

## **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