

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP**

**Washington, D.C.
Sunday, 19 May to Friday, 24 May 24, 2013**

MAY 2013 WORKSHOP AGENDA

Mobility, Empowerment & Precarity in African Migration

Research Directors:

Loren B Landau and **Stephen Lubkemann**
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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 second workshop will review field experiences and focus on translating participants’ interests and experiences into innovative and viable doctoral dissertation proposals).

This field focuses on migration as a form of individual and collective empowerment and transformation in contexts of economic and physical precarity. Examining movements primarily within and from Africa, it considers mobility as both a response to and transforming agent of acute socio-political and economic uncertainty in sending and receiving sites. Whereas predominant framings of displacement underscore disempowerment, our premise is that whatever its motivation—ecological uncertainty, violence, poverty, or persecution—human mobility fundamentally represents an ‘empowerment strategy’ through which people actively work to ameliorate their condition through individual socio-economic and political strategies and tactics. Mobility from and within situations of precarity can transform opportunity structures, redistribute resources across time and space, and generate new meanings that are both intended and unforeseen. The consequences are often far reaching, not only for migrants, but also for dependents left behind and for those with whom they live near and interact where they settle. At root here are questions of how migrants mobilize at the individual and collective levels to negotiate and transform these conditions towards their initial or emerging objectives.

WORKSHOP READINGS AND RESOURCES

Readings and other resources will be placed on the section of the DPDF online workspace devoted to this field. Students will receive separate explanations and detailed instructions about the access and use of the DPDF digital platform.

WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be uploaded on the DPDF online workspace unless otherwise noted:

NOTE: Assignments 1-6 must be completed PRIOR to arrival on 19 May

Assignment 1: Revised proposal. 3-page revised version of working proposal accompanied by a 1 page bullet point note on areas where you feel the proposal would benefit from further theoretical, logical or logistical thought and development. These should be **distributed to the group by Monday, 13 May.**

Assignment 2: Annotated bibliography of no less than 10 sources that represent important points of reference for your thinking about this field, along with a 1 page statement that describes how you are situating your project in relation to major debates and or scholars. Emphasis should be placed on sources that position your work within this specific field and not on the more general, disciplinary cannon.

Assignment 3: Assigned readings on the State of Art in the Field. DPDF Fellows should prepare a brief bullet point summary of major arguments and 2-3 questions per reading. The summary should include reference to how these readings may help to reframe or position the students' individual project.

Assignment 4: Assigned reading from RDs on Methods and the Fieldwork Process. Fellows should prepare a brief summary of major arguments and 2-3 questions per reading.

Assignment 5: Review of assigned research project proposals and methodological material. Fellows should also formulate primary questions and concerns they have about their own methodology and research process.

Assignment 6: Review of other participants research proposals. Students should develop a synthetic review categorizing the proposals, identifying common themes, and reflecting on how the proposals relate to the field's primary themes. Students are also encouraged to include critical comments and constructive suggestions on conceptual, theoretical and methodological concerns.

Assignment 7: Reaction and Research Development Journal. This is due throughout the Workshop and in a final compiled form by e-mail a week after the workshop is completed (May 30). Further details are included in the workshop schedule below.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Sunday, 19 May

Arrival. Orientation material will be available at the check in at the Arlington Hyatt Hotel.

6.00-7.00PM: Wine and Cheese Reception at the Hotel

7.15-9.00PM: Dinner with DPDF Research Directors –meet at hotel lobby at 7.15

Monday, 20 May

9.00AM-12.30PM: Workshop Session #1: Definition and Placement in the Field

After reviewing the work plan for the week, we will use this session to simultaneously introduce our work to each other and to begin to map out an overarching “topography” of the questions, debates, theories, and approaches—within particular disciplines as well as in interdisciplinary contexts—to the study of the relationship amongst mobility, precarity, and social, political and economic transformation in Africa. We will begin this process in the first session by having the first 9 DPDF fellows make a 10 minute presentation in which they must:

1. Succinctly describe their own project (Revised descriptions of this project will have been distributed previously—*see assignment 1*)
2. Provide their own perspective on how that project is situated within particular disciplinary or interdisciplinary debates informed by their own reading and the issues raised in other fellows’ proposals; and
3. Briefly review the arguments of two or three primary scholarly studies from which they have drawn theoretical inspiration and/or who have provided them with the primary points of reference within which they intend to situate their own contribution (an annotated bibliography will be distributed by each student in conjunction with this review—*see assignment 2*)

Following each group of 3 presentations we will have a 15 minutes session of questions and discussions. This is the first opportunity for fellows to provide direct feedback to other participants.

