



Athena is Senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, graduating with a dual degree in Urban Studies and Latin American and Latino Studies. After graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy in 2012, Athena spent a gap year in her hometown working with a local branch of California Rural Legal Assistance, a nonprofit legal service program targeting California’s rural, migrant workers and low-income individuals. Upon entering Penn in 2013, Athena continued service to similar populations by becoming an active member of Penn for Immigrant Rights (PIR). By the end of her first year she was a co-Coordinator of the PIR Scholarship and continued her sophomore year as PIR’s co-Executive Director. In this role, combined with her engagement with Casa Monarca, the African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA), and the Tequila Interchange Project (TIP), Athena was able to grow connections in the Philadelphia community. During Athena’s time as a research assistant at TIP, she studied social determinants of health and worker’s conditions of *Jimadores* – farmers who harvest agave plants – in Jalisco, Mexico, leading her to learn that the greatest education one can receive is outside the classroom through lived experience. With this belief, Athena traveled abroad during her junior year to New Zealand to study at the University of Otago, Dunedin, followed by an extended stay in Nicaragua in partnership with the Universidad Centroamericana, Managua. While in Nicaragua, Athena engaged in long conversations with *campesina* women surrounding rural communities of Matagalpa. Conversations focused on the concerns about the women’s’ experiences as Home Assistants in the large cities of Matagalpa and Managua. These interviews formed the basis of Athena’s Civic Scholar Capstone Project.

## CAPSTONE PROJECT

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### BARRIERS TO COMPLIANCE: DOMESTIC WORKER RIGHTS AS EXPERIENCED BY *CAMPESINA* WOMEN IN NICARAGUA

*Faculty Advisor:*

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The attention in migrant studies has typically been centered on globalization and the translocality of peoples as the economic disparity between the “first world” and the “third world” exponentially increases in tandem with the disparity between urban and non-urban citizens. In areas where economic disparities exist one can find large groups of “third world” citizens migrating in search of greater economic opportunity from their rural municipalities to their nation’s urbanized large cities and some migrate to even more affluent nations. This capstone furthers scholarship by focusing on labor markets for domestic workers and the feminization of migration. Utilizing the experiences of *campesinas* in Nicaragua who migrate to Managua to work in its domestic labor market, this research begins to unveil the women’s workplace experiences in the context of urbanization and globalization. Research was conducted through in-depth interviews that examined the structural forces that determined the subject-place of *campesina* migrant home-assistants in urban spaces and explores how the *campesina* experience has been shaped by gendered and classed vulnerabilities. Ultimately, I established that rurality must be considered in the ways global capitalism and patriarchy have shaped internal migrant women’s subject-place in urban centers, specifically revealed in the Nicaraguan context, through persistent barriers to workplace protections.