

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The American Geographical Society Awards 2018 Council Fellowships

*Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) has announced the awardees to receive its 2018 AGS Council Fellowship.*

[New York City, NY] – [March 14 2018] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2018 AGS Council Fellowships to support master's and doctoral research. The recipients are Ms. Katherine Cann, a Master's Student at George Washington University, Mr. Christopher Hair, a Ph.D candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi, Mr. Dinuke Munasinghe, a Ph.D candidate at the University of Alabama, and Mr. Kuan-Chi Wang, a Ph.D candidate at the University of Oregon. AGS Council members selected the winners from a highly competitive field of applicants. The AGS will recognize the fellowship recipients at its annual Fall Symposium at Columbia University on November 15 and 16, 2018.

Ms. Cann will use the fellowship award to fund her return to Pedasi, Panama to expand on her thesis research *"Untangling the Roots of the Mangrove Tree: Understanding and Uniting Diverse Stakeholder Interests Towards Successful Co-Management of a Coastal/Marine Protected Area in Panama."* Ms. Cann says, "I am thrilled to receive the 2018 AGS Council Fellowship, which will allow me to continue monitoring the progress of decentralizing conservation in Panama. I am looking forward to working towards an effectual co-management plan for the protected area on the eastern Azuero peninsula."

Mr. Hair will return to Ecuador and continue his dissertation, *"A View from Above: Alternative Perspectives on Small-Scale Indigenous Agriculture in Northern Ecuador."* The 2018 AGS Council Fellowship award will allow Mr. Hair to purchase a drone to explore crop management on small-scale farms. Christopher stated, "Receiving the AGS Council Fellowship is an incredible honor, and I am very grateful for the support of the American Geographical Society. This fellowship will allow me to further my understanding of issues related to food security and food diversity. Receiving this award is a big milestone for me, and it will undoubtedly contribute to my development as a researcher and geographer."

Mr. Munasinghe will use the Council Fellowship award to supplement his field research in the Mobile Bay Estuary System. Mr. Munasinghe's dissertation, *"A Novel Approach to Assess Sediment Fluxes in Mobile Bay, Alabama,"* will focus on high sedimentation levels in the area that contribute to ecological and economic losses. Dinuke stated, "I am extremely honored to receive this fellowship from the AGS and was thrilled to learn of my selection for this award. I am deeply appreciative of the generous support provided by AGS for budding scientists like myself to see the advancement of science."

For Mr. Wang, the fellowship award will allow him to advance his dissertation study, *"Border Assemblages: The Political Economy of Regional Vegetable Trade in Asia."* Mr. Wang will continue his field research in China and Japan to research agricultural patterns in East Asia. When asked about his award, Mr. Wang replied, "I am incredibly honored and humbled to be selected as a recipient of the 2018 AGS Council Fellowship. I am thoroughly appreciative of the opportunity to advance my academic development and collect data on a new dimension that I have uncovered in the process of dissertation writing."

“The AGS Council Fellowship is a way to support the next generation of geographers by funding research, especially field work.” said Dr. Marie Price, the Chair of the Selection Committee and President of AGS. “This is an important benefit of membership for graduate students,” Price added. “One of the primary missions of the AGS is to support research and publish new findings. Today, geographic research is being revolutionized through the use of geospatial technology, big data, and open source technologies. The AGS Council Fellowship is a way to support the next generation of geographers by funding innovative research and field work.”

The American Geographical Society (AGS) is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education for over 166 years. The mission of AGS is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



**Ms. Katherine Cann**  
*George Washington University*



**Mr. Christopher Hair**  
*University of Southern Mississippi*



**Mr. Kuan-Chi Wang**  
*University of Oregon*



**Mr. Dinuke Munasinghe**  
*University of Alabama*

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