



The Space of Agnes Elisa

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Dear Reader,

This is chapter three in a series of articles focused on organized crime, drug trafficking, and violence in Puerto Rico; as a transshipment hub, the U.S. government has labeled this U.S. territory as [HIFCA](#) and [HIDTA](#).

I invite you to read, comment, share this information, and support me on my social networks.

Thanks for the support!

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Researcher

Narco 101: The XX of Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime.

In [Chapter 2](#), we discussed male individuals in Puerto Rico linked to drug trafficking and crimes related to organized crime. During the literature review for this new chapter, I realized that information and studies related to the role of women (XX) in drug trafficking and organized crime are already emerging. Therefore, this chapter will focus on women and their escalation in the business of drug trafficking and organized crime.

Unfortunately, in Puerto Rico, there is very little or almost no information about women in the drug trafficking and organized crime business beyond being sellers or mules at lower levels within the hierarchical structures of gangs or criminal organizations. However, academics and researchers in Latin America

have taken the initiative to document valuable information on the role of women and their rise over the years in other jurisdictions.

Social violence in this type of environment, accompanied by the inclusion of technology in the business, has opened up the opportunity for the economy of drug trafficking and organized crime versus the slowness of governments and institutional entities called to ensure security, education, social and economic well-being, making the business of drug trafficking and organized crime a business of not only a lucrative business but one of growth in the Caribbean and Latin America.

In 2024, we must accept that women are not invisible. According to World Bank data, as of 2022, there are a total of 3.95 billion women; therefore, a more visible and profound conversation must begin about the role of women, that they are no longer only the partners of the man within the structure, nor

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the lover and sexual toy; instead, they can organize and direct criminal structures; and we will be studying it with some examples of women in drug trafficking and organized crime.

XX

Known as the female, it is the human being differentiated from the male by its genitalia. Within the structures of drug trafficking and organized crime, they are the people who acquire the most incredible knowledge due to previous experience within the social environments in which they develop, whether emotional or familial, creating bonds of trust and loyalty that, at the end of the day are of great value to these organizations. I understand that their native leadership capacity in decision-making among their family composition facilitates their transition when there is a power emptiness at the family or criminal level.

The sexual power that women have in satisfying the sensual desire of the man makes the woman empower herself with knowledge, her physique, and the interaction with other members of the criminal organization; above all, the aesthetic transformations that they undergo to feel not only more robust but more secure. The concept of [narco-aesthetics](#) implies the *quasi-total* transformation of women as a guarantee of the processes of belonging and transformation to the world of drug trafficking as that unique prize that men use to exhibit them and that represents the power and success obtained because of their criminal businesses. In addition, this type of specific behavior can be manifested in [narco-music](#), which includes and is not limited to

what is already known in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as rap in Anglo countries. In addition, the acceptance of the transformation of women in the criminal sphere can represent a social acceptance of what easy money is, constituting an alternative that women aspire to in society. Over the years, the image of the woman as *"the one who shows the most"* and comes with the organization's leader has evolved. It is women who manage to impose themselves in a patriarchal world without losing their stereotyped attributes.

Women have the capacity for organization at all levels of social life but with a hierarchical differentiation between the functions considered to be men and those of women. The wide range of positions within organized crime and drug trafficking does not necessarily include women and can go unnoticed. [Women and Organized Crime in Latin America](#): More than Victims and Victimizers, the group of authors analyzes the different roles of women, which I want to share with you below:

