

# **Heather R. Putnam, MA**

Curriculum Vita

January 2008

Department of Geography

Lindley Hall, #223

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045

hputnam@ku.edu

## **Education**

### **The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, August 2005 to present**

PhD in Geography

- Master of Arts with honors, May 2007
- Focus on trade, environment and development, Latin America, East Africa, and the cultural geography of alternative commodity chains.
- Thesis: Meaning and Progress in the Fair Trade Movement (2007)

### **University of California, Los Angeles, CA, September 2000 – September 2002**

- Bachelor of Arts in International Development Studies (IDS) (magna cum laude) GPA 3.81.
- Minor in Geography/Environmental Studies. September 2002.

### **Los Angeles Pierce College, January 1998 – May 2000**

- Completed liberal arts studies required for transfer to UCLA.

## **Honors, Awards and Research Grants**

- KU Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Grant 2007 (Brazil) (\$2000)
- Field Research Grant, Department of Geography, KU (\$1000)
- KU Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Grant 2006 (Nicaragua) (\$1800)
- Title VI National Resource Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Latin American Studies), The University of Kansas, 2005-06 (Portuguese, \$14,500).
- Supplemental Scholarship, Graduate School, The University of Kansas, Fall 2005 – Spring 2008 (\$4000 annually).
- University of California President's Undergraduate Research Fellow, 2001-2002 (\$1500).
- Provost's Honors List, 2000 – 2002, UCLA
- IDS 2001 International Development Studies Student Association Leadership Award.
- 2001-2002 Angelina Ruggie Scholarship, International Development Studies Program, UCLA (\$200).
- President's Honor Roll, Los Angeles Pierce College, 1999 – 2000.
- Distinguished Service Award, American Student Association of Community Colleges, 1999.
- Pierce College Anne Gelvor Memorial Scholarship, 1999 (\$150)

## **Professional Experience**

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant, January 2008 – May 2008**

University of Exeter, Department of Geography

- Cotaught class on Cuba with Professors Ian Cook and Keith Woodward

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2006 – May 2007**

The University of Kansas, Environmental Studies Program

- Led discussion sections for Environmental Studies 148: Introduction to Environmental Studies in 4-5 discussion sections of 20 students each which met twice monthly.
- Created discussion activities which applied lecture concepts to real-world cases, and wrote and graded homework assignments.

**Trip Leader, Nicaragua Delegation, July 2006**

Global Exchange, San Francisco, California

- Coordinated and led ten-day delegation of 10-13 people from the United States to Nicaragua and facilitated learning experiences in the themes of neoliberalism, fair trade, and rural community development.

**Project Coordinator, September 2002 – January 2005**

La Central de Cooperativas Cafetaleras del Norte (CECOCAFEN), Matagalpa, Nicaragua

- Coordinated the development and operations of community-based rural tourism project in four rural communities, including facilitating organization of communities in the project, training of participants, infrastructure improvement, promotion, evaluation, and reports to funding organization (Lutheran World Relief).
- Organized visits of tourists and educational delegations and facilitated talks, visits, and exchanges centered on small-scale producer cooperatives, Fair Trade, coffee, and Nicaragua.
- Managed participatory baseline study of project to be used later in evaluation of project.
- Co-coordinated the development of Fair Trade/Agroecology Internship Program with Community Agroecology Network.
- Performed participatory diagnostic study on community-based tourism with partner cooperative in Tacuba, El Salvador.

**Outreach Representative (Career Guidance Counseling Assistant), August 2000 – September 2002**

Los Angeles Pierce College, Woodland Hills, CA

- Counseled high school students regarding their choices for higher education and advised them of educational opportunities available at community colleges.
- Composed bi-annual newsletter
- Created outreach representative manual.

**Program Assistant, International Students Office, August 1999 – May 2000**

Los Angeles Pierce College, Woodland Hills, CA

- Coordinated “student life” programs, including the International Student Mentor Program and various multicultural events
- Wrote informational brochure/application packet
- Assisted in processing student applications.

**Publications**

- Book Review: *Brewing Justice: fair trade coffee, sustainability, and survival* by Dr. Daniel Jaffee. Published online in *Fair Grounds Newsletter* (<http://www.peacecoffee.com/pcfg/0709/index.html#review>)

## Papers Presented at Professional Meeting

- *Meaning and Progress in the Fair Trade Network* in a session entitled *Shifting Agrifood Systems 5: Labor, Gender and the Limits of Certification*, annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, April 2007.
- *Creating Real Meaning: the dialogue between northern consumers and Fair Trade farmers in Matagalpa, Nicaragua* in a session entitled *The Cultural Logic of Alternative Foods*, annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, IL, March 2006.

