

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP
SPRING 2011 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

SCIENCE/ART STUDIES

Research Director: Caroline Ann Jones [cajones@mit.edu]
Research Director: Peter L. Galison [galison@fas.harvard.edu]

**Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA
Wednesday June 1-5, 2011**

This is the first of two workshops designed to help students prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the first workshop are 1) to map the research field with respect to contributing disciplines, methods, sources, and area knowledge; and 2) to help prepare fellows for their pre-dissertation summer research. (The goal of the second workshop will be to focus on the mechanics and methods of writing a dissertation proposal). The two goals stand in close relation to each other: through a sustained and structured discussion of student proposals and their component parts, we hope to contribute to the mapping of the research field itself.

ARRIVAL, Wednesday, June 1: Reading handouts / packets will be distributed at registration along with other materials.

Wednesday Evening: *Reception, 7-9pm.*

Session 1: Introducing the problem

(Thursday, 9-12 PM)

Reading: excerpt from Donna Haraway, *Primate Visions*.

9:30-10:30 -- Peter Galison will present on "Media and Interpretive Social Science," focusing on Fred Wiseman's 1974 film *Primate* in comparison with Donna Haraway's 1989 book *Primate Visions*. We will examine the role of images as representations, and as interpretive tools.

11:00-12:00 -- Fellows will present the visual media that may be engaged by their research, with particular focus on anthropological, biological, or sociological topics.

Session 2: Continued discussion of fellows' research, with an eye toward media and a tight focus on "introducing my problem."

(Thursday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

Session 3: Regimes of visibility and display

(Friday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

Reading: Galison & Jones, "Unknown Quantities," *Artforum*, Nov. 2010.

Jones, "The Mediated Sensorium," in *Sensorium: embodied experience, technology, and contemporary art* (MIT: 2006): 1-49.

9:00-11:00-- Bus ride and field trip to Monterey Aquarium, with an informal analysis of display, modeling, representing, intervening, and systems of visibilities.

11:00-12:30 --Fellows discuss their projects, with an eye toward how the visible is organized (historically, epistemically, materially) in their areas of research.

Session 4: Continued discussion of fellows' research, with specific attention to matters of institutional framing, display, and knowledge-production.

(Friday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

Session 5: Micro, Macro and Nano

(Saturday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

Reading: Pablo Schyfter, "Synthetic Aesthetics," t.b.d.
Galison, "Nanofacture," in Jones, *Sensorium*, 171-73.

9:30-10:00---Presentation by Pablo Schyfter of his work with "Synthetic Aesthetics"

10:00-12:00--- Group discussion on questions of the digital and the trading zones between engineering, art, and science.

Session 6: Presentation of fellow's research abstracts, with special attention to the *scale* of evidence, its macro or micro relation to the human, and how it registers in the archive.

(Saturday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

-Sunday June 5, 9-10 am. Plenary wrap-up session (common problematics, summer requirements, homework, communication over the summer)

Session 7: The work ahead

(Sunday, 10.00 AM – 12:00 PM)

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP
FALL 2011 WORKSHOP AGENDA
Radisson Plaza – Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia**

Wednesday, September 14th – Sunday, September 18th

SCIENCE/ART STUDIES

Research Director: Caroline Ann Jones [cajones@mit.edu]

Research Director: Peter L. Galison [galison@fas.harvard.edu]

This is the second of two annual DPDF workshops designed to help graduate student fellows prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the second workshop are 1) to help fellows synthesize their summer research; and 2) to draft proposals for dissertation funding. The fall workshop focuses on the mechanics and the philosophy of proposal writing. The workshop also aims to challenge fellows to reflect on their summer research in ways that link meaningfully to their research field. In this, the goals of the fall workshop are closely related to the project of mapping a research field that was started during the spring workshop in Monterey.

Fellows will come out of the second workshop with supportive networks, consisting of both mentors and cohorts of new scholars carrying out research in their fields, as well as intellectually mature dissertation proposals.

We have already worked in small groups to review the prospectus-in-progress; additionally, you should by now have comments from the Research Directors on your individual drafts. We ask that you circulate the revised form of your proposal to all workshop participants by **September 10, 2011**.

Workshop Readings, Assignments

You must share your revised proposal with the group on **September 10**, as mentioned above. There are no assignments other than to read your colleagues' proposals. Optional readings include the sample proposals posted on the DPDF site. Please read your colleagues' proposals carefully and bring comments and questions to the workshop.

