Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship

The Glasscock Center for Humanities Research annually funds up to ten Graduate Research Fellowships at $2,000 each. Departments can nominate up to two graduate students to be considered for these awards. To be eligible, students have to be working on a Doctoral dissertation or Masters thesis but could be at the initial stages of their projects. Students are expected to work closely with their advisors on a project description, rationale for the grant, and budget. The budget might include conference participation and travel, fieldwork or archival work, or it might simply be for research materials. The outcome should be a dissertation or a thesis, or a significant portion thereof. These students will make up the community of graduate scholars who populate the Graduate Colloquium Series (five each semester). They are required to participate for a semester in the Graduate Colloquium Series and use the experience as a tool to improve their own writing and projects and help each other to improve the quality of the work being produced as a group. Please check with the financial aid office to confirm that your financial aid will not be affected by receipt of this or other awards.

Students must have both the Director of Graduate Studies’ and the Department Chair’s approval to be nominated. Applications should go through a rigorous selection process at the departmental level before being nominated to the Glasscock Center by the Department Chair. The selection process at the departmental level may be done by a departmental committee that is already assigned the task of evaluating students, by a committee that includes the Graduate Director, or a committee that is created for the purpose of selecting a nominee. In some cases, the committee may consist of graduate students. Students may only receive the Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship once. Students may not hold a Brown-Kruse Fellowship at the same time as the Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship. Preference may be given to students who have not already received a Brown-Kruse Fellowship.

Date: February 6, 2016
Name: Kelsey Harper
Address: 200 Marion Pugh, College Station, TX 77840
TAMU Mail Stop: 4238
Department: Hispanic Studies
Email: kelsey.harper@tamu.edu
Phone: 316.200.5837

Current year in graduate program (select one): 01 02 03 04 05 06
MA or PhD Student: PhD
Expected date of graduation: 2018

Previous financial support from Glasscock Center (preference may be given to applications who have not received major funding from the Glasscock Center):

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<th>Title of program</th>
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Applicants must either attend a Glasscock Center Grant Writing Workshop or consult with a Glasscock Center Advisory Committee member. Please check that you have done (at least) one of these.

Name of workshop attended: Met with Dr. Lawo-Sukam Date attended: 04/04/2016
Please describe your current research project and expected outcomes at the end of the fellowship period. In addition to the general topic, include the research methodology, sources, and the contribution the work makes to your field(s). In other words, how will you accomplish your research and what is its impact? (Limit 500 words)

The term Hispanic, while handy in recording census data, is a label that includes culturally and linguistically diverse groups. In fact, Hispanics in the U.S. represent over 20 countries with high degrees of heterogeneity. My research will describe linguistic features of one of the lesser-represented Hispanic minority groups, Peruvians. I will focus specifically on their linguistic characteristics by conducting qualitative research through open-ended interviews. My research thus comes to fill a gap in scholarship, since the existing studies about Peruvians in the U.S. pay limited attention to this group’s linguistic characteristics (Altamirano, 1990; Durand, 2015; Francesco, 2014; Julca, 2001; Paerregaard, 2005; Takenaka et al., 2010).

Existing studies on Spanish in the U.S. cover the largest minority groups: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central Americans and Dominicans (Lipski, 2008). However, the growing number of South American immigrants warrants linguistic studies about these communities as well. According to the 2014 American Community Survey, over 3.3 million South American immigrants reside in the U.S., a number that grows by about 100,000 people each year. The 2000 U.S. census reported over 233,000 Peruvians in the country, a number that doubled by the 2010 census. Some studies suggest that the U.S. Peruvian population has exceeded one million (Francesco, 2014; Paerregaard, 2005). Peruvians settle primarily in Florida, California, New Jersey, and New York. Texas has its own growing population of Peruvians with over 20,000 according to the 2013 ACS estimate.

An in-depth study about Peruvians in the United States will provide insight into the internal dynamics of the nation’s Hispanic minority. This study will gauge (1) whether this minority maintains its own national identity or assimilates to the larger group and (2) which linguistic mechanisms a subset of a minority population employs to do so.

This research will answer how U.S. Peruvians adapt to a new cultural and linguistic setting where their variety of Spanish mixes with others, and more specifically: 1) What are the demographic characteristics of Peruvians living in the United States? 2) What characterizes the Spanish spoken by this group? 3) What is the role of language in maintaining Peruvian identity? 4) To what extent do Peruvians integrate linguistically with other Hispanics?

I will complete the study in stages by conducting interviews with Peruvians in different cities in the U.S. Using census data, I have located two cities of interest: Houston, TX, and Paterson, NJ. Additionally, I have ascertained the presence of a small number of Peruvians in the Brazos Valley with whom I will conduct interviews.

Upon this study's completion, I will have identified to what extent Peruvians adapt linguistically to the norms of Hispanic majority groups. The study will also reveal how linguistic minorities in general and Peruvians in particular feel about their own linguistic changes and what they believe is gained and lost in the migratory process.

Although I am a second year PhD student, it is necessary to begin this research now in order to have enough time to produce a quality dissertation chapter with this data.