Narco-trafficking	
Day laborers <i>(jornaleras)</i>	It is one of the ways of survival for women in the countryside, where they fulfill caring roles. It also involves domestic work in their home, leaving the responsibilities of the productive peasant economy in their hands.
Cooks <i>(cocineras)</i>	They are the cooks of the large laboratories controlled by criminal groups. They receive better pay but are subject to the imposition of standards of conduct and risks associated with the control that leaders can exercise and the mobility of moving from one place to another to where the laboratories are located.
Farmers <i>(finqueras)</i>	They live with their families on land where the product is harvested and prepared.
Mules <i>(mulas)</i>	They are the couriers that transport the drugs.
Falcons <i>(halconas)</i>	They are the ones who monitor the daily activities of a specific place and notify the leaders of population movements and rival groups.
Chemicals <i>(quimiqueras)</i>	It is responsible for manipulating the chemical process of the drug.
Drug Dealers <i>(narcomenudistas)</i>	They have leadership potential access to higher profits but are highly disposable if arrested.
Narcomodels <i>(narcomodelos)</i>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><u>Clara Elena Laborín Archuleta</u></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><u>Marta Lucía Echeverry</u></p> </div> </div> <p>They are trophies and fulfill different functionalities in the organization's supply chain.</p>
Logistics Coordinators <i>(coordinadoras de logística)</i>	They have a leadership position within the organization as intermediaries in human trafficking and recruitment and care work for women. <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><u>Sandra Avila Beltrán</u></p> </div>
Migrant Trafficking <i>(tráfico de migrantes)</i>	They provide access to people who are not from a country of origin.
Coyotes	In charge of transporting people from one country to another in the border area.

Human Trafficking	Recruiters	Network Leaders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training, transfer, and reception of people to be sexual or labor exploitation, as well as begging and slavery practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known as the "madames,". They are dedicated to recruiting young women, well dressed with offers of job opportunities modeling, among others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have a leadership position within the organization as intermediaries in human trafficking and recruitment and care of women.

The XX of Organized Crime

In recent times, we observed how women seek to establish themselves in leadership positions within the structures of organized crime and drug trafficking, accompanied by the values that shelter them, such as virtue and/or mercy.

- [The Women of the Camorra](#)

They are recognized for their awareness of their partners' activities. They are considered passive women actively involved in criminal organizations, executing criminal actions, making strategic decisions, and engaging in executive protagonism.



[Assunta Pupetta Maresca](#)

Women's empowerment is increasing in this society, not just for good. This results from the generalization of the ideal by various community sectors clamoring for more extraordinary spaces for women's participation. Take a look at the following statistics about Mexico's Cartels:

1. Jalisco Nueva Generación, Sinaloa, and Hermanos Leyva average 6 and 8 thousand people at their service.
 - a. 5-8% are women.
2. Zetas, Tijuana, Knights Templar, and Nueva Familia Michoacana, Gulf average 3,000 and 5,000 people at their service.
 - a. 3-4% are women.

[The Cachorras of the Zetas](#)

This group is made up of female hitmen who operate with the Zetas cartel. They specialize in recruiting underage women. In this group, there is a hierarchy: any member of Las Cachorras who achieves five murders immediately becomes part of the group known as [Las Panteras](#), considered the elite group of this criminal organization to assume strategic missions for the organization.

About the 100 x 35: Puerto Rico



[Carmen Ramona Sanchez Merced](#)



[Angela Ayala](#)



[Griselle Lacosta Franco](#)



[Sonia Reyes Camareno](#)

Lack of Evidence

In the publication entitled Women and Organized Crime in Latin America from the Department of the Interior of Catalonia, the authors expressed that efforts should continue to expand and deepen the role of women in the spheres of drug trafficking and organized crime. However, given the lack of empirical evidence for this participation, they

make the following recommendations that we also want to highlight here:

1. Create an Observatory exclusively to record statistical data on women in organized crime and drug trafficking.
2. Identify differential strategies in women's participation in organized crime's economic and political policies.
3. Understand the drivers for women's passive and active participation.
4. Improve the processing of statistical data collection and make it available to the general public.

critica.es/2020/01/10/mujeres-en-el-crimen-organizado/

What is Next

For our next post, we will be studying the concept of organized crime and drug trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean and how Puerto Rico is an essential link in transshipment to the United States and Europe.

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