

Lauren O'Connell Summer 2016 Fieldwork

This summer I spent six weeks living in Lamas, Peru through the Kellogg Institute's Experiencing the World Fellowship. During my time in the Upper Amazon-San Martin Region of the country, I performed ethnographic research and completed interviews with community members, doctors, and farmers in order to learn more about the use of medicinal plants and intercultural healing. Through this opportunity, I was able to use my findings to create my own medicinal plant garden at the ecological center of a café-cacao cooperative as well as visit a variety of medicinal plant gardens and chakras (farms) in the area. I also had the privilege of visiting university medicinal plant labs, helping at the hospital, and observing the use of medicinal plants in a new clinic setting which is helping lead the movement towards intercultural healing. It was an incredible experience!