2.00 to 5.00PM: Workshop Session #2: Definition and Placement in the Field

During the first hour of this session the last 3 fellows will complete their individual presentations.

During the following 90 minutes the Research Directors will lead a discussion of the assigned readings (*see assignment 3*) which provide points of entrée for sharing their own visions of the history and state of art of research.

During the final half hour the Research Directors will moderate a discussion of the DPDF that aims to identify the most significant gaps and opportunities in the field as these relate to the projects proposed by the fellows.

5.00-5.30PM: In workshop assignment: *Reaction and Research Development Journal Entry 1*

Immediately following the second workshop all DPDF fellows will be asked to spend 30 minutes composing a brief informal note in which they react to the day's discussion by answering the following questions:

1. What new theoretical perspectives, empirical studies, concepts, or questions have emerged as relevant to my own research question? How are these informing or making me re-think my questions, approaches?
2. What new questions have emerged from the discussion that bear on my project?
3. What literature have I learned about and must read-and why?

These will be e-mailed to the two RDs immediately upon completion.

Tuesday, 21 May

9.00AM-12.30 PM: Workshop Session #3: Embedded research, defining a field

During this session we will ask students to break into 3 groups of 4 in which they will then each to draw upon their Reaction and Research Development Journal to summarize and share with each other the primary ways in which they have reformulated their understanding of the field (debates, literature), their own problem conceptualization, and their methodologies (10 minutes each, followed by short (2-3 minutes) of comment from each of the other DPDF fellows). We expect fellows will have opportunities to provide further feedback during breaks, informal discussions, or by distributing assignment 6. Each group will be moderated by an RD (Lubkemann, Landau) and a visiting senior scholar (Brinkerhoff or Carling) who will also contribute to the discussion. This is also an opportunity for students to begin sharing critical and constructive feedback on other participants' research proposals.

1.30PM-4.45PM: Workshop Session #4: Thinking about Methods and the Fieldwork Process

During this session we will discuss the process by which appropriate methods are initially chosen, and/or may eventually come to be adapted and how various factors affect this process—including: disciplinary canon and culture; the availability (or not) of particular forms of data; practicalities (including time and money); particularities of populations or context; ethical concerns; and research questions themselves. We will focus in particular on methodological issues particular to cross-cultural contexts of mobility and precarity (multi-sited research, working with vulnerable and/or hard to locate populations etc...). We will also

discuss the value and potential professional risks of undertaking interdisciplinary research as a doctoral project.

We will organize these discussions as follows:

During the first 2 hours the research directors will lead a discussion of methodological options and concerns based on the review of assigned readings (*see assignment 4*) During the second 90 minutes the two RDs (Lubkemann and Landau) and at least one of the visiting senior scholars (Carling) will each walk the DPDF fellows through the process of methodological development they each deployed in one of their own projects. These will provide 3 different disciplinary perspectives (Anthropology, Political Science, Geography). Descriptions of these projects will be assigned to be read prior to this discussion (*see assignment 5*).

5.00-5.30PM: In workshop assignment: *Reaction and Research Development Journal Entry 2*

All DPDF fellows will be asked to spend 30 minutes composing an additional entry capturing the ideas and provocations from the prior session.

Wednesday, 22 May

9.00 to 11.00AM: Workshop Session #5: From Preliminary Research to Proposal Development and Funded Longer-term Research

During this session the RDs will lead a discussion that will focus on how to think about “pilot research” as a step towards the development and refinement of a proposal for longer-term dissertation research and as a substantive contribution to that larger project.

They will also review strategies for approaching funding proposal development. At the end of the session, the group will draw up a schedule for individual consultations.

11.00AM to 1.00PM: Workshop Session #6: Individual consultations

During the afternoon each DPDF fellow will rotate through a 20 minute individual consultation with the two RDs (Lubkemann and Landau) and with one visiting Senior Scholar (Carling), for a total of 3 individual consultations. These will provide an opportunity to discuss overall questions as well as specific methodological concerns in each fellow’s proposal from at least three different disciplinary perspectives (Anthropology, Political Science, Geography). During the evening, DPDF Fellow will be tasked with adding an entry to their ***Reaction and Research Development Journal Entry 3***)

1.30pm Afternoon Free

Thursday, 23 May

The entire day on Thursday will be dedicated to the Senior Scholar Conference and Consultations

8.00-9.00AM: (Optional) Fellows meet with the senior scholars for breakfast.

