

Laura Castro is a graduate student in Community Sustainability at MSU. She wanted to expand her theoretical knowledge and methods in order to understand how humans behave and manage their natural resources as well as the implications on human and ecosystem health. In the summer of 2016, she traveled to the village, Vila Nova in the state of Para, in the Amazon of Brazil. Her goal was to understand the perspective of local fishers about how the Belo Monte Hydroelectric dam – the third largest in the world – affects them. In this area, women also work as fishers in a traditionally male-dominated profession. She went with fishers to Cajui, one of the main fishing spots in the area. Not only was Laura exploring the ecological context but also living the experience that fishers have every day in their fishing routine. After graduating, Laura hopes to work for human and ecosystem welfare in rural communities around the world.