By the first day of the workshop, **September 15**, you should have a revised one-paragraph thesis statement or abstract. Bring this to share, together with your own notes on colleagues' proposals. By **September 16**, prepare one to three jpeg images that will be used to focus discussion on your thesis.

Workshop Schedule

Wednesday, September 14th

ARRIVAL, Wednesday, September 14th: Registration packets will be distributed at check in.

7:00.-9:00p.m. - Welcome Reception

Thursday, September 15th

Session 1: Plenary Session – **The Dissertation Proposal: Strategies and Funding Sources**

9:00-12:00 p.m. --- Welcome and Introductions
Dissertation Funder Presentations

Session 2: What changed?

How did your research this summer affect your project? Has the thesis changed? The methodology? It would be helpful to identify one particular issue with which you are grappling. Please bring your June abstract together with a revised version—bring enough copies to hand out to everyone (14 copies to include all of us). We will group the presentations to have related topics within the same hour (so three groups of four).

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. --- Each fellow will have 10 minutes to present and we will have 5 minutes for discussion (with time for breaks and unstructured conversations over coffee!)

Friday, September 16th

Session 3: Field Trip

We will visit “The Wagner Free Institute of Science”

<http://www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org/> ,

where “*the Wagner is not a reflection of the past but the past itself.*” It would help to bring either a phone that can take pictures or a digital camera so we can (as we did for the Aquarium) put together a guiding slide show for analysis of art and science themes.

9:00	Meet in front of hotel to catch the bus
9:30 - 10:30	Wander at will to imbibe as much of Mr. Wagner’s spirit as possible
10:30	Catch the bus to return to the hotel

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. --- Galison and Jones will frame some questions regarding tropes of display; roundtable discussion of keywords, images, objects, and “things that talk” in art and science.

Session 4: What are the stakes?

By the night before (that is, sometime before Friday), please email Galison one or two image(s) you would like to use in discussing your thesis; galison@fas.harvard.edu

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. --- We spent a good deal of time during our June meeting talking about the stakes of your work. We ask you to be able to state, sharply, what those are: for example, you are interested in the structure of European international treaties in the 1910s—at stake is an account of the precipitating mechanisms of the outbreak of World War I. Guided discussion on crafting a compelling thesis, working with abstracts from the previous day, and focused on your key images as a crossing point of art and science.

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. --- Break-out sessions with working groups focusing on abstracts and proposals to clarify the stakes for each student in the group. These groups will be based on the summer affinity groups with which you have been working.

While these break-out sessions are in progress, we will have individual 20-minute meetings of fellows with Research Directors

Saturday, September 17th

Each fellow will have 30 minutes of group attention to their proposal—you will want to keep the presentation itself to be no more than 15 minutes to allow a good and thorough discussion. Workshop participants will come with their comments from reading proposals prior to the workshop, prepared to contribute to the ongoing questions we have been discussing through three clearly delineated steps: 1) How is the research problem defined?—and perhaps some indication of where you expect your response to that question to come out (it is fine at this stage if you do not have an “answer”; key is to have a well-defined problem. 2) What are the stakes of this problem as it is posed?—why you care and why your reader should. 3) Is the method of attack that you have chosen adequate to the aim?—speak to why historical or ethnographic or sociological or philosophical approach (or some combination) is sufficient unto the day. Because this is the longest individual presentation you will make at this workshop, you should be sure to keep your guiding thesis front and center. Remember that oral presentations need to have a laser-like focus. In writing you can have five major points; in an talk, just about no one will remember point two by the transition from number four to five. As you listen to the other presentations keep these three points in mind: what is the thesis question? What are the stakes? Does the method match the problem?

Session 5: Workshopping the Proposals

9:00 – 12:00 p.m. --- 6 fellows' proposals @30 minutes

Session 6: Workshopping the Proposals

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. --- 6 fellows' proposals @ 30 minutes

6:00 p.m. --- Happy hour

8:00 p.m. --- Group dinner at Fork in the old city www.forkrestaurant.com

Sunday, September 18th

Session 7: What is the contribution?

We will conclude the workshop with questions of literature, field, method, and contribution. The fields that can find significance in your work are often the fields that may fund it; by the same token, changing a core discipline through your research is a compelling achievement.

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. --- Breakout sessions in groups of 4 will workshop fellows' proposals with specific attention to method and contribution.

10:30 – 12:00 p.m. --- Roundtable discussion of each proposal (5 minutes each) in terms of its potential appeal to funding sources, with attention to sharpening tools of interpretation and articulating the contribution to the field(s) addressed.