

## **Report**

### **Minority Retention Funds Academic year 2013/2014**

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To: Professor Dr. Stacey Close  
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I am thankful for the support received during the 2013/14 academic year from the Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee (MRRC). The funding received allowed me to attend to two important conferences in my field, the annual conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) and the Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA).

The LASA conference took place in Chicago from May 21-24, 2014. The funding received allowed me to conduct a panel and present my research in this large and inter-disciplinary venue. I was the main organizer of the panel: "The Welfare State in Latin America. The long term viability of assistentialist programs as effective mechanisms for the redistribution of resources", which had the participation of five scholars from the U.S. and Latin America. As part of the event I presented the co-authored paper: "Social features of Conditional Cash Transfer programs in Bolivia and Peru. Different notions of the Welfare State?" Also, I chaired another panel at the conference entitled: "Sectoral Politics: Causes and Consequences". The most useful event was certainly my participation in an specialized panel, as I am expecting to publish an article and needed relevant

feedback regarding my selected topic. ". As a result, I was able to produce a chapter-long manuscript on this particular topic, in collaboration with a colleague at the University of Montreal in Canada, Dr. Nora Nagels that I will submit soon to specialized journals. Also, I was able to fulfill other roles at the conference and participated actively as member of the Bolivia section. The work of this section focused on the organization of an upcoming (and large) international conference that will take place in Bolivia, South America in the summer of 2015. I am a co-organizer of this international event.

The APSA conference took place in Washington, D.C. from August 27-31. The funding received allowed me to accomplish two objectives: present my work at this large venue (this is the largest conference in my field in the U.S.) and take advantage of the location and meet with policy makers at key development institutions. I was able to interview a couple of experts, mostly on the policy side, working on issues of state-sponsored welfare in Latin America at the World Bank and at the Inter-American Development Bank. These interviews were particularly useful to my research, not only in terms of contents but also because my interviewees facilitated access to a wide range of materials on this topic. As a result, I have a full draft of a journal article that I expect to submit soon to specialized journals for consideration.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me should you need any further information regarding these events or the funding received, but I must say that these funds received were crucial to support my ongoing professional activities, and I am extremely grateful to the Committee for this opportunity.