

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

**University of Warwick, Coventry, England
Thursday, May 29th to, Sunday, June 2nd, 2012**

SPRING 2013 WORKSHOP AGENDA

**Postcolonial Identities and Decolonial Struggles:
Creolization and Colored Cosmopolitanism**

Research Director: Gurminder K. Bhambra [G.K.Bhambra@warwick.ac.uk]

Research Director: Nico Slate [slate@cmu.edu]

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).

This workshop looks historically at the production of contestatory cultures from the age of enslavement and colonization to that of decolonization. It also examines the continuing resonance across social, cultural and political fields of the emancipatory struggles of those times. We will focus in particular on the historical and contemporary dimensions of creolization and colored cosmopolitanism. Creolization refers to the mutually constituting processes of identity construction and struggles against oppression and injustice, most usually in the context of colonialism, settlement, and enslavement. It is a frame through which these difficult histories can be recognised and, at the same time, space provided for accounts of resistance and survival in the face of those processes. To focus on the cultural products of enslavement is not to diminish the inhumane conditions of the time, but rather to acknowledge the creative capacity of human endeavour despite such conditions. The idea of 'colored cosmopolitanism' is one such product that points to movements of solidarity across racial and national lines.

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:

- **Revised Abstract and Descriptive Bibliography: Deadline, May 1st:** One page revised abstract of proposal submitted with DPDF application, as well as a one page descriptive bibliography discussing three or four scholarly texts that have particularly influenced your research.
- **Response to other Abstracts: Deadline, [May 20th]:** Each fellow will offer a short (1-2 page) reflection on how all 12 proposed projects intersect and overlap. What shared themes, questions, or methods bring our group together? How could our projects be divided into smaller sub-groups? Where are there divergences or differences of approach between us?
- **Written preparation for Erna Broder's workshop: Deadline, May 20th:** Each fellow will offer a 1 page annotated bibliography on **one** of the following issues:
 - 1) knowledge which helps us to understand the post-emancipation setting of the mid and late 19th century in which enslaved people in the US and the Caribbean were 'freed',
 - 2) knowledge of the significance of Liberia as a solution to the 'Negro question'
- **Pre-Reading for Erna Broder's workshop:** In the workshop, we would also look at Edward Blyden's *Christianity, Islam, and the Negro Race* (any edition) to focus on his essay "Aims and Methods of a Liberal Education for Africans," his inaugural address as president of Liberia College, January 5th 1881.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 28th: Welcome group dinner at Radcliffe conference centre

Wednesday May 29th: International Senior Scholar Conference

The conference will provide students the opportunity to explore creolization and colored cosmopolitanism by engaging with scholars who approach these themes from a variety of backgrounds. The conference will be interactive, with short presentations leaving plenty of time for conversation between students and presenters. Interdisciplinary and international, the conference will offer lessons both substantive and methodological for those aiming to work across the borders of disciplines and nations. Our discussions will blend theory and practice and will be driven by students as they connect their own work to the themes of the conference and the subsequent workshop.

10.00-11.15: KEYNOTE 1 - Erna Brodber 'The Pathless, Harbourless Spade'

11.15-11.30: Coffee

11.30-1.00: PANEL 1 Nico Slate, Robbie Shilliam, and Gurminder K Bhambra

1.00-2.00: Lunch

2.00-3.15: KEYNOTE 2 - Sibylle Fischer 'Specters of Haiti'

3.15-3.30: coffee

3.30-5: ROUNDTABLE all presenters

Group dinner at Habibi's in Coventry

Thursday, May 30th

9am to 12pm: Workshop Session #1: Introductions

The goal this session is to begin to map the research fields through a discussion of the kinds of research questions/hypotheses that each of us brings to our time together. We will begin with general introductions. We will then divide into two groups, each led by one Research Director, to discuss how our individual work relates to the keywords of the workshop: postcolonial/decolonial, creolization, and cosmopolitanism. After sharing, we will again divide into two groups to discuss issues raised at the senior scholar conference in relation to the individual projects of each student.

1.30pm to 3.30pm: Workshop Session #2: Evidence, Silences, & Research Projects

Sibylle Fischer will lead this workshop on examining the idea of evidence in different fields (e.g. history, social science, politics) and how we can construct narratives of the past / present when the evidence is 'patchy'. There will be a pre-circulated paper for students to read and they are asked to think about the following questions in relation to their own research projects:

* What do we do when the historical records are spotty: can we make "silences" speak? If so, by what means?

* What does it take to write an intellectual history from the margins/from below? Is it possible to write an "intellectual history of the enslaved" (Dubois)? Methodological and ethical questions.

* What counts as evidence for the historian, the literary scholar, the social scientist?

* What is the impact of conflicting political agendas on our understanding of the past (social equality, gender equality, national emancipation, anti-imperialism, etc.)? How do political commitments shape research agendas?

3.30pm to 5pm: Workshop Session #3: Understanding South-South Connections

Robbie Shilliam will lead this workshop on understanding South-South connections without using the subaltern as the necessary figure of connection. Robbie will speak for 15-20 minutes and then divide the students into small groups to discuss the issues raised by his presentation in the context of their own research projects. Students will be asked explicitly to engage their research with the themes being outlined and the speaker and the research directors will work with the students to enable them to make these connections. The Research Directors will assist in the workshops, leading small group discussions on the significance of the themes to the students' own research and the focus will be on the students determining the utility of these paradigms for their own research projects.

