



## Announcing Recipients of the Annual LeoGrande Prize and LeoGrande Award

American University's School of Public Affairs and Center for Latin American & Latino Studies are pleased to announce the recipients of the William M. LeoGrande Prize for the best book on U.S. – Latin American relations, and the William M. LeoGrande Award for the best scholarly book or article on Latin American or Latino Studies published by a member of the American University community, for 2018–2019.

Marixa Lasso, Associate Professor of Latin American History at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, is this year's winner of the William M. LeoGrande Prize. With this Prize, Dr. Lasso is recognized for her book, *Erased: The Untold Story of the Panama Canal* (Harvard University Press, 2019). Well researched and often eloquent, *Erased* illuminates the little-known history of U.S. colonization of the Canal Zone. In 1912 President Taft ordered the Zone depopulated, and more than 40,000 residents were forcibly removed, their thriving towns destroyed. The author argues that at the heart of the conflict leading to the expulsion of Panamanians from the Zone are found competing conceptions of modernity. As Lasso effectively demonstrates, the rationale was not technical – the Canal was nearly finished. It was racial, with the displaced and dispossessed treated as uncivilized “occupants” despite their republican forms of governance. Innovatively privileging the perspective of the Canal Zone's inhabitants, Lasso vividly describes a largely ignored story of U.S. imperialism, while exploring how imperialism was supported by a racial narrative of superiority to the detriment of Panamanians. *Erased* is a masterful study of revealed history.

Ernesto Castañeda, Assistant Professor in American University's Department of Sociology, is the recipient of this year's William M. LeoGrande Award for his book *A Place to Call Home: Immigrant Exclusion and Urban Belonging in New York, Paris, and Barcelona* (Stanford University Press, 2018). Informed by a decade of mixed-methods research in three global cities, Castañeda's study explores the experiences of immigrant social integration among Mexicans in New York City, North Africans in Paris, and North Africans and Latinos in Barcelona. Castañeda shows that formal policies and available public resources are not enough to create the conditions of “belonging.” Social interactions, cultural practices, and individuals' experiences also shape the possibilities for integration, if in turn partly shaped by broader socioeconomic and political contexts of reception. This book effectively links the subjective experiences of immigration, resettlement and integration with the structural conditions immigrants encounter and negotiate. A significant contribution to evolving discussions in receiving cities about best practices for immigrant resettlement, this book explores how immigrants can simultaneously experience inclusion and exclusion, while demonstrating the complexity of what it means for newcomers to belong to a society or a place.

The William M. LeoGrande Award and the William M. LeoGrande Prize were established in 2012 to honor Bill LeoGrande's tenure as Dean of American University's School of Public Affairs from 2003 to 2012. The endowed award was made possible through the financial support of alumni, friends, and colleagues of Professor LeoGrande. One of the world's most accomplished scholars in Latin American politics and U.S. foreign policy, Professor LeoGrande continues to serve as a professor of government at American University.