the determination of the federal government to create the "Extraordinary Forensic Identification Mechanism, the Homologated Search Protocol (PHB), and the creation and / or consolidation of local search commissions and the CNB" (SEGOB, 2020).





In this sense, Forensic Genetics and Human Identification can be very useful. The need to incorporate scientific and technological advances is recognized, as well as to strengthen multi- and inter-disciplinary work in collaborative work to resolve cases of social or legal interest.



1 Forensic science; Source: Lázaro Ruiz Eliseo, Forensic Science and Cross- examination, INACIPE, Mexico, 2020, p. 8. | **2** Classification of evidence; Source: Lázaro Ruiz Eliseo, Forensic Science and Cross- examination, INACIPE, Mexico, 2020, p. 41. | **3** Research methodology; Source: Lázaro Ruiz Eliseo, Forensic Science and Cross- examination, INACIPE, Mexico, 2020, p. 110. | **4** Forensic specialties; Source: Lázaro Ruiz Eliseo, Forensic Science and Cross- examination, INACIPE, Mexico, 2020, p. 9. | **5** Frame of reference; Source: Hernández Roberto, Fernández Carlos, Baptista Pilar (2010). Investigation methodology. Mexico: The McGraw-Hill. p. 8.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Fiscalía General del Estado de Coahuila de Zaragoza (General Prosecutor of the Coahuila de Zaragoza State - FGE)

Short profile of institution/faculty

Official governmental institution responsible for justice under the Constitution.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

[...]

HUMAN IDENTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH



THE CHALLENGE

At the FGE we are committed to the identification of all the bodies that were buried without a name in the past. For that reason, the FGE initiated the Exhumation Plan with which exhumation works are carried out for all those bodies to be analysed and examined, applying scientific identification techniques, including anthropometry, skin analysis, dental records and genetics, depending on the individual characteristics of each body.

THE APPROACH

To learn the international protocols and techniques used to develop an approved manual with the best techniques that we use in the state (FGE) combined with best global practice so as to enhance the process of identification of all nameless, deceased persons.



THE INTENDED IMPACT

Obtain the best techniques and unified methods to guarantee to the population the identification of their relatives and of all persons registered as unnamed, as well as having the best analysis for the determining the cause of death and thereby securing justice.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

All pictures have the following copyright: Lic. Marco A. Guzman R.

Contact

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Institute of Legal Medicine, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Short profile of institution/faculty

The Institute of Legal Medicine at JLU Giessen provides forensic medical services for western, central, northern and eastern Hesse and training for medical students at the universities of Giessen and Marburg. The institute has its own departments for toxicology and molecular genetics. The physicians working at the institute are engaged in autopsies, examinations of victims of violence, and oral and written expert opinions for public prosecutors and courts. The research focus is currently on forensic histopathology. In 2014, the institute established the "FoKoGi" project with funding from the state of Hesse, which offers people affected by violence the possibility of forensic documentation of injuries including evidence recovery - independent of a report to the police.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

[...]

IMPLEMENTATION OF CLINICAL FORENSIC MEDICINE AND FORENSIC HISTOPATHOLOGY IN MEDICAL EDUCATION AND DAILY FORENSIC ROUTINE

THE CHALLENGE

The focus lies on the implementation and integration of clinical forensic medicine and forensic histopathology in student courses and the courses for specialization in forensic medicine.

Knowledge in clinical forensic medicine (the recognition and objective description of injury findings in patients) is of great value for the training of all physicians – not only forensics.

The questions addressed by forensic histopathology differ from those of classical histopathology and are hardly taught in a structured manner in student training or further specialization.

THE APPROACH

Teaching modules in both disciplines could be developed for students/ future physicians or forensic doctors – adapted to the conditions in Mexico.

In both disciplines, clinical forensic medicine and forensic histopathology, the Giessen institute could support local medical schools by adding content to existing teaching modules, or assist in building up new modules for student teaching or the specialization of future forensic doctors.

Depending on the pandemic situation and the financial support, online-based knowledge-sharing using interactive software, and the building up of a case collection/ online library with typical and special findings (in both disciplines) can be feasible.

A partnership doesn't exist yet, but the University of Guadalajara would be a potential partner – as far as we know, they are about to install a new postdoc program for forensic medicine.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

Accompanied by scientific evaluation, clinical forensic medicine could contribute to detecting local peculiarities and challenges and making them usable not only for teaching purposes, but also for violence prevention projects, and aid programs for persons of any age affected by interpersonal or domestic violence.

