The Social Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in Colombia

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The 2016 Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) formally ended a conflict that has extended for nearly 60 years. More than 13,000 FARC ex-combatants demobilized to more than 24 settlement camps across the country. I conducted fieldwork primarily in the state of Meta, covering two formal settlement camps (Mesetas and Vista Hermosa) and two cities (Villavicencio and also the country’s capital Bogotá). I interviewed both ex-combatants and the individuals they are interacting with following the Peace Agreement, asking about their biography, cross-group interactions, and national historic events. I build upon Maurice Halbwachs’s presentist approach to collective memory which focuses on groups, by engaging with scholarship on social networks. I also draw on cultural sociology as I examine the meanings that individuals attribute to their relationships.