

THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION



NEWS RELEASE

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THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION AWARDS **16 GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS**

Washington, D.C. — The Inter-American Foundation has awarded Grassroots Development Fellowships to 16 Ph.D. candidates from universities in the United States who will conduct dissertation research in Latin America during the coming year. The Fellows were selected on the strength of their academic record, their proposals and their potential contribution to grassroots development. All U.S. citizens except as noted, they will research the following topics:

- Caitlin Baird Peterson, University of Florida, *the first thousand days: childhood stunting in rural Guatemala*;
- Abigail Bennett, Duke University, *market-based certification of cooperative-managed lobster fisheries in Mexico*;
- Christopher Courtheyn, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *land, politics, and peace in San José de Apartadó, Colombia*;

- Raquel De Souza (Brazil), University of Texas, Austin, *the politics of race and resistance in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil*;
- Anne Gillman, Johns Hopkins University, *state-society interactions within Brazil's grassroots artistic projects*;
- Laura Gutiérrez-Escobar (Colombia), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *cultural politics of seeds in peasant communities in Colombia in the context of the FTA*;
- Eric Hirsh, University of Chicago, *grassroots development, indigenous identity "revalorization" and financial citizenship in Peru's Colca Valley*;
- Joshua Holst, University of Arizona, *The struggle for including indigenous Ecuadorians in development decision-making*
- Williams Martins Castro (Brazil), Michigan State University, *mechanized agriculture in the Brazil's Amazon Forest and impacts on smallholders and landscapes*;
- Claudia Monzón-Alvarado (Guatemala), University of Florida, *fire management and human and environmental outcomes in Calakmul, Mexico*;
- Meghan Morris, University of Chicago, *property and development in Colombia's land restitution program*;
- Sebastián Ramírez (Colombia), Princeton University, *rebuilding lives among displaced families in Colombia*;
- María Rios-Marín (Colombia), University of Florida, *local networks of private reserves in Colombia, conservation and sustainable rural development*;
- Claudia Rosty (Brazil), Colorado State University, *fairtrade, workers' empowerment and gender equity in Brazilian coffee plantations*;
- Kristin VanderMolen, University of Georgia, *understanding stakeholder interpretations of ethnodevelopment in highland Ecuador*;
- Ruth Velásquez Estrada (El Salvador), University of Texas, Austin, *paradoxes of grassroots peacemaking in the transition to a post-conflict El Salvador*.

This fall the IAF will announce the competition for the 2014-2015 cycle of Fellowships for students in the social sciences, physical sciences, technical fields and the professions as they relate to grassroots development issues. IAF Fellowships provide international transportation to the field research site, a monthly stipend for a maximum period of 12 months and a research allowance.

Fellows must have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy by the date they begin their IAF-sponsored research. To date, the IAF has supported more than 1,000 Fellows from the United States and 28 other countries in the Americas. For more information, visit www.iie.org/iaf.

The IAF is an independent foreign-assistance agency of the United States government. It was created in 1969 by the United States Congress to fund the self-help initiatives of the organized poor in Latin America and the Caribbean and the groups that support them. To date, it has awarded nearly 5,000 grants for grassroots development, worth approximately \$680 million. Together the IAF and its grantees have improved conditions for hundreds of thousands of poor families in communities throughout the hemisphere. For more on the IAF, log on to www.iaf.gov.