Knowledge of the possibilities of forensic histopathological examination will enlarge the toolbox of forensic doctors and is able to improve the quality of any medicolegal expert's assessment.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Jalisciense Institute of Forensic Sciences Dr. Jesús Mario Rivas Souza

Short profile of institution/faculty

The Jalisciense Institute of Forensic Sciences is a decentralised public body whose mission is to contribute scientific certainty to the application and administration of justice through the preparation of specialized opinions in forensic sciences, for the benefit of the Jalisciense society. It aims to be a leading forensic science institute in Latin America that generates scientific research, with a highly trained staff of experts from other entities and disciplines, as well as being the most transparent decentralized public body in Jalisco. The Jalisciense Institute of Forensic Sciences was created on 8 June 1998, with technical autonomy from the authorities, as well as forensic experts committed to seeking and delivering justice.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

In the past, German staff visited the facilities of the Jalisciense Institute of Forensic Sciences (IJCF), whereupon they agreed to collaborate in strengthening the rule of law, forensic medicine, victim protection and police training against the practice of torture.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN IDENTIFICATION

THE CHALLENGE

The main idea of the project is to achieve the identification of missing persons by creating efficient practical methods and, above all, by strengthening the links between the Jalisciense population and the institution. How to speed up human identification procedures? This project seeks to make the search for missing persons

more practical and easier through the detailed description of the different characteristic individualizing elements. This makes it easier to identify with practical and economic methods without the need for long delays in arriving at a result.

THE APPROACH

Diagnosis: The Jalisciense Institute of Forensic Sciences, being autonomous, technical-scientific, non-profit, must contribute to strengthening the justice system. This project seeks dignification, access to justice, management and dissemination of knowledge.

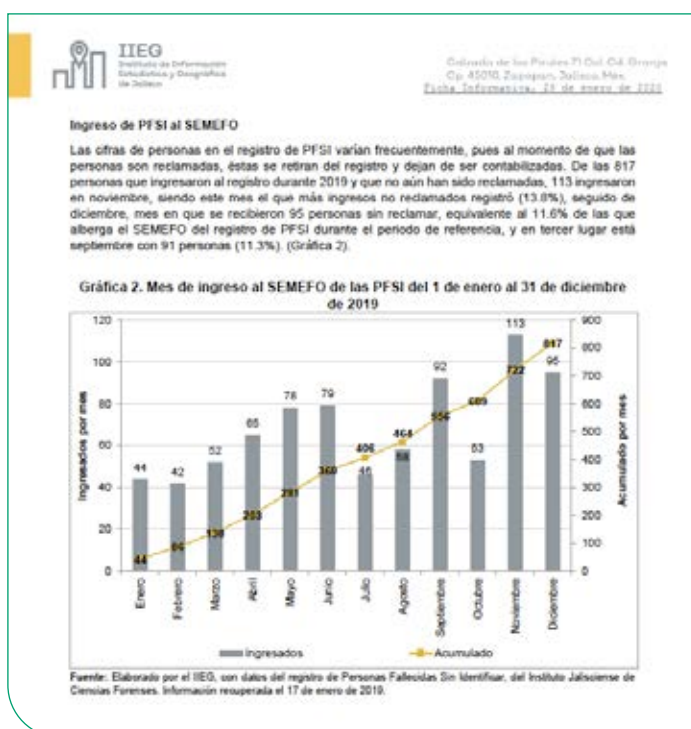
Commitment: collection of all the individualizing characteristics obtained from the various areas involved.

Structure: To do this, it applies the ethos of its multidisciplinary approach, which combines diverse knowledge of the different areas focused on forensic identification material that the institute has - medicine, anthropology, dentistry, lofoscopy and genetics.

Objectives: Waiting for optimal results in mass events of missing persons with less prolonged times and the use of fewer economic resources. All these procedures should be conducted, if possible, in consultation with the families of the missing persons.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

The project aims to apply forensic science to the service of life and the realization of Human Rights while using its tools to solve current problems affecting people's lives, as it seeks to contribute to the clarification of the truth and thereby contribute to social peace





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Teléfono: 33 36 20 00 00
Fecha: 28 de enero de 2020

Lugar donde se encuentra resguardada la PFSI

De acuerdo con los datos disponibles en el microcenso del registro PFSI, la mayoría de las PFSI que ingresaron durante 2019 se encuentran resguardadas en San Pedro Tlaquepaque (674), donde se cuenta con el 82.5% del total; en Lagos de Moreno (43) se encuentra el 3.9% de las PFSI; y en Magdalena (28), el 3.4%. El porcentaje restante se distribuye en las delegaciones de Puerto Vallarta, Cd. Guzmán, Tepatlán de Morelos, Ocotlán, El Grullo y Colotlán. (Tabla 1).

Tabla 1. Lugar donde se encuentran resguardadas las PFSI ingresadas del 19 de septiembre de 2018 al 29 de octubre de 2019

Delegación IJCF	PFSI
San Pedro Tlaquepaque	674
Lagos de Moreno	43
Puerto Vallarta	28
Magdalena	25
Cd. Guzmán	23
Tepatlán de Morelos	14
Ocotlán	12
El Grullo	7
Colotlán	2

Fuente: Elaborado por el IIEG con datos del registro de Personas Fallecidas Sin Identificar, del Instituto Jalisco de Ciencias Forenses. Información recuperada el 17 de enero de 2019.

