

## **Recruitment for Graduate Studies**

**Dr. Diana Córdoba**

**Department of Global Studies and School of Environmental Studies**

**Queen's University**

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSRHC)-funded project '***Beyond the Plantation: Making Black Geographies Visible in Colombian Land Use Planning***' is recruiting one graduate student (either at the PhD, MA, or MES level) for the academic year 2025-2026. The overall goal of this project is to challenge colonial and post-colonial rationalist and functionalist territorial state-led planning in Colombia by proposing land use planning technologies that make Black geographies visible. The project focuses on the rural areas of the southern Valle del Cauca and northern Cauca provinces (Alto Cauca region) in southwest Colombia, where Black communities inhabit ancestral territories that are besieged and fragmented by the continuous expansion of sugar cane plantations. These communities have developed agroforestry-like production systems known as "traditional farms," which have been recognized for providing important ecosystem services, serving as a crucial axis for cultural reproduction, and contributing to food security. However, these farms have so far been neglected by state protection and currently face insurmountable pressures from the expansion of agribusiness and urban sprawl.

The graduate student will contribute to identifying the barriers that official territorial planning practices impose on the representation of Black rural communities, their traditional production systems, and their geographies in Local Land Use Plans and other planning instruments. They will also design and test planning instruments and mechanisms that could be included in local planning methodologies and policies to make ancestral and agrobiodiverse Black territories visible. The student will conduct fieldwork (based on participatory mapping, qualitative research methods, and/or GIS analysis), as well as prepare peer-reviewed publications, and prepare presentations at professional meetings. Research and professional conference travel support will be included as part of their studies.

### **Required Qualifications**

- Previous training in Environmental Studies, Development Studies, Geography, Sociology, Science and Technology Studies, or Anthropology.
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Familiarity with the anthropology of development, critical agrarian studies, feminist political ecology, agrarian geography, and/OR GIS technologies.
- Strong research analytical skills and a solid background in qualitative research methods and data analysis, including the use of NVivo.
- Fluency or working knowledge of Spanish.

### **Application Instructions/:**

Send a cover letter stating your interest in and qualifications for the position, a curriculum vitae, one writing sample (e.g., journal article, thesis chapter, final assignment), and unofficial transcripts for the last years of your studies to Dr. Diana Córdoba at [diana.cordoba@queensu.ca](mailto:diana.cordoba@queensu.ca).

Application Deadline: Open until filled.

Starting Date: September 2025