## Presentations

- *Reflecting on the Multiple Meanings, Representations, and Realities of Fair Trade*, Third Annual Convergence of United Students for Fair Trade, Denver, CO, February 17, 2006.
- *Using The Global To Develop The Local: Fair Trade and Community-Based Tourism in Matagalpa, Nicaragua*, Brown Bag Lecture, Latin American Studies, University of Kansas, November 2005.
- *Using The Global To Develop The Local: Fair Trade and Community-Based Tourism in Matagalpa, Nicaragua*, Brown Bag Lecture, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, October 2005.

## Fieldwork and Research Experience

- Exeter, Devon, England, January-June 2008. Visiting PhD student. Participated in graduate level courses and reading groups; engaged in exchange activities on methodologies and theories of global food geographies.
- Campinas, São Paulo and Minas Gerais, Brazil, September-December 2007. Worked with Cooxupé coffee cooperative to complete study entitled *Local Context and Access to Fairtrade Certification*, and wrote diagnostic evaluation of on-the-ground changes necessary in production, environmental practice, and cooperative culture to achieve Fairtrade certification.
- Matagalpa, Nicaragua, June – July 2006. 27 interviews with producers and cooperative leaders in four rural coffee cooperatives and one umbrella cooperative organization (CECOCAFEN).
- Tacuba, El Salvador, May – June 2005. Participatory diagnostic study on community-based rural tourism with three coffee cooperatives.
- Matagalpa, Nicaragua, October – November, 2004. Baseline study of Community-based rural tourism project in four communities.
- Matagalpa, Nicaragua, January – March, 2002. Fieldwork for UCLA Presidents' Undergraduate Research Fellowship, done in rural community.

## **Related Experience**

### **International Liaison, Annual Convergences 2007 and 2006; Coordinator of Nicaragua Leadership Summit 2007 and 2006**

United Students for Fair Trade, November 2005 to August 2007

- Facilitated contact with international Fair Trade producer organizations from Africa, Latin America, and Asia, and coordinated logistics and programming of international portion of the annual Convergences in Denver, CO in February 2006, and Boston, MA in February 2007.
- Coordinate and lead 2<sup>nd</sup> USFT Leadership Summit for incoming regional coordinators of USFT, in Nicaragua during the summers of 2007 and 2006.

### **Intern, January-March 2002**

Central de Cooperativas Cafetaleras del Norte (CECOCAFEN), Matagalpa, Nicaragua,

- Participated in the design and conceptual development of tourism project and internship program
- Learned all aspects of cooperative functions, including farmer credit, education and literacy, gender education and health, organic transition, and technical support programs
- Conducted fellowship-affiliated research in a rural community.

### **President and Cabinet Member, International Development Studies Student Association, September 2000 – December 2001**

University of California, Los Angeles

- Increased interaction among IDS students and campus awareness of international issues.
- Represented students in the IDS Faculty Advisory Committee and the IDS Curriculum Committee.

### **Editor in Chief, *Developments Online Undergraduate Research Journal*, January - December 2001**

University of California, Los Angeles

- Recruited a team of undergraduate IDS students to create and develop an online venue to showcase undergraduate research in international issues.
- Created and coordinated submission and evaluation processes, and successfully published Spring 2001 issue and planned Fall 2001 issue.

### **Senior Intern, Academic Coordinator, and Member of NGO Delegation, April - August 2000**

Fete d'Excellence/Youth Empowerment Summit, Los Angeles and United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland

- Coordinated a team of ten Youth Empowerment Summit participants; organized academic activities and roundtable discussions within the United Nations complex and events to educate UN personnel and the public about global issues pertinent to youth
- Assisted our Head of Delegation in coordinating various aspects of NGO operations in Geneva, and the Fete d'Excellence.

### **President of Associated Students Organization, August 1998 - May 1999**

Los Angeles Pierce College, Woodland Hills, CA

- Increased the student representation both on-campus and off through involvement in various campus shared governance committees and state and national student organizations and through political awareness events.

## **Memberships and Professional Service**

- Association of American Geographers, 2005-2008.
- Treasurer, Geography Graduate Student Organization, The University of Kansas, Fall 2005 – Spring 2006.
- Coordinating Committee, Glob-o-mania, Department of Geography, The University of Kansas, Fall 2005.

## **Languages**

Fluency in Spanish and Portuguese.

## **References**

### **J. Christopher Brown, PhD**

(Advisor)  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography  
Lindley Hall, #223  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
785.864.5543  
jcbrown2@ku.edu

### **Garth Myers, PhD**

(Graduate committee member)  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography  
Lindley Hall, #201  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
785.864.4291  
gmyers@ku.edu

### **Christopher Bacon, PhD**

(Internship supervisor and colleague)  
Community Agroecology Network/University of California, Santa Cruz  
PO Box 7653  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-7653  
831.459.3619  
cbacon@ucsc.edu