

## Opportunities for faculty to add modules in survey to measure impact of road construction on the well-being and use of natural resources of native Amazonians in Bolivia (Field work: May 2011-December 2012)

*Summary of opportunities for faculty:* The program of cultural anthropology from NSF has recently approved a study to evaluate the socioeconomic and environmental impact of the construction of a new road in Bolivia that will cut through the territory of several native Amazonian groups. Faculty who have an interest in evaluating some impacts of road construction who are not part of the proposal have the option of sending the PI and the co-PIS suggestions for modules that might be included in the formal surveys of the study. Besides supplying the PI and co-PIS with suggestions of the modules, faculty interested in the project might want to alert their PhD students of research opportunities with this study. Details of the project are supplied next.

*The project:* The Bolivian government plans to build a road linking Villa Tunari in the highland department of Cochabamba with the town of San Ignacio de Moxos, a town in the lowland department of Beni. The proposed road will cut through a national park and territories inhabited by several native Amazonian groups. The proposed study uses the construction of the road as a natural experiment and includes measuring indicators of well being and use of natural resources before and after the construction of the road in treatment and control communities. For a 20-month period, four doctoral candidates in cultural anthropology and in environmental sciences from US universities will collect data for this study under the supervision of Professors Victoria Reyes-García ([vreyes@brandeis.edu](mailto:vreyes@brandeis.edu)), Ricardo Godoy ([rgodoy@brandeis.edu](mailto:rgodoy@brandeis.edu)), and Ori Heffetz ([ori.heffetz@cornell.edu](mailto:ori.heffetz@cornell.edu)). Students will collect data on the well-being and use of natural resources of two native Amazonian populations in Bolivia that will be affected by road: Tsimane' and Moxenos. After a first ethnographic period, students will be administering surveys on local ecological knowledge, household economics, food consumption, and use of natural resources. Research will take place in indigenous villages within the Territorio Indígena Parque Nacional Isiboro-Secure (TIPNIS), a National Park in lowland Bolivia. Research will be coordinated with the Centro Boliviano de Desarrollo Social e Integral (CBIDSI) and Cooperación Médica Canaria, local NGOs that have been continuously working in the area since 1999. The field work component of the research is scheduled to begin in May of 2011 and end in December 2012.

*Steps to add new modules:* The project has some flexibility to add modules to the survey by faculty other than the PI and the co-PIs. Faculty interested in the topic can propose additional modules to the survey. The team will evaluate all the modules and select those that more closely fit with the original survey for inclusion, or that can be incorporated at the least cost. Faculty members interested in the study are encouraged to contact Victoria Reyes-García ([vreyes@brandeis.edu](mailto:vreyes@brandeis.edu)) or Ricardo Godoy ([rgodoy@brandeis.edu](mailto:rgodoy@brandeis.edu)) to obtain a copy of the proposal and discuss their ideas for new modules. Proposals to include new modules should be no more than five pages long and include: one paragraph explaining the motivation for the module and the specific questions or procedures to be executed during data collection. Proposals to include new modules should be sent by December 31, 2010 to V. Reyes-García or R. Godoy. New modules should be developed by the time the survey starts.