Friday, May 3rd

9am to 11 am: Workshop Session #4: Mapping an Interdisciplinary Field

This workshop will begin with a short (15-20 minute) presentation by **Ipek Demir** on the epistemological and substantive issues related to thinking about interdisciplinarity. Ipek will then lead a workshop in which the students discuss what interdisciplinarity means to them, to their individual research projects, and to our shared field. The discussions should be oriented in relation to thinking through issues of interdisciplinarity in the context of the students' own research proposal and thinking about how this could be further developed. This will be followed by small group workshops where the students work with either Ipek or one of the Research Directors to discuss the issues raised in relation to their own research projects.

11am to 12.30pm: Individual Meetings with the Research Directors

2pm to 4pm: Workshop Session #5: Episteme for the Spade

Erna Brodber will run a workshop titled 'Episteme for the Spade' in which she asks students to consider the politics of knowledge production in post-emancipation contexts. This workshop will be oriented around the specific reading and tasks set out above. Students will further be asked to reflect on the themes of this workshop as they pertain to their own research projects and to examine the connections that may arise in thinking through these issues in relation to their own research.

4pm to 5pm: Individual Meetings with the Research Directors

Saturday, June 1st

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #6: Sources and the Research Field

Nico Slate will lead a workshop on sources that will help fellows consider new sources for their own research, as well as the challenge of engaging sources in a creative and critical fashion. It will be helpful for students to develop some strategies on best practices for meeting their pre-dissertation research goals and obtain the data they set out to collect, within the research-field specific context. It may also be helpful to troubleshoot with students some alternatives in the event of unexpected consequences (i.e., sources are not as fruitful; data cannot be accessed). Students may continue their presentations and commentaries of individual projects, emphasizing strategies to engage with sources framed by their methods and research questions.

1 to 3.30p.m: Workshop Session #7: From Preliminary Research to Proposal

Gurminder K Bhambra and Nico Slate will lead two workshops on the research process as appropriate for UK students (who have already started their PhDs) and US students (who will be orienting their research to writing funding applications). The session will address the kinds of challenges inherent in translating information collected from preliminary research into a dissertation proposal / chapter (for a committee as well as a funder). Also, it may be helpful to have some discussions about what happens if the results from summer research necessitate a shift in research questions/sites/sources.

Evening: excursion to Birmingham city centre

Sunday, June 2nd

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #8: Looking Forward

This will partially be a planning session in which we discuss ideas for the September workshop, and also discuss communication strategies, deadlines, and assignments due over the summer. Students will be given their summer readings lists and assignments. We will also have a final reflection on the workshop and what has been learnt through it, both generally and in terms of any specific reflections on the students' own research projects.

12pm: Lunch and Close of Workshop

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP
Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Wednesday, September 18th to Sunday, September 22nd, 2013
FALL 2013 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**Postcolonial Identities and Decolonial Struggles:
Creolization and Colored Cosmopolitanism**

Research Director: Gurminder K Bhambra [G.K.Bhambra@warwick.ac.uk]

Research Director: Nico Slate [slate@cmu.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 develop revised drafts of dissertation proposals, either for committee or funding purposes. The workshop challenges fellows to consider their summer research and proposal development within the context of contributions to their research fields. In this, the goals of the fall workshop are closely related to the project of mapping a research field that began during the spring workshop in Minnesota.

Fellows will come out of the second workshop with clear courses of action to revise drafts into intellectually mature dissertation proposals, as well as supportive networks of mentors and cohorts of new scholars within the research field.

WORKSHOP READINGS AND RESOURCES

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

WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS

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

- **Draft Proposal / Article, Deadline, September 4, 2013:** Draft proposal or short article (for those who have already submitted research proposals).
- **Reading Deadline, September 18, 2013:** Read all proposals and compile brief comments (250 words or less) on each of the two other papers in your conference panel (see panels below). Please post these comments on the on-line workspace before the 18th. Also complete the background reading for Robin Cohen's workshops, available online here: <http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/imi-working-papers/wp-72-2013>

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 18th

6 p.m.: **Registration and welcome reception**
Workshop materials will be distributed at registration.
Dinner on your own

Thursday, September 19th

9 a.m. to 10:15a.m: Workshop Session #1: Research Findings and Frustrations

This first conversation will be an opportunity for all fellows to share their summer research, with a focus on findings and frustrations.

10:15am to 10:30am: Coffee Break

10:30a.m to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #2: Workshop led by Robin Cohen

"Creolization and Diaspora: diverging, converging." Please complete the following background reading before the session:

<http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/imi-working-papers/wp-72-2013>

12:00pm to 2:00pm: Lunch

2 to 5 p.m.: **Plenary Session on Funding and DPDF Alumni**

All fellows from the research fields at this workshop will attend this session. In this session, DPDF staff, in conjunction with some of the research directors, will discuss the genre of proposal writing for research funding. Topics to be discussed will include: writing for disciplinary v. interdisciplinary audiences; finding an appropriate tone and style; ways to write about your pre-dissertation research as preparation for long-term research; best practices for preparing a research budget; pulling back the curtain on general review processes.

In the second part of the plenary, students will break out into small groups to role play a review committee and discuss the merits of two short proposals that have been assigned to read prior to the workshop. Following the exercise, students will