INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT
PH.D. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
GOALS OF THE SESSION

- What is IIE’s role?
- About the IAF
- About the Fellowship
- Eligibility
- Criteria

ABOUT THE IAF AND THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- Role of The Institute of International Education
  - The IAF is an independent agency of the U.S. Government
  - Chartered by Congress in 1969;
  - The only US government agency that funds research targeting grassroots development in the region;

- Complements the missions of the IAF: Examine efforts of poor to improve their lives, methods of organization and production, and policies and programs designed to alleviate their poverty
- First fellows funded in 1974
- 3 fellowship programs
  - Ph.D.
  - M.A.
  - LAC Grant
- Researchers work with practitioners, communities and institutions.
**ELIGIBILITY**

- Enrolled in a Ph.D. (or other doctoral program) in a U.S. university;
- U.S. Citizen or Citizen of an independent Latin American or Caribbean country (except Cuba);
- Grassroots related research in an independent Latin American or Caribbean country or countries (except Cuba);
- Ability to speak and read the language(s) appropriate to the research (verified with the Language Evaluation or Native Speaker);
- Demonstration of a planned, substantive collaboration with an affiliated development or applied research institution in the Latin American or Caribbean country (Letter of affiliation required);
- Must have candidacy and IRB approval or exemption by the time RESEARCH BEGINS.

**CRITERIA**

- Advanced students (2nd or 3rd year) in:
  - Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, or Technical Fields
  - STEM Applications encouraged
  - As related to grassroots development issues;
- You may re-apply without prejudice;
- No feedback provided – prior applications are not available for review.
- Funding is for between four and twelve months – non-renewable, no dependent allowance.
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicant Certification
- Part I: Personal Info and Research Overview
- Part II: Academic Background
- Part III: Fellowship CV
- Part IV: Personal Statement (250 words max)
- Part V: Research Plan, including a Summary, Rationale, Research Questions & Hypothesis, Theoretical Framework, Methodology, and Collaborations
- Part VI: Bibliography
- Required Attachments as detailed below

- Transcripts of all graduate course work
- Three ACADEMIC letters of reference (One from Committee Chair)
- Foreign Language Proficiency Report or Native Speaker Report
- Letter of Affiliation from each host organization
- Approval or exemption of the research design (IRB) or letter with status and timeline (may be written by the applicant)
- University Certification, by appropriate representative

IAF’S AREAS OF INTEREST

- The role of corporate social responsibility;
- Impact of globalization;
- Trends affecting historically excluded groups, such as African descendants, indigenous people, women, people with disabilities, LGBT, and young people.
## Examples of Research

- Impact on the quality of life of the poor of activities such as:
  - Sustainable agriculture and natural resource management,
  - Housing,
  - Primary health care,
  - Education,
  - Urban development,
  - Training and technical assistance,
  - Technology transfer,
  - Job creation,
  - Marketing and small-enterprise development.

## Benefits

- **$250** research allowance per month and
  **$1500** per month stipend (based on number of months of research), paid quarterly;
- Round-trip transportation to the research site(s);
- Attendance at the unique Mid-Year Conference;
- Emergency Health Insurance;
- Role in a grassroots-focused network of academics and practitioners, including over 1,000 IAF alumni;
- An accessible, multi-lateral support network
- Professional Development Opportunities
Always held in a country in the region
Share challenges, stories, and successes with colleagues;
Step away from the field and take an inventory;
Meet members of the review committee and IAF;
Gain valuable feedback on research

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS;
Plan carefully – anticipate changes in your timeline;
Get started early, especially with supporting documents;
Ensure adherence to academic standards;
Use your university’s resources;
Have others review your proposal – multiple times;
Provide reference writers with a synopsis of research;
Identify the gap in literature that your research fills;
Is your proposal feasible?
Request clarification if in doubt;
Try, try (try) again!
TIMELINE

- Application Deadline: January 20, 2015
- Applications Reviewed: Spring 2015
- Fellows Announced: May 2015
- Fellowship Begins Between: June 2015 – March 2016
- Mid-Year Conference: February 2015

FELLOWS CANNOT HAVE CONCURRENT GRANTS

DEAF COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Elizabeth Lockwood 2008-2009
University of Illinois (Ed.D) – Disability Studies
2008-2009 * Uruguay

- How did the deaf Uruguayan community organize to take collective action?
- How did this relates to national deaf-related policy achievements, which provide a stark contrast to policy and grassroots achievements in other deaf-related communities in the region?

“It is invaluable to be immersed into the community that one is researching…In my case, the Deaf community needed time to trust me and to learn my intentions…Field research also provided me with an important perspective of what was emerging and happening within the community and country itself. This is only possible in person in the field.”
More than a decade after implementation of Convention 169 of the ILO (1991), the provision that requires communities are consulted on legislation and projects that might affect them remains largely ignored.

In the early 2000’s “consultation” began to take on a political life all its own for indigenous peoples in Latin America. Communities began clamoring for their right and even staging their own consultation when the government refused to coordinate one.