References Attached
References


The Glasscock Center supports humanities research in traditional humanities disciplines, which are usually grounded in qualitative methods. The Humanities are understood to include (but are not limited to) study in the following disciplines: modern and classical languages; linguistics; literature; history; political theory; jurisprudence; philosophy; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts. The Center's grant programs encourage interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research that joins humanities inquiries with the humanistic social sciences and other research fields and methods. Research from non-humanities disciplines that takes an interpretive or qualitative approach to questions of meaning in human experiences and endeavors are also welcome. Humanities inquiries are usually qualitative and address questions of meaning in the products of human culture and thinking. Research that is primarily quantitative and/or reliant upon the canons of scientific method usually falls outside the parameters of humanities research and thus may not be eligible for funding. If you are not sure whether your research contributes to the humanities, or for other questions about writing your application, please feel free to consult with the director, associate director, or a member of the Center's advisory committee.

Describe how your work is situated within or oriented toward humanities inquiry. (Limit 100 words)

This study is about the identity of a minority linguistic community subsumed within a larger minority and will rely primarily on information gathered using qualitative methods, such as open-ended interviews. This group is faced with the struggle of maintaining national identity while at the same time adapting to a new superimposed pan-Hispanic identity. For this reason, these interviews aim to capture the subjects' worldview and notions of linguistic and cultural identity. The qualitative methodology is thus humanistic because it involves recording the experiences of U.S. Peruvians in order to analyze patterns and commonalities in these experiences.

Please indicate how the $2,000 bursary would advance your project to completion. Be specific (e.g., the benefit and relevance of travel to a specific conference, fieldwork or archival research in specific locations or archives, collaboration with other scholars at TAMU or another location, purchase of research materials or access to digital resources, etc.). Please provide as detailed a budget as possible so that we can assess how the bursary will be used (attach additional page, if necessary).

Overview of Study (please see attached sheet for a detailed breakdown of planned expenditures):
The study will have three stages:

Stage 1: Pilot of questionnaire in the Brazos valley and Houston (June, July 2016)
Stage 2: Data collection in Paterson (August 10-24) and continued data collection in Houston, Austin, and Dallas (weekends in September 2016 - May 2017)
Stage 3: Transcription of data and analysis (June 2017)

I will use the funds to pilot the study with nearby Peruvians in College Station and Houston in June 2016. For this I will need a high-quality voice recorder to collect digital sound files that can later be transcribed. I will also need gas to travel to these locations. Having a personal high-quality voice recorder is essential to the project because the interviews will be most likely conducted in noisy places such as restaurants and coffee shops. A recorder of this caliber is not available for check-out in the TAMU libraries.

For the second stage of the project, I will travel to Paterson, New Jersey, which is home to the largest community of Peruvians in the United States. I will conduct interviews there for a minimum of two weeks in August 2016. A family friend lives in the area and has kindly offered to let me stay with her; therefore lodging is not factored into the budget.

I will also take day trips to Houston, Austin and Dallas during the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters in order to conduct interviews with Peruvians in these areas. I have a few contacts in each of these areas already and I do not foresee any issues as far as locating interviewees.

The final part of this research will consist of audio transcription and analysis. The remaining funds will go toward the cost of this service. I will apply for other grants to cover the remainder of the transcription cost.

It is important that I begin my research and data collection along the aforementioned time line in order to complete and defend my dissertation on time.
Glasscock Research Fellowship
Kelsey Harper- Peruvian Spanish in the United States
Proposed Budget

Materials
Olympus WS-823 Voice Recorder $200
Total: $200

Trip to Paterson, NJ (August 10-24, 2016)
Flight to Newark: $350
Ground Transportation: $300
Meals: $300
Total: $950

Day trips to Texas cities (Saturdays in fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters, 3 trips to each city)
Houston
Gas: $100
Meals: $75
Austin
Gas: $100
Meals: $75
Dallas
Gas: $200
Meals $75
Total: $625

Audio Transcription*
Total: $225

Total: $2,000

*Note: The audio transcription will cost more than $225. CaptionSync transcription services charges $1.55/minute of audio. A 30-minute interview will be $46.50. I expect to conduct at least 20 interviews, bringing the total for transcriptions to approximately $1,000. To cover the rest of this expense, I will apply for other grants.
Please check with the financial aid office to confirm that your financial aid will not be affected by receipt of this or other awards.

☒ I understand that financial aid may be affected by receiving this award.

Applicant (Printed Name): Kelsey Harper  Date: 04/04/2016
Applicant (Signature): KEH

To be completed by Director of Graduate Studies and Department Head:

☒ This student applying for the Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship is in good standing and is one of two nominees from this department.

Director of Graduate Studies (Printed Name): STEPHEN MILLER  Date: APRIL 5, 2016
Director of Graduate Studies (Signature):

Department Head (Printed Name): MARIA IRENE HOYVA  Date: April 4, 2016
Department Head (Signature):

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:
Applicant should complete and sign this form and submit to Department Head and departmental Director of Graduate Studies for approval and signature.

Applicant should then send signed application form as a PDF to glasscock@tamu.edu or send by campus mail to Mail Stop 4214.