9.00-12.00AM: Senior Scholar panel presentations

- 9.00-10.20: Panel 1 (3-4 presenters; 1 discussant; 1 chair/moderator)
- 10.30-10.45 Coffee Break
- 10.45-12.00: Panel 2 (3 presenters; 1 discussant; 1 chair/moderator)

12.00-1.00PM: Lunch

1.00-2.30PM: Senior scholar roundtable discussion on “the backstage aspects of field research”. Moderated by DPDF research directors.

2.30-4.00PM: “Coffee Consultations”. Each visiting senior scholar will be paired with 2 DPDF fellows who will have an opportunity to informally discuss their own projects in greater depth with them. Each visiting senior scholar will have had a chance to previously review the revised proposal (see assignment 1a).

4.00-4.30PM. Time reserved for fellows to complete **in workshop assignment: *Reaction and Research Development Journal Entry 4***

6.00-7.30PM Senior Scholar dinner

Friday, 24 May

9.00- 12.00AM: Workshop Session #7: Looking Forward

During this final session we will review plans for the fall workshop and review the assignments and timeline for these in the interim. These assignments will include:

- The submission by e-mail by May 30th of a final compilation of your Reaction and Research Development Journal inclusive of all 4 assigned entries(see above) as well as final reflections based on session 7 (above));
- A proposal for additional reading and a timeline for the same based on your Reaction and Reading Journal and general group discussion;
- A revised and expanded annotated bibliography that will be due 1 week prior to the second workshop;
- A revised proposal due one month prior to the second workshop inclusive of a report (in annex) of the results and impact of summer research on the revision of the project;

- Additional reading and assignments in preparation for the second workshop will be assigned by the research directors three weeks prior to the second workshop. These will be available through the DPDF portal;
- A short conceptual note that may serve as an introduction to the ‘field’.

12.00-12.30PM: Closing

<i>Mon May 20</i>	<i>Tues May 21</i>	<i>Wed May 22</i>	<i>Thurs May 23</i>	<i>Fri May 24</i>
<i>Duques RM 451 8h30am- 5h30pm</i>	<i>Duques Rm 651 8h30am- 12h30p</i>	<i>Duques Rm 553 8h30am- 12h30pm</i>	<i>Duques Room 651 8h30- 2h30pm</i>	<i>Duques Rm 451 8h30am- 1pm</i>
	<i>Duques Room 662 and 562 1h30- 5h30pm</i>	<i>Duques Rm 662, 364 1h30- 5h30pm</i>	<i>Duques Rm 662,364, 562 2h30- 5h30pm</i>	



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**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
25-29 September 2013**

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Precarity and Empowerment in African Migration

Loren B Landau, loren@migration.org.za
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This is the second of two annual DPDF workshops designed to help graduate student fellows prepare cogent and fundable dissertation project proposals in their respective disciplines. The workshop's two primary objectives are (1) to help fellows critically reflect on their pre-dissertation research; and (2) to assist fellows as they revise their proposals for both academic and funding purposes. The workshop challenges fellows to consider their pre-dissertation research and proposal development within the context of contributions to both interdisciplinary research fields and to their respective disciplines. In this, the goals of the second workshop continue the project of mapping a research field that began during the initial workshop in Washington.

If the workshop is a success, fellows will leave Johannesburg having mapped out a clear course of action for revising their proposal drafts into intellectually mature dissertation proposals. The workshop will also continue to strengthen the links amongst supportive network of mentors and a cohort of new scholars within the research field.

WORKSHOP READINGS AND RESOURCES

All new readings and other resources will be placed on the section of the DPDF online workspace devoted to this field by 31 August.

WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be uploaded on the DPDF online workspace unless otherwise noted:

15 September: A *draft research proposal* that follows the International Dissertation Research Fellowship guidelines (available online at <http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/>). For present purposes you only need to complete the proposal and bibliographic sections (details included below). Please also choose at your own discretion at least one other potential funder that you might target and provide us with a 1 page of bullet points that specify how/if you

would change the emphasis of your SSRC proposal in your submission to that funder. Submit the CFP from the respective donor with your proposal.

