

TROPILUNCH

Preliminary Fieldwork is as Good as Gold:
Intergenerational and Cross-Cultural Plant Knowledge
Transmission in the Dominican Republic

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BIO

Barbara Herrera received her B.S at Florida International University where she researched Botánica's in Miami, FL and their role in preserving culture for the city's Caribbean diaspora. She majored in Latin American and Caribbean studies at the University of South Florida during her master's degree. For her thesis, she researched the loss of Hispanic identity through assimilation to U.S. culture among first- and second-generation elementary students at a STEM summer program in Tampa, FL. She is pursuing a PhD in Anthropology at UF. Her dissertation investigates plant use practices prevalent in the Dominican Republic and the mechanisms for which plant knowledge is transferred between cultures (Haitians and Dominicans) and across generations. She is also interested in educational outreach and the sneaky ways knowledge is transferred between individuals and communities.

SUMMARY



The Dominican Republic houses a hybridization of plant knowledge that can contribute to the conservation of forested areas, environmental awareness, and agrobiodiversity in the country and beyond. Although cross-cultural and intergenerational transmission of this knowledge is rarely studied, research has shown it can help address concerns about the loss and erosion of plant knowledge. In an effort to pinpoint how she would document the flows of knowledge in the DR, Barbara conducted preliminary fieldwork in the summer of 2025 and 2026. She will highlight prevalent insights she gleaned from both trips and focus on how they inform her future dissertation fieldwork. She will also briefly discuss the objectives of her dissertation research, the methodology she intend to use, and the overall timeline of my proposed project.

Tuesday - September 29, 2026

12:45 - 1:45 pm



**Grinter Hall 376 or
[Zoom link](#)**



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Tropilunch is a 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 weekly around lunchtime.



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