Ana María’s dissertation titled “Roots in Stone and Slavery: Permanence, Mobility, and Empire in 17th C. Cartagena de Indias” explores the processes by which the colonies became new homelands for people who transplanted their lives, willingly or by force, in the Americas. Her research explores ideas and mechanisms of attachment to place such as acquisition of property and creation of ties of kinship, friendship, and economic partnership in order to understand the ambiguous relationships between mobility, rootedness, and empire in a slave society. Before beginning her doctoral studies, Ana María worked as a translator and college instructor in Bogotá, Colombia.

During her fellowship period, Ana María will complete further research at archives in Spain and Colombia. She will also draft chapters of her dissertation throughout the academic year.