The submitted SSRC proposal should be as thorough as possible and written in clear prose accessible to someone outside of your discipline. **It must not exceed five double-spaced pages** and should include the following information:

- An explicit statement of your thesis or argument, including any major hypotheses you will test or questions you will ask;
 - Relevance of the research to concerns of your discipline and other fields;
 - An explicit description and justification of your research methods;
 - Preliminary research already completed or plans for research prior to going to your research site(s);
 - Proposed location(s) for research and explanation of why your project requires the stated on-site research;
 - A research schedule, justifying how much time you propose to spend conducting research at each site.
- 15 September: A 'Pilot Research Report' responding to a set of common questions about their research experience and how additional literature review has influenced their question/s, approach, generated new issues, or revealed unanticipated challenges or opportunities. This will serve as the basis for the presentations fellows make on the first day. These questions will be distributed in early September. The report is expected to be no more than five pages in length.
 - 15 September: An updated annotated bibliography highlighting the new literature reviewed since May along with a 2-3 page note that provides each student's current understanding of how their own questions and research will answer the 'so what' question with respect to the following four sets of audiences (use journals as a way to think about these). We have provided some questions that may help guide your formulation of this note. This note will help orient fellow participation in the Final panel discussion on Sunday:
 1. The interdisciplinary scholars generally interested in migration and precarity (e.g. Refugee Studies);
 2. The subset of their discipline that works on issues of migration and precarity; (e.g. CORI, those concerned with social networks or immigrant integration, policy formation, etc.);
 3. Whatever body of Africanist scholars will be their "first line". This could be nation-specific groups (e.g. *Liberian Studies Review*), sub-regional groupings (e.g. *Journal of Southern African Studies*), or continent-wide (e.g. *African Studies Review*; *African Affairs*);
 4. The debates within the broader home discipline (including those with little interest in precarity, migration, or Africa)(e.g. *Poli Sci-Comparative Politics*; *Anthro-American Ethnologist*)
 - 1 October: A completed research journal and assessment similar to the one completed during the first workshop.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 25 September

- 18.00** **Registration and welcome dinner: Narina Trogon restaurant, Braamfontein (meet in lobby to walk to restaurant)**
Workshop materials will be distributed at registration.

Thursday, 26 September

- 9.00-10.30** **Session 1: Framing the Task Ahead**

This initial session will begin by considering the task at hand: converting fellows' field experiences into concrete proposals. To do this, the session will explore the intersections and disconnections between research protocols, funding applications and private research plans: The discussion will be led by Steve Lubkemann will lead the discussion with reactions from Loren Landau and Josh De Wind.

- 10-13.00** **Session 2: Individual Student Reports and Peer Discussion about "My Summer of Epiphany"**

Each fellow will be asked to report back to the group on the progress they have made and the ways in which both their pilot research experience and further immersion in the literature have influenced their research question/s, methodological approach and what proposal problems are still outstanding, or may have newly emerged. To guide this discussion Landau and Lubkemann will provide a list of questions (see *Assignments*) that fellows should respond to and be prepared to discuss. Each of the fellows will also be asked to respond critically to two other fellows' proposals. These proposals will be distributed in advance along with a roster. Fellows are, of course, encouraged to engage with all others' work.

- 14.00-17.00** **Session 3: Individual Student Reports and Peer Discussion about "My Summer of Epiphany" (continued)**

Friday, 27 September

- 9.00-10.30** **Session 4: Effective Funding Proposals and Strategies: North American and African Perspectives**

This session is intended to speak about particular strategies for securing research funding. Although primarily focused on people at the doctoral level, the discussion should have broader relevance to students as the move into the academy or other research related professions. The session will begin as a panel discussion with participation from experienced researchers offering insights into their strategies in both North American and African contexts.

11.00-13.00 Session 5: Proposal Review Panels

Sessions Five and Six will be run as mock juries in which fellows are asked to make a seven minute presentation of their research proposals including a nominal work plan and budget (specific guidelines will be provided). The fellows will then receive feedback from a panel of established scholars who will speak to the proposals' academic merits and the effectiveness of the fellows' 'sales pitch'. Disciplinary and subject specialists from across Wits University will be called in to respond to individual panels. The panel will also include people who have done extensive field work in relevant settings.

14.00-17.00 Session 6: Proposal Review Panels (continued)

Saturday, 28 September

9.00-13.00 Session 7: Rotating Individual Consultations with Landau, Lubkemann and other scholars (if available)

Students should come prepared with a specific a set of issues they want to discuss and will sign up on the day before to meet with a number of available scholars.

13.00 – 17.30 Lunch and City Tour Focusing on Migrant Communities in the City

Dinner at House of Baobab, Maboneng District

Sunday, 29 September

9.00-12.00: Workshop Session #7: Wrapping Up: Making Sure Your Work Gets Noticed

Along with a final discussion of fellows' work thus far, this final session will address two concerns. The first is about directing fellows to questions that are likely to matter in the coming years and that are likely to 'have legs'. The second will be a brief discussion about academic marketing and helping to identify the relevant audiences and improving the changes that fellows' work will be seen and noticed.