Características para la identificación de las PFSI

En el sitio electrónico del SEMEFO se puede encontrar una lista de las características de los tatuajes que tiene cada PFSI: descripción de las figuras, letras, números, imágenes que forman un tatuaje y su localización en el cuerpo y los colores que presenta. De las PFSI resguardadas por el SEMEFO que ingresaron en el año 2019, a 274 personas se les identificaron tatuajes (32.3%) y las 553 personas restantes no presentan tatuajes (67.7%). Del mismo modo, se conoce el nombre de 178 de las PFSI (21.8% de los registrados), mientras que 639 personas no son identificadas con nombre (78.2%).

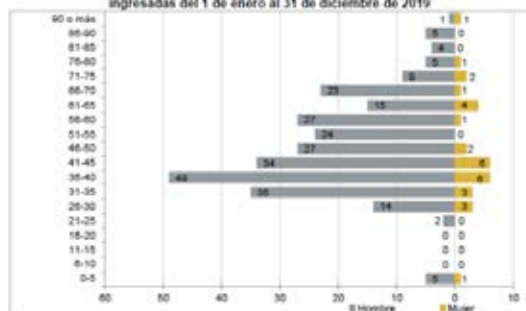


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Fecha: 28 de enero de 2020

Personas fallecidas sin identificar "registro PFSI" 2019

La plataforma de Personas Fallecidas Sin Identificar o "registro PFSI" del Instituto Jalisco de Ciencias Forenses (IJCF), muestra un listado de 817 personas que se encuentran bajo el resguardo del IJCF que no han sido reclamadas y que ingresaron a ese Instituto entre el 1 de enero y el 31 de diciembre de 2019; 599 eran hombres (73.3%), 73 mujeres (8.9%) y de 145 personas se desconoce el sexo (17.7%). De 494 (60.5%) personas no se pudo identificar el rango de edad, 125 tenían entre 41 y 60 años (15.3%), 118 personas tenían entre 21 y 40 años (14.4%), 72 tenían 61 años o más (8.8%), las 8 personas restantes tenían 20 años o menos (1%). (Gráfica 1).

Gráfica 1. Grupos de edad de PFSI a quienes se pudo identificar sexo y edad ingresadas del 1 de enero al 31 de diciembre de 2019



Fuente: Elaborado por el IIEG con datos del registro de Personas Fallecidas Sin Identificar, del Instituto Jalisco de Ciencias Forenses. Información recuperada el 17 de enero de 2019.

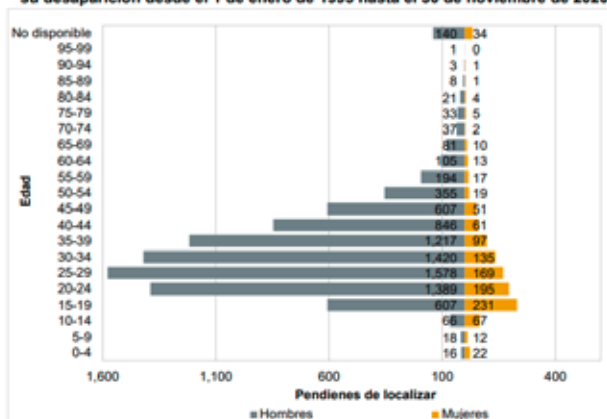
Gráfica 1. Total de personas pendientes de localizar del 1 de enero de 2012 hasta el 30 de noviembre de 2020



Fuente: elaborado por el IIEG con información del SISOVID.

*Información hasta el 30 de noviembre de 2020. Actualizado el 7 de diciembre de 2020.

Gráfica 2. Personas pendientes de localizar por grupos de edad al momento de su desaparición desde el 1 de enero de 1995 hasta el 30 de noviembre de 2020



Fuente: elaborado por el IIEG con información de SISOVID.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Frankfurt, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Short profile of institution/faculty

The Institute of Legal Medicine in Frankfurt am Main and its departments of forensic medicine, toxicology, biology (including entomology and DNA-Analyses), molecular pathology and medical law, provide medico-legal services for the metropolitan region of Frankfurt and the south of Hesse (about 3.7 million inhabitants). The institute offers education and training to students of the Goethe University Frankfurt, the Technical University Darmstadt, and the Hessian Police Academy, as well as for members of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA). The everyday routine of the physicians working at the institute includes external post mortems, autopsies, examinations of victims of violence and living persons for age determination, and expert opinions for public prosecutors and courts.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

Collaboration between Dres. Birngruber and Holz (as international experts, not as members of the faculty) and the IJCF in Guadalajara during GIZ-project in 2019/2020

INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTING AND LINKING AM DATA OF MISSING PERSONS AND PM DATA OF UNKNOWN DECEDENTS – IN EDUCATION, RESEARCH, ROUTINE, AND ALL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

THE CHALLENGE

The focus of our project idea lies in the joint creation of a pragmatic approach to facilitate and hasten the identification process of unknown bodies, and to raise the chances for unknown decedents to be identified. In the Mexican context, the awareness for the importance of documenting and linking AM data of missing persons and PM data of unknown decedents needs to be strengthened – in education, research, procedure, and in all institutions involved in the ID-process. Due

to the high numbers of unidentified bodies and the tremendous consequences for affected families and civil society, pragmatic solutions need to be found. For this, open communication, a scientific assessment of the current situation, and transparent action are required.

