Medellín & Cartagena, Colombia
Post-Conflict Studies & Afro-Caribbean History and Culture

Sponsored Research Opportunities
Fall 2018
In the COSA and IDS Graduate Programs, you will engage in Sponsored Advocacy Research project in your first semester abroad as a required component of the program. Continuing your research, you will either do primary or secondary research (or both) in support of your Culminating Project or Thesis work in your 2nd and 3rd terms. If you choose to engage in primary research, your Academic Advisor (as well as faculty and other staff) and the structure of the IPSL Advocacy Research Program will support you in this process.

Your research will be officially reviewed by the IPSL International Institutional Review Board (IRB) and that makes it eligible for publishing and presentation at professional conferences. During the Pre-Departure Residency in Portland, there will be an Advocacy Research Orientation and the IPSL research support person will assist you throughout the program.

Program Director & LARL* (Local Advocacy Research Liaison)
Mr. Luis Arango

Professor Arango holds advanced degrees in Business Administration and an MIB. His interests are social development, migrants, transnational entrepreneurship, conflict, conflict-resolution, foreign relations and international politics. He currently conducts research and teaches at Universidad EAFIT, Universidad de Antioquia, and CEIPA Business School.

In his free time he enjoys cycling and trekking, reading (particularly novels about human behavior), and listening to music.

*LARLs, usually the on-site program director and a native of the country, provide in-country logistical support to research students including critical access to local populations and organizations, interpreting and translation services and ethical, cultural, legal, and policy information. They actively guide students to help shape a research project in a way that is ethical and feasible given the time frame and the resources available.
Sponsored Research Projects

Many of the service-learning placements, in Colombia, are connected with organizations that are working in areas of peace and justice, reconciliation, conflict resolution, animal rights and welfare and education.

Human Rights
IPSL has partnered with an NGO created 34 years ago to address Family Well-Being and Human Dignity through the recognition and defense of human rights. They have developed programs that recognize, advance and enforce human rights through awareness, promotion, research and policy work. This group’s priorities and projects include:

• Adult Literacy
• Employment Justice for Domestics
• Social Welfare Public Policy specific to the family
• Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

Animal Welfare
We work with an animal welfare center, providing rescue, care and adoption of vulnerable stray street dogs and cats. Community complaints initiate the rescue program. Health conditions are addressed on-site, if necessary, and animals are transferred to the Welfare Center where they are evaluated by veterinarians and given necessary care. They are then vaccinated, dewormed, sterilized and micro-chipped to get ready for adoption! The program includes community and adoptive parent education regarding responsible and compassionate pet care and community animal awareness.
Projects
Choose from the following for your first semester project

Protocol #1: Human Rights/Domestic Workers Study

**Research Title:** A Case Study of Afro-Colombian Domestic Workers and their Families in Medellin, Colombia

**Research Question:**
What has been the experience of Colombian women involved in the conflict and what specific actions can be taken to improve social inclusion for these women and their families?

**Objective:**
To gather information about the lives and struggles of female domestic workers in order to learn how best to advocate for and serve their needs. The data will help the NGO to create assistive programs to educate and empower the workers to know their employment and human rights.

**Instrument:**
Surveys and Oral Interviews

Protocol #2: Animal Welfare/Pet Adoption Study

**Research Title:** Quality Improvement for La Perla’s pet adoption system.

**Research Question:**
What are the current components of the Pet Adoption program and what screening tools, educational and support programs can be developed to improve the outcomes of the program?

**Objective:**
Collecting data from the staff and volunteer workers as well as the adopters, the goal is to identify areas of weaknesses and strengths in the adoption program and help develop new methods of preparing adopters and pets for a successful and lasting adoption.

**Instruments:**
Focus groups and pre and post surveys