

The University of Florida Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD), the TCD Student Group & the Center for Latin American Studies present

TROPILUNCH

A NEW HOPE. SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FOREST CONSERVATION IN CAQUETÁ (COLOMBIA), UNDER A POST-CONFLICT SCENARIO.

MARIA MARGARITA FONTECHA-TIRADO

Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP)

TUESDAY, FEB 20

12:45 – 1:45

GRINTER 376

SUMMARY

What is at the heart of peace-building after five decades of violence and civil war in Colombia? In the Amazonian department of Caquetá, considered a FARC stronghold, 300 families are currently faced with implementing the peace agreement in their territory while also forging the road to sustainable development. This process entails trusting others, collaborating, and making decisions about health and education services, environmental problems, and even aspects of everyday life. Since 2013 these families participate in a program called *Paisajes Conectados* (Connected Landscapes), implemented by Fondo Acción, a Colombian NGO.

The *Paisajes Conectados* program is focused on reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable development in two municipalities of Caquetá. Its mission is to build new skills and share knowledge within local communities in order to strengthen governance and participation. My research intends to determine how the training that the communities have received from the program has helped them to strengthen their social capital, community capacity domains, and, in a broader picture, the relationship among local governance and conservation efforts. A New Hope is a recognition of the knowledge, abilities, and work that communities have done with the support of Fondo Acción.

BIO

Ms. Fontecha, a journalist with a minor in history (2012), is currently a Master's candidate at the University of Florida. Her graduate work has focused on communicating science and sustainable development and advancing thinking regarding collaboration in post-conflict scenarios. She writes for international and Colombian media.

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @t 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter 376. Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on TCD's [YouTube Channel](#).