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Economic Solidarity Among Guatemalan Agroecology Organizations  
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International Research and Training Grant for Incoming Graduate Students - Report  
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IRIS' International Research and Training Grant for Incoming Graduate Students allowed me to complete two research trips, at the beginning and end of my Masters work. I traveled to Guatemala in January 2020 for two weeks to meet with Agroecology organizations in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, Guatemala. This was part of a field trip associated with the 2020 Conference of Latin American Geographers meeting based in Antigua, Guatemala. This trip opened doors for me because I was able to spend time with and make research partner contacts at two organizations: Qachuu Aloom and Asociación de Comités de Productores Campesinos (ACPC). Support from IRIS went towards airfare, bus travel, room, and board.

When the Covid-19 travel restrictions prevented me from traveling for fieldwork in 2020 and 2021, I conducted surveys and interviews remotely with leaders of the organizations and with farmer members. Looking back, the opportunity to travel to Guatemala *before* my planned summer fieldwork was crucial to my ability to pivot to remote research and continue my studies during the pandemic.

During the pandemic, some agroecology organizations were at the forefront of rural smallholders' responses to the national curfew and market closures in Guatemala. My study examined the relationships between agroecological practices and social networks and *campesino* resilience to economic shock. Qualitative and quantitative results indicate that agroecological practices (such as diversified subsistence crops, lack of agrochemical inputs, and more) were correlated with ability to maintain production and consumption during the pandemic. Additionally, the social networks associated with agroecology organizations contributed to farmers' abilities to move between formal and informal markets. The study documented the creative alternative strategies that the groups implemented, such as initiating home markets, womens' groups creating new products, bartering, and online sale capacities.

As of September 2022, there are two forthcoming publications about this project:

1. Rice, A.M., Einbinder, N., and Calderón, C.I. “‘With agroecology, we can defend ourselves’: Examining *campesino* resilience and economic solidarity during pandemic-era economic shock” in *Guatemala*. Forthcoming in the *Journal of Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*.
2. Rice, Anika M. “*En Tiempos de Pandemia: Guatemalan campesinos revalue bartering as a traditional practice*”. Forthcoming in UW’s *LACIS Review on “Interdisciplinary Research in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies.”*

In Summer 2022, I returned to Guatemala to study Maya K’iche language for six weeks. The IRIS grant allowed me to extend this trip and spend two weeks meeting with my research contacts again. This follow-up allowed me to both return to the Masters project by checking in with participants and sharing a flyer of results from the study, and to conduct informal interviews with women’s organizations and community organizers who I may collaborate with for my Phd. Support from IRIS went towards bus travel, room, board and food refreshments offered in meetings with collaborators.