

**World Social Forum 2009: Belem Brazil**

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# Proposal for

## ILR Community Grant

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# I. Summary

In effort to promote international research and exchange, and awareness, our delegation is requesting \$11,971.00 in ILR IP Community Grant funds.<sup>1</sup> The group will consist of members from six different facets of the ILR community: ILR undergraduates, graduate students, alumni, faculty, professionals and experts in the field of international labor. This project will provide a platform for understanding ILR-relevant labor and economic related issues in a globalizing world as well as an opportunity to raise ILR's international profile.

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<sup>1</sup> This amount will fully fund up to eight individual participants, but may fund several more with only partial coverage. This total also includes the cost of the colloquium.

## II. Project Description

“Thousands gathered in temporary meeting halls the size of aircraft hangars to hear a program of speakers that included former Irish president... and Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirlin Ebadi.”

- Former Senior V.P and Chief Economist of the World Bank and Nobel Prize Winner Joseph Stiglitz

The World Social Forum will hold its annual meeting from January 27 through February 1, 2009. Labor organizations, academic researchers, and non-governmental organizations will gather in Belém, Brazil to discuss issues in the globalizing world. Matters of international trade and labor relations are a central element of this dialogue. Our proposal is to organize a delegation including ILR students, faculty, and alumni, as well as professionals and affiliates involved in the field of international labor, to attend the forum.

As individuals, we will conduct interviews, research specific contemporary fields of interest and create a daily report of our findings and activities. As a group, we will attend sessions that pertain to ILR related issues. More specifically, each group member will choose an individual theme to focus on for the duration of the conference. The themes will likely cover topics such as: global working conditions, international trade policy, workers rights as human rights and the global impact of first-world economies. Members of our delegation have expertise in coalition building, transnational labor movements, international and comparative political economy, human rights, international and comparative workplace studies, Latin American labor law, and collective bargaining. Those studying a specific area of interest will decide on a day to lead a group discussion based on their topic and expertise in order to facilitate an enhanced understanding of the multitude of material that we will encounter. This approach will help to centralize the focus of the forum and its pertinence to our work in ILR. Delegates will network with international academics, labor organizations, indigenous workers and global economic non-government organizations on a daily basis.

Additionally, members of the group will participate in a daily webcast to detail and discuss impressions and findings of the day.<sup>2</sup> The webcast will include interactive chat with viewers and members of the ILR community in the U.S. We plan on targeting undergraduate and graduate ILR students specifically, in order to create awareness of international issues in the world of work as well as enhance the visibility of the ILR department. The webcasts will be supplemented by a daily blog with posts by several group members each day. We have access to equipment and technology to do this at no cost. The utilization of these two technologies will also serve as useful promotional tools for the follow –up colloquium in late February.

Once the conference has ended the group members will host a colloquium and panel presentation for the ILR community. The colloquium will detail our formal report and a provide time for a question and answer session, and a recount of our experiences in Brazil. A reception for attendees will follow immediately after the event.

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<sup>2</sup> As a practicality, we have already secured registration at the forum, including a furnished booth with internet access

### III. Goals/Objectives

As a group we will attempt to establish international connections while simultaneously promoting ILR's overall visibility and international profile via the 2009 World Social Forum in Brazil. We anticipate a permanent connection to the AFL- CIO solidarity centers in Washington, DC and Brazil for the ILR School, as well as an enhanced acclaim for ILR worldwide. We will aim to make lasting connections with organizations around the world, and conduct meaningful research in the fields of international and comparative labor using the international organizations that send representatives to attend the conference. Lastly, both as students and as members of this group we will strive to learn, process and understand the mechanisms and possibilities of globalization in our world.

## IV. Timetable

| <b>Description of Work</b>                           | <b>Start and End Dates</b> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Registration of organization with World Social Forum | Completed 9/27/08          |
| Secure funding                                       | 11/15/08 -12/19/08         |
| Confirm delegate participation                       | 11/15/08 -12/10/08         |
| Apply for Brazilian tourist visas                    | 12/10/08                   |
| Pay WSF Registration Fee                             | 12/16/08                   |
| Develop promotional handout                          | 11/1/08 - 12/15/08         |
| Setup webcast platform                               | 12/1/08 -1/27/09           |
| Finalize group agenda & assignments                  | 1/1/09 - 1/20/09           |
| Attend conference, publish blog,                     | 1/27/09 - 2/1/09           |
| Report findings, present colloquium, update blog     | 2/2/09 - 2/15/09           |

# VI. Participants

**Student Organizers:**

Stuart Craig- BSILR '10

Dawn Gearhart- BSILR '10

Greg Meyer- BSILR '06, MILR '09

**Proposed Delegation:**

## VII. Evaluation

Throughout the duration of the Forum, we will meet to discuss the findings of each individual in their interactions with other organizations, and to plan our efforts for gathering information on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, we will maintain and update a daily web blog from Brazil detailing the day's activities and findings via written summary and webcast. We already have access to methods of preparing and publishing blogs and webcasts at no cost.

Our delegation will produce a formal report of its activities. The report will include documentation and a summary of presentations, interviews, and organization activities. Throughout the weekend, we will track the amount of ILR material we distribute and keep a log of the organizations with whom we interact. We will maintain a sign-in list at our kiosk.

At the end of the conference we will host a panel discussion or colloquium event open to members of the Cornell community, the AFL-CIO, UNITE HERE and other university affiliates as well as the general public.<sup>8</sup> We will prepare a presentation with images from the Forum, the information we gathered, and summaries of our live reports. Each person who attended will contribute their own impressions of the experience and their personal findings. This information will be prepared to enliven possibilities for research and emphasize the Forum's connection to ILR curriculum. We will then engage discussion with community members with an open forum question and answer session.

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<sup>8</sup> The event is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm in Ives room 305.

## VIII. Appendix

Visas:

<http://en.brazilny.org/index.php?/consulado/anchor/tourist>

Lodging:

<http://www.fsm2009amazonia.org.br/donations/family-accommodation/solidary-family-accommodation>

Airfare:

[http://www.vayama.com/jsp/home/home.jsp?OR=NYC&AR=BEL&DT1=26012009&DT2=02022009&ITT=RT&cl=Y&PC=1&CC=0&ref=kayak&pd=FltCmpStrip#selectedItinerary\\_page](http://www.vayama.com/jsp/home/home.jsp?OR=NYC&AR=BEL&DT1=26012009&DT2=02022009&ITT=RT&cl=Y&PC=1&CC=0&ref=kayak&pd=FltCmpStrip#selectedItinerary_page)

Registration:

[http://inscricoes.fsm2009amazonia.org.br/content/index.php?page=insc\\_org&subpage=1](http://inscricoes.fsm2009amazonia.org.br/content/index.php?page=insc_org&subpage=1)