THE APPROACH

Our idea involves training/ student education as well as routine work in medico-legal services. As we have already worked together with the IJCF and had contact





with the UdG, which is developing new postgraduate degrees in forensic/legal medicine, Guadalajara would be a good partner for a collaboration. Furthermore, in 2019/2020 we had meetings with governmental authorities, state attorneys and NGOs, and got an insight into the networks in Jalisco.

Our main goal is the elaboration of a local solution that takes into consideration all AM- and PM-data accessible, so as to improve the ID-process. With the help of training, awareness will be increased for the need to improve the quality of acquisition, structured storage, exchange, and comparison of AM- and PM-data. A scientific analysis of the actual identification process will reveal where changes have the biggest chance to lead to improvement. One approach is the further development and extension of a pre-existing database at the IJCF.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

Contributions of the project to the development of new teaching modules at universities will lead to more awareness and knowledge among the students concerning the identification of unknown bodies.

Training of forensic doctors in medicolegal services will lead to an improvement in documentation of AM- and PM-data.

If access to existing AM- and PM-data (e.g. at IJCF) is possible, and the will to discuss possible changes exists, a further development of the IJCF databank will lead to improved in-house identifications.

Any improvement in the identification process will lead to a better relationship between the IJCF and local

NGOs, which is the basis for rebuilding trust in medico-legal services.

A pragmatic but working local solution in Jalisco will be a possible blueprint for the MEIF.



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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

1 The "Glorieta de los Niños Héroes" in Guadalajara, renamed the "Glorieta de las y los desaparecidos" by families whose relatives have disappeared. | **2** Affected families draw attention to their fate on the sidelines of a press conference. | **3** Sign at the "Instituto Jalisciense de Ciencias Forenses" (IJCF): Searching (left), Forensic Medicine Services (right). | **4** Burned human remains: searching for identification evidence. | **5** Entry of the searching unit at IJCF. | All credits by Birngruber/Holz

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
 (Department Anthropology of the Americas, University of Bonn).

Short profile of institution/faculty

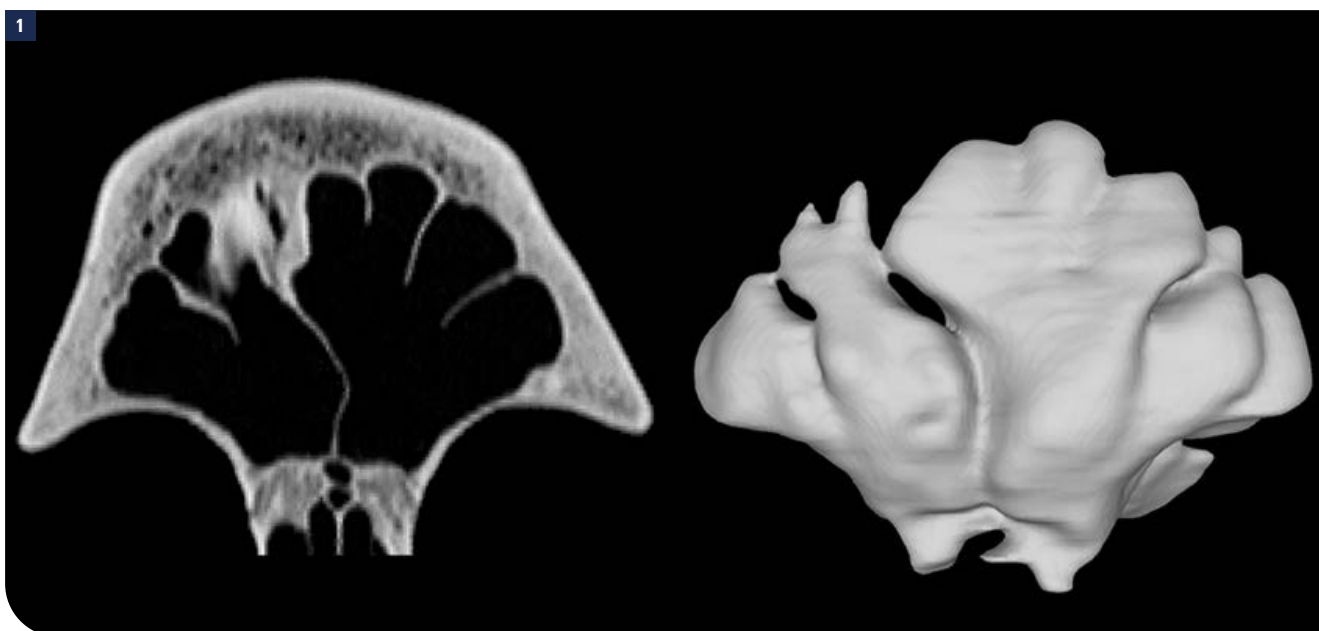
From its inception two hundred years ago, the University of Bonn has been a research university that strives to answer important scientific, social, and technological questions. It ranks 4th in Germany and 87th globally (Shanghai Ranking). Some indicators of success include Nobel Prizes, Fields Medals, Leibniz Prizes, as well as third-party funds amounting to about 154 million euros. The University of Bonn has six Clusters of Excellence, the largest number in Germany.

