

# Confluentcenter Graduate Fellows

Select Outcomes



## Drought, Livelihoods, and the Food System: Exploring Drought Narratives in California

Christina Greene is a Ph.D. candidate in Geography and Development and a 2015-2016 Graduate Fellow. The fellowship supported Greene's research exploring the physical and social dimensions of drought through the words and images of people living and working in drought-impacted central California. Green's project inspired a special Creative Collaborations event with Confluentcenter Senior Fellow Dr. Paula Fan called "Drought in Words and Music: A country without rivers... without streams...

with little rain." In December 2016, Greene was awarded a \$95,000 pre-doctoral fellowship from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to continue work on her project.

## Amuletos Through the Frontera

Manuel Martín Barros and Joaquin Perez-Blanes, Ph.D. students in Spanish and Portuguese, were 2015-2016 Confluentcenter Graduate Fellows who visually and textually narrated the experiences of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, and the role amulets played in their journeys. While the migrants' identities remained anonymous, an examination of objects they carried for good luck was exhibited to build deeper understanding of how migrants maintained hope in their crossings. The photographs and stories were exhibited at UA's Lionel Rombach Gallery in May 2016.



## Everyday Infrastructure: Documenting Struggles for Water, Sanitation, and Electricity in Cape Town's Informal Settlements

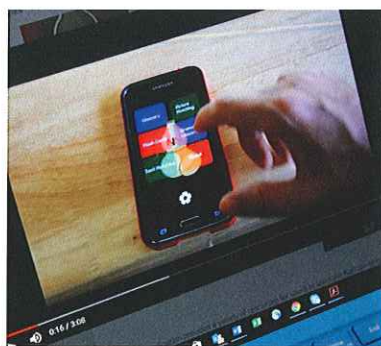
Angela Storey, Ph.D., was a 2015-2016 Confluentcenter grantee whose project traced how residents of improvised housing areas narrate their efforts to secure access to basic services for their living accommodations. Dr. Storey has conducted investigations in South Africa since 2010 and has held local affiliations with the Anthropology Department at the University of Cape Town and the

African Centre for Citizenship and Democracy at the University of the Western Cape. Dr. Storey is now a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Louisville.



## **Radical Cartographies: Relational Epistemologies and Principles for Successful Indigenous Cartographic Praxis**

Gina Richard, Ph.D., was awarded a Confluentcenter grant in 2014-2015 to investigate the most effective mapping methods for meeting the needs of Native American tribes, and also held the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for working on the connections between ancestral landscapes and Native American identity. The success of Dr. Richard's project led to a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Native American Studies Department at Montana State University. There, Dr. Richard is extending the conclusions and methods of the project to implement the U.S. Indigenous Mapping Institute.



## **Nahuatl Naman: Conserving and Disseminating an Indigenous Language through Technology and Collaboration**

Edward Polanco, a Ph.D. candidate in history, was awarded a Confluentcenter grant in 2014-2015 to collaborate with software engineers and an indigenous scholar for his project "Nahuatl Naman" (Nahuatl Today). Polanco's work led to an app for Android devices that includes memory games, flash cards, lessons, and a glossary that can help anyone learn Nahuatl, an indigenous language of Mexico. He subsequently received a prestigious Fulbright-García Robles Research Grant in 2015-2016 to conduct archival research for his dissertation and worked with faculty and students at the Universidad Autónoma Nacional de México (UNAM). He is currently at UA, writing his dissertation and teaching "Colonial Latin America."

## **Heteronormativity and the Postcolonial Nation-State: Queer Haitians after the Earthquake of 2010**

Erin Durban-Albrecht, Ph.D., recipient of a 2013-2014 Confluentcenter grant, won the 2015 Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize from the American Studies Association. The annual prize recognizes the best doctoral dissertation in American Studies, American Ethnic Studies or American Women's Studies. Dr. Durban-Albrecht's dissertation was based on this Confluentcenter project, which explored the effects of United States imperialism in Haiti over the last century in terms of race, gender, sexuality, class, and nationality. Dr. Durban-Albrecht joined the faculty at Illinois State University in fall 2015 as an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in cultural anthropology and the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

