

CAF – AL CAPONE CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND SEMINAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA ON CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA

In continuation of its efforts to advance the state of knowledge on the determinants and causes of citizen insecurity in Latin America and the effectiveness of policy options, **CAF**, in partnership with **AL CAPONE** is launching a new Call for Research Proposals on citizen security in Latin America.

The current relevance of citizen security in Latin America is widely accepted by academics and practitioners alike; likewise, the general insufficiency of our understanding of the individual, social and environmental determinants of criminal behavior is also agreed upon, albeit less amenable. Some progress is being made, and the openness and willingness of some public and private institutions to collaborate in promoting applied research on this subject opens an opportunity to foster progress towards sensible policy debates in the region.

Although this call for proposals does not have a narrow focus, there are certain areas/topics that will be prioritized when making the award decisions:

- a. Organized crime, illegal markets and the State (Organized crime and the sustainability of illegal markets, criminal market value chains)
- b. The role of educational and labor market opportunities on the incidence of crime
- c. Externalities, coordination, increasing returns and multiple equilibriums in crime levels
- d. Empirical evidence on inequality, unemployment and crime (micro data)
- e. The effect of social policies on crime
- f. The importance of drug-related violence linked to consumption and micro-trafficking
- g. Triggers of domestic violence, impact of public policies on domestic violence
- h. Empirical evidence on the impact of place-based preventive interventions: street lighting, public plazas, public sporting facilities, etc.). Urban infrastructure and insecurity
- i. Evidence on the effect of alcohol consumption restrictions on violent crime
- j. Gun control and crime
- k. Evidence on the impact of police presence (Place-based, multidimensional, importance of technology)
- l. Judiciary system and perception of impunity
- m. Evidence on the effects of incarceration and other restraining mechanisms on crime (criminogenic effects of incarceration, incapacitation, deterrence, etc.)
- n. Political economy of crime (attribution, political incentives to prioritize, political and institutional constraints, coordination problems, accountability systems and alternative institutional arrangements such as decentralization)

Proposals should be sent to investigacion@caf.com no later than February 15, 2013. Winners will be notified by March 1st and will have until June 1, 2013 and August 30, 2013 to submit the first draft and final research papers respectively. Each paper (up to five) will be awarded USD 15,000 to help finance the necessary research (special data collection requiring additional funding will be considered). Papers will be used as inputs in the **CAF 2014** flagship report on development and citizen security and some of them will be selected for presentation at a conference hosted by the *Department of Criminology and the Latin American Studies program of the University of Pennsylvania* on June 20, 2013 in collaboration with the *Institutions for Development Sector of the Inter-American Development Bank*. The final drafts will also be published in CAF's working paper series, but the author(s) will be free to publish them in academic journals.

The committee in charge of evaluating the proposals will be comprised by Rafael Di Tella (Harvard), Joao De Mello (PUC-Rio), Daniel Mejía (Unianandes), Daniel Ortega (CAF and IESA) and Pablo Sanguinetti (CAF and UTDT)