The Department Anthropology of the Americas focuses on studying the indigenous societies of Latin America across space and time. As an interdisciplinary subject it combines methodological approaches from cultural and social anthropology, ethnography, archaeology, biological anthropology, ethnohistory, linguistics and other related disciplines. At present, the University of Bonn is the only academic institution in Germany that has this specialization.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

Mirsha Quinto-Sánchez, Ciencia Forense, Facultad de Medicina, UNAM.

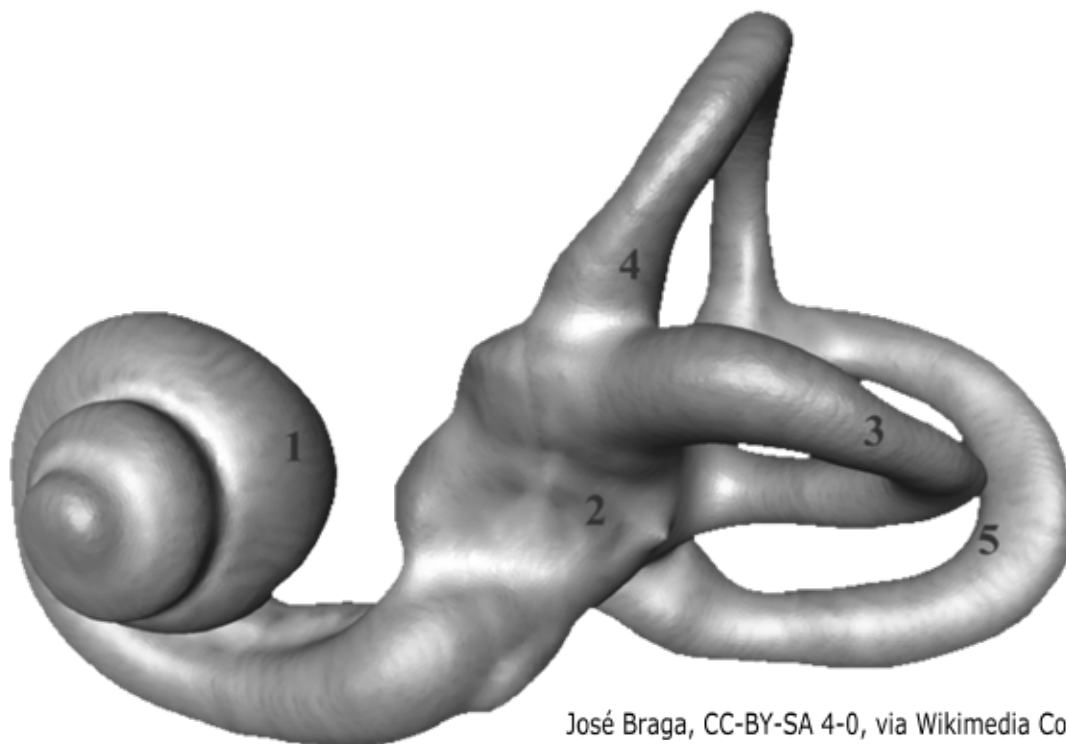
APPLICATION OF VIRTUAL ANTHROPOLOGY METHODS FOR HUMAN IDENTIFICATION IN FORENSIC CONTEXTS



THE CHALLENGE

This project is focused in applying cutting-edge methods from Virtual Anthropology (VA) for advancing the identification of Mexican individuals in a forensic context. VA was invented to overcome issues associated with fossils in Paleoanthropology, and offers a potential for forensic science, since it can accommodate frag-

mented skeletons, as well as accessing internal structures of interest for ancestry studies such as the frontal sinuses and the bony labyrinth. The core question of the project is to assess whether the inner ear and frontal sinuses have relevance as phenotypes in the human identification process. Does the analysis of these structures contribute to the individualization of an unidentified



José Braga, CC-BY-SA 4-0, via Wikimedia Commons

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person? The challenge lies in improving the workflow of this technique for diagnosing the biological population of poorly preserved (i.e. skeletonized) individuals.

