



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FIFTEEN AWARDED GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS**

ARLINGTON, Va. — Fifteen Ph.D. candidates from universities in the United States will conduct dissertation research in Latin America and the Caribbean supported by Grassroots Development Fellowships from the Inter-American Foundation 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:

- Craig Michael Kauffman, George Washington University, watershed management reforms in Ecuador;
- Ellen J. Sharp, University of California at Los Angeles, grassroots justice in Guatemala;
- Adam Kerry French, University of California at Santa Cruz, climate change, adaptation, and sustainable resource management in the Peruvian Andes;

- **Rebecca Senn Tarlau, University of California at Berkeley, rural development, education and collective action in Brazil;**
- **Meghan Krausch, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, utopian activism in Argentina;**
- **Jennifer Vogt, Vanderbilt University, the impacts of legal reform on an artisan cooperative in Peru;**
- **Joseph L. Wiltberger, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, grassroots responses to Salvadoran emigration;**
- **Rebecca Hope Dirksen, University of California at Los Angeles, contemporary Haitian music and community-led development in Port-au-Prince;**
- **Lesli Michelle Hoey, Cornell University, reducing malnutrition in Bolivia;**
- **Amy Carol Offner, Columbia University, anti-poverty programs in Colombia and the U.S., 1948-1980;**
- **Jelena Radovic, University of California at Riverside, seasonal labor, neoliberalism, and the formation of identity in the Aconcagua Valley of Chile;**
- **Caela Brigid O'Connell, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the practice and prospects of fair trade in St. Lucia;**
- **Alice Brooke Wilson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the changing cultural politics of transgenic corn in Mexico;**
- **Ritaumaria DeJesus Pereira, Brazilian citizen, Michigan State University at East Lansing, cattle production chains in Amazonia and the implications for grassroots development;**
- **Maria Amalia Pesantes Villa, Peruvian citizen, University of Pittsburgh, negotiating intercultural health in the Peruvian Amazon.**

**This is the fourth cycle of awards since the reactivation of the IAF's Fellowship Program in 2007. Before its suspension in 1999, the program had supported nearly 1,000 fellows from the United States and 28 other countries in the Americas.**

**This fall the IAF will accept applications for its 2011-2012 cycle from 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. For complete information, visit [www.iie.org/iaf](http://www.iie.org/iaf).**

**The IAF 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 4,845 grants for grassroots development, worth more than \$648 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, visit [www.iaf.gov](http://www.iaf.gov).**

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**For more details, call 703-306-4357 or e-mail [pdurbin@iaf.gov](mailto:pdurbin@iaf.gov).**