



TROPICAL CONSERVATION
& DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

2011 M. Schmink Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Tropical Conservation & Development

We are pleased to announce that **Simone Athayde** has been selected as the **2011 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Award for the Outstanding Dissertation in Tropical Conservation and Development**.



Simone Athayde completed her dissertation in Interdisciplinary Ecology under the supervision of Dr. Marianne Schmink. Her dissertation, entitled “Weaving power: Displacement, indigenous knowledge systems, and territorial control amongst three *Kaiabi* groups in the Brazilian Amazon,” was notable because of the scope, quality, and multidisciplinary nature of the research. Further, Dr. Athayde’s work served as an important bridge between the *Kaiabi* people and a broader audience through the development of educational materials and workshops. Indeed, the dissertation is an excellent exemplar of TCD’s mission of bridging theory and practice to conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable resource use, and advance human well-being. Throughout her tenure at UF, Dr. Athayde was an active leader of the TCD community and is commended for her role in highlighting the TCD program and the artistry of the *Kaiabi* people to a global audience.

Dr. Athayde compared the knowledge related to basketry and textile weaving of men and women in four villages of different *Kaiabi* groups. This work was coupled with an evaluation of factors that led to cultural persistence and political empowerment of the Xingu Kaiabi, as well as peoples’ perspectives on the role and work of political organizations. Her research remains one of the relatively few longitudinal studies that apply both quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the transmission, innovation, and erosion of knowledge among indigenous societies, which underscores its importance and is a testament to the high regard in which she was held by the communities with which she lived.

Join the TCD community in congratulating **Dr. Simone Athayde** for her outstanding work!!!