THE APPROACH

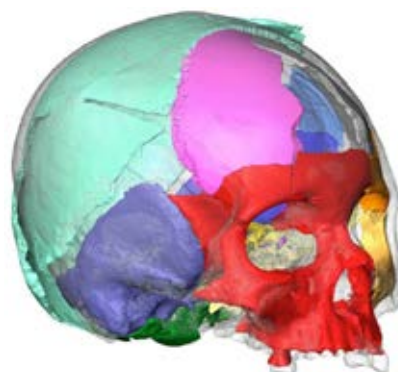
Most Virtual Anthropology methods and successful workflow packages have been developed in European Universities. However, they have been so far used for the identification and study of fossils within Paleoanthropology. The applicant has acquired some experience working at the main Labs where these imaging techniques have been developed. We have created a collaborative project with Dr. Mirsha Quinto-Sánchez, an anthropologist working in Forensic Science (UNAM). This idea derives from a research visit to Mexico in October 2019. We have outlined the application of VA techniques in the forensic field, specifically the inner ear and frontal sinuses. Now, we intend to apply VA techniques to some reference osteological collections in Mexico and CT databases that are hosted at Forensic Science. By applying 3D software, geometric morphometrics and multivariate statistics we expect to generate specific human identification standards for the Mexican population.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

The intended impact of this proposal is knowledge transfer and conformation of a research program based on VA that could be applied to human identification in the forensic field. We have defined three main work packages: 1) Develop a course on VA for Mexican researchers, students, and experts, in which the applicant

will teach the “know-how” on promising imaging methods for the forensic sciences; 2) Publish articles and/or protocols on VA applied to human identification that could be used by forensics all around the world; 3) Create a database and web repository of the project results; and 4) Disseminate our results with other non-academic actors of society. We expect that these outputs would contribute to mitigating some of the effects of the crisis that is occurring in Mexico.

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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

1 Frontal sinuses used for personal identification. The structural complexity of the phenotype can be seen on the radiograph (left) and on a CT scan (right) Credit: Quinto-Sanchez Mirsha-UNAM. | **2** Model reconstruction of the human bony labyrinth from CT-scans. References: 1 (Cochlea), 2 (Vestibule), 3 (External ductus), 4 (Superior ductus ampulla), 5 (Posterior ductus). Credit: José Braga Wikimedia Commons (modified by Lumila Menéndez). | **3** Virtual reconstruction of a fragmented prehistoric skull by scanning the 22 fragments and creating a model by using reference samples. Credit: Lumila Menéndez



GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of institution

Institute of Expert Services and Forensic Sciences of the Judicial Power of Mexico City

Short profile of institution/faculty

Continuous training and improvement in forensics is one of the objectives of this institute. Its inception dates back to the mid-19th century, when the court judges who required it requested that the National Autonomous University of Mexico (as it was then known) make doctors available to provide expert functions in medical legal matters. This activity was regularised in 1880 when the Law of Organizations of Courts of the Federal District and the Territory of Baja California came into force. At that time, autopsies had previously been performed in non-specific places such as the Hospital Juárez in Mexico City.

The Forensic Medical Service Building was then inaugurated in 1960 by President Adolfo López Mateos. Through Agreement 17-60 / 2009, the Plenary of the Federal District Judiciary Council authorised the organic restructuring of the Forensic Doctor Service Directorate of the Federal District's Superior Court of Justice into the Institute of Expert Services and Forensic Sciences, thus incorporating the Departmental Unit of the Genetics Laboratory and renaming several areas on the institute's organisation chart. These included the General Directorate, the Subdirectorates of Thanatology, the Expert Subdirectorates, and the Subdirectorates for Research and Teaching, the latter of which is responsible for coordinating the research projects initiated within the institute or in association with other institutions to generate knowledge, procedures, and processes that contribute to the institute's improvement.

As a result of all these developments, the institute has taken on enormous responsibility in both providing support in the search for missing persons to the government dependencies that request it (and comparing the data they provide against information in files on corpses and / or body segments entered as unknown) and in participating in a large number of autopsies that are performed annually on unknown corpses.

This is an important reason to be considered in making training a priority for forensic medicine and the laboratories that make up the Forensic Identification Department, which cover fields such as anthropology, photography, fingerprint analysis, and forensic dentistry. It is important to mention that in Mexico (and the world at large) there is an enormous need for investigation and training in order to re-establish the credibility of the expert investigations carried out by justice procurement institutions and generate the forensic knowledge required to carry out the quality criminal investigations that society demands.

Partnerships with Mexico/Germany

[...]

IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN CORPSES THAT ENTER INCIFO BY APPLYING FORENSIC DISCIPLINES SUCH AS MEDICINE, ANTHROPOLOGY, DENTISTRY, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS

THE CHALLENGE

This multifunctional project will involve both specialists in legal and forensic medicine and the entire Identification Department. All will participate based on specific protocols and focus on identifying unknown corpses that enter the institute by contributing their expertise in particular areas of forensic identification, such as:

- Presentation of the Necropsy Protocol for Unknown Dead
- Age determination using the fourth costochondral arch
- Necro-surgical photographic methodology for unknown deceased (both male and female)
- Fingerprint methodology for unknown deceased

THE APPROACH

The objective is to have as much data as possible on the unknown deceased that enter the Institute of Expert Services based on all the protocols prescribed. Cross-referencing this data against that which is provided by family members should make it possible to compare the maximum amount of information and match the disappeared with the unknown deceased that enter the INCIFO in a timely and efficient manner.

In addition to their final results, the expertise that forensic doctors and other specialists in the Identification Department develop in this institute can transcend the social and judicial environment. Therefore, it is crucial that the institute adhere to a quality programme based on competencies that generate expertise in each process and result.

The main objective of the project is to have the forensic methods and criteria in question homologated and applied in a very similar way in order to achieve uniform results in the execution of the procedures.

THE INTENDED IMPACT

The potential impact of this project is truly great when one takes into account that in Mexico City, autopsies are performed on more than 5,000 corpses per year. This amounts to about 15 bodies a day, and despite the fact that a good number of these arrive unidentified (most of which are male), 10% of the total goes to the common grave with very complete files in the hope that one day, relatives will claim ownership of them based on their own data. If we take into account the figures reported by the National Search Commission, there are more than 60,000 missing people and about 37,000 bodies are unknown.

Therefore, this project could impact the entire range of elements that make up the expert process of post-mortem study for the macroscopic diagnosis of cause of death.

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Sooz Al Ali has been working as an office management trainee at the DAAD since September 2019. Her mother tongues are Arabic and Kurdish, and she also speaks German and English. She is currently engaged in department P31 until 31 April.

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Víctor Aurióles Díaz has a B.A. in international relations and political science with a focus on international analysis and the German language. He currently works as a DAAD-GIZ project assistant. He also has work experience in both the governmental field and private sectors, primarily in project management.

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**Dr Christoph Gerhard
BIRNGRUBER**

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Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Dr Christoph G. Birngruber graduated in human medicine from Justus-Liebig-University Giessen. His studies included stays abroad in Togo and South Africa, and his doctoral thesis (2010) investigated the individual specificity of human hair. In 2018, he completed his postdoctoral lecture qualification on the topic of identifying unknown deceased individuals using morphological methods. His research focuses on forensic pathology and the identification of unknown bodies. He recently worked as a specialist in forensic medicine at the Institute of Legal Medicine in Giessen (from April 2019) and together with Dr Franziska Holz as an international expert for the GIZ in Guadalajara, Mexico (from October 2019). Since March 2020, he has been working as a senior physician and head of the autopsy unit at the Institute of Legal Medicine in Frankfurt am Main.

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Dr Ramón Bonilla Virgen is a professor of histology, human anatomy, and dissections. Prior to his current position, he worked in general surgery and thoraco-abdominal trauma surgery at the Hospital Civil de Guadalajara (Fray Antonio Alcalde) and the University of Guadalajara's University Center for Health Sciences. He previously earned a scholarship as a surgeon and midwife from the latter institution. In addition, he completed in-service training in advanced laparoscopic and hiatal surgery and served as a professor in the Department of Morphology of the University Center for Health Sciences.

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Dr María Elena Bravo-Gómez was born in Mexico City. She earned a degree in biological and pharmaceutical chemistry at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and went on to obtain her Ph.D at the same institution. She is a member of the National System of Researchers (SNI I) and several scientific associations. For 18 years, her teaching and research have focused on toxicology and bioinorganic medicinal chemistry. She has presented more than 50 works at international conferences and published 18 papers in refereed international journals, along with six chapters in international books. She has also coordinated two books related to forensic sciences.

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**Marita
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Marita Brömmelmeier is Country Director of GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) Mexico since Sept. 2017. She is responsible for the GIZ technical cooperation for sustainable development in different thematic areas related to environmental policies/climate change, renewable energy, good governance and dual vocational training. Before taking over this position, she was director of the Africa Department of GIZ in Germany, covering 28 country offices. Marita Brömmelmeier has a vast technical expertise in the field of economic development and employment. She headed the respective sectoral division at GIZ for several years, covering the competency areas of private sector development/economic policy, vocational training/labour market, as well as, financial systems development.

She started working with GTZ/GIZ in 1992, covering different long-term assignments in Germany and partner countries (Nicaragua, Ghana), as well as, managerial positions at HQ. Her professional career began with a long-term assignment in the ILO Regional Office in Mexico City, followed by an expert position in a UNDP/ILO regional development program with the State Government of Oaxaca, Mexico.

Marita Brömmelmeier holds a degree in Economics and graduated from the German Development Institute (GDI) in Development Policies. She is a member of the professional network "Women in Foreign Trade (WIFT).

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Prof Manuel Jorge Carreón Perea is certified in non-discrimination law and holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, as well as a master's degree in human rights and democracy from Flacso México. He has held a variety of public positions, including as the deputy director of technical support and analysis for the Police of Mexico City; the director attached to the Office of the Assistant Attorney for Human Rights, Crime Prevention and Community Services; the director of transversal programmes at the Attorney General's Office; and the director of research at the National Institute of Criminal Sciences.

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Prof Gabriela Guadalupe Carrillo Núñez completed her Ph.D training in public health at the University of Guadalajara. She had previously earned an M.Sc in immunology from the same institution and went on to work there as a medical doctor. She has been the head of the Department of Morphology at the University Center for Health Sciences since 2019. In addition to having served as a titular professor at the University Center for Health Sciences since 1985, she has been the co-director of the International Continuing Education Diploma at the Autonomous University of Madrid since 2018. She has also worked as the general coordinator of a programme for timely detection and counselling with regard to sexually transmitted infections (PRODOCITS) at the University Center for Health Sciences since 2012.

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Ilona Daun is a senior desk manager in the development cooperation division at the DAAD. She studied Spanish and English at TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences and holds a diploma in translation. Having grown up in southern Switzerland, she is also fluent in Italian.

Ilona Daun joined the DAAD in 2008 and has been responsible for study and research programmes for Germans in South Asia. Since 2012, she has been coordinating higher-education cooperation projects carried out with the GIZ in the department “Development Cooperation – Institution Building in Higher Education” (P31). She was also responsible for the German-Brazilian research cooperation programme NoPa, a higher-education cooperation programme on renewable energies in Senegal (PESEREE), and the Higher Education in Sustainable Textiles (HEST) programme in Bangladesh.

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Prof Reinhard Dettmeyer is the head of the Department of Forensic Medicine at Justus-Liebig-University Giessen. He is a general and forensic pathologist, as well as a jurist. In addition to his fields of expertise, he maintains interests in conventional histology and immunohistochemistry in forensic autopsy cases, and in more general questions of law and ethics. He is the author of a book entitled *Forensic Histopathology* and the member of two ethics commissions.

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Prof Carlos Enrique Díaz Otañez holds a Ph.D in criminalistics and criminology and an M.Sc in biology. His areas of expertise include the identification of drugs of abuse using immunoassay methods; the determination of medicinal products, pesticides, and drugs of abuse by means of gas chromatography and mass spectrometry; and the determination of toxicants using colour development techniques.

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Thomas Favennec is an international development professional with over 13 years of experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating publicly and privately funded programmes in Latin America, Europe, and Africa. He is the co-founder and executive director of Lab-Co, a non-profit laboratory for policy innovation in citizen security, justice, and human rights in Latin America that has offices in Mexico City and San Salvador. He also consults for different international organisations, including the GIZ. Here, he is facilitating a dialogue among authorities, victims' collectives, international organisations, and civil society on the creation of the Extraordinary Mechanism for Forensic Identification (MEIF).

Thomas Favennec holds an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School, as well as a B.A. and an M.B.A. from ESSEC Business School (Paris).

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Carlos Fierro is a conservation biologist from Ecuador. He has extensive experience in both biodiversity management and conservation programmes, as well as in workshop facilitation and conflict management in Ecuador and other countries. He is fluent in both Spanish and English.

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Dr Antonia Fitzek was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1990 and graduated from medical school in Erlangen/Nuremberg in 2017. During her studies, she focused on completing her internships in foreign countries, including Ghana, the USA, France, the UK, Spain, and Switzerland. After graduating, she started her residency at the Institute of Legal Medicine (ILM) in Hamburg in 2017 and obtained her doctorate in 2020. Since joining the ILM, her academic interests and fields of research have included collaborations with other countries and institutions. These efforts have resulted in the full-scope establishment of a cornea tissue bank in Rwanda, for example, as well as interdisciplinary research projects focusing on tumour biology and the pathogenesis of infectious diseases with the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine.

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Dr Alicia Fonseca Muñoz has been a part-time lecturer in the Department of Biology Sciences at Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca since 2012. In this role, she has taught undergraduate courses in bioethics, ethnobiology, medical entomology, the history and philosophy of biology, evolution, and microbiology. She has also organised and planned all the material presented in her lectures and graded, mentored, and evaluated her students. Her research interests include biomedical science, biological science, medical and forensic entomology, biotherapy using *Lucilia sericata* larvae, photochemistry, and ethnopharmacology. She also recently completed a research stay in the Department of Animal Biology at Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil) from August to December 2018.

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Jimena Fuentes is a Mexican lawyer and a specialist in law enforcement and security. She is currently working as a technical advisor for FED-GIZ.

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Dr Zoraida García Castillo has been the chair of the Forensic Science School at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) since early 2013. She previously worked as an assistant to a justice of the Supreme Court of Mexico from 2003 to 2013 and as a legal assessor for the Federal Judicial Council from 1999 to 2001. She also served as a district attorney under the Attorney General of Mexico from 1995 to 1998, a role in which she worked on special cases involving constitutional law and organised crime.

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