Dr. Cecilia Farfán-Méndez

Cecilia Farfán is a Researcher with the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at UC San Diego and the Center for Studies on Security, Intelligence, and Governance (CESIG) at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). Dr. Farfán is an expert on organized crime, U.S.-Mexico security cooperation, and gender mainstreaming. Her work focuses on understanding the business models of criminal groups.

Dr. Farfán has consulted for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, publishing the first UN-issue paper on gender and organized crime; the Organization of American States where she collaborated on the development of the methodology for measuring the gendered impacts of firearms arms trafficking in the Western Hemisphere; the United States Institute for Peace and USAID. Dr. Farfán has guest lectured at the Naval Postgraduate School and regularly trains U.S. diplomats at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute. She is a member of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, the Urban Violence Research Network, and the strategy committee for the Journal of Illicit Economies and Development.

A Fulbright scholar, Dr. Farfán received her doctorate in political science from UC Santa Barbara, her master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and her bachelor's in international relations from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM).