

**Abstract**

This proposal's objective is to obtain the resources to write grant proposals for external funds that will lead to the writing of articles to be submitted to peer reviewed journals. Recent research has begun to look at how Indigenous and Afro-Latino communities are constructing their identities within the globalization of multicultural reforms shaping the region. The situation in Ecuador provides a unique opportunity to examine these processes as they relate to Afro-Latino populations. Along the northwestern coast of the nation within the province of Esmeraldas there exists a community called Play de Oro that has substantiated through ancestral claims its right to territory and cultural identity. My research project aims to reveal through analysis of the collective memory of its descendants and archival material the cultural and historical significance of a community of Afro-Ecuadorian people concerning their contribution to the understanding of the concept of and struggle for ancestral rights (ancestralidad) and the construction of identity of Afro-Ecuadorian people in the province of Esmeraldas, Ecuador.