What could this surprising development could tell us about the indigenous movement and about democracy in Latin America.

Looked at three mining projects that affect tribal lands – two in Peru, and one in Guatemala.

“Amanda Fulmer
University of Washington – Political Science
2009-2010 * Peru/Guatemala

“I studied how indigenous communities resist the incursion of mining into their territories.”

For me, the benefits went beyond gathering data for my dissertation – it truly developed my capacity for networking with different agents (for instance, community leaders, government representatives, farmers); it gave me a holistic perspective on my research questions; allowed me to see some opportunities I wasn’t aware of; I also had to develop some problem solving skills, and be better prepared to respond to the unplanned and unexpected. It was an unforgettable experience…”

Doris Navarro Barnard
Indiana University – Environmental Sciences
2007-2008 * Brazil

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND LAND USE IN THE LOWER AMAZON
**AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION: THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS**

“Archipelago-wide, the marked disconnect between regulations and actual land use has resulted in marginalized producers with few resources and a growing number of challenges. However, many farmers in Galápagos believe that agriculture is the best form of conservation, and they are finding ways to align production with conservation priorities.”

**Laura Brewington**  
University of North Carolina – Geography  
2009-2010 * Ecuador

“This study evaluates land use and conservation in Galápagos, finding that the control and prevention of invasive species, as well as food sovereignty, depend on the incorporation of rural landowners into management policy” and “demonstrates that in addition to new top-down conservation protocols, local action and activism are essential to confronting the problems of introduced species at their sources.”

**THE BENEFITS OF FIELD RESEARCH**

On the benefits of field work:

- “...being directly in touch with the population you are researching. There is nothing that can replace that in terms of the richness of the experience and the collection of data”.

- “[It is] instrumental in testing theories, developing new approaches and promoting triangulation of findings and evidences.”

**Luis Fujiwara, 2009-10 Fellow**  
University of Texas, Ph.D.  
Candidate - Public Policy  
Currently Employed with U.N. Brazil – Inter-Agency Programme for the Promotion of Gender and Ethnic-Racial Equality.
Over 1,000 alumni
Many have pursued careers in academia, law, translation, economics/finance, development, diplomacy, and more.

Notable careers
• Director of Diplomacy (US Dept. of State)
• Chair of the Department (California State Chico)
• Lead Rural Developer at the World Bank
• Rights Based Strategic Planning Adviser (Oxfam America)

Notable institutions
• USAID
• Pan-American Health Organization
• the UN,
• IMF
• Many more

Since 2007:
Most academic careers & tenures to professorship;
To date, over 50 of the 90 fellows who have completed their IAF research phase have finished their Ph.D.s with more each year and are now employed – 25 more are still in their fellowship phase.

ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dr. Peter Wilshusen – Member of the Academic Review Committee (07-13); Professor Of Environmental Studies; Director of the Latin American Studies Program – Bucknell University (Doctoral Fellow, 1999 – Mexico)

Dr. Kevin Healy – Member of the Academic Review Committee; Foundation Representative, Inter-American Foundation (Ret.) (Doctoral Fellow, 1974 – Bolivia)

Dr. Elizabeth Cartwright – Member of the Academic Review Committee; Professor of Medical Anthropology; Idaho State University (Doctoral Fellow, 1995 – Mexico)
ALUMNI: WHAT DID THEY SAY?

“The IAF Fellowship was incredibly useful. It would have been impossible to complete my doctoral research without it, and the IAF focus on grassroots development and community mobilization permitted a research focus that was both more relevant and more intellectually rewarding than many conventional academic research grants.”

Brian Burke, 09-10 Fellow, starting post-doctorate work at the University of Georgia

“I love being a part of a long line of similarly-minded Latin American scholars – knowing that when I say I was an IAF Fellow that it sends a message that I am committed to research that will have a real impact for marginalized populations and social change efforts...the IAF workshop was also a great way to form lasting connections to other young Latin American scholars across diverse disciplines...”

Lesli Hoey, 10-11, Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan

ALUMNI: WHAT DID THEY SAY?

“[field research] has given me a credibility with other academics that has led to other professional opportunities. The personal and professional relationships I developed while doing field research will aid me with future research and professional development...it also made me a better teacher since I can more easily provide concrete examples to abstract concepts...The prestige of being an IAF fellow no doubt helped me on the job market as well...”

Craig Kaufmann, 09-10 Fellow

Asst. Professor of Political Science, University of Oregon

“The fellowship gave me an amazing opportunity to conduct field research in Mexico for an entire year. This allowed me to work in local and national archives, collaborate with local academics and grassroots education organizations, as well as conduct oral histories throughout rural southern Mexico. The IAF was the first to support my project and since then I have consistently won external grants to further the research and writing of my project.”

Alan Shane Dillingham, 09-10 Fellow
CONTACT US

- Visit IIE @: www.iie.org
- Visit IAF @: www.iaf.gov
- Application details @: www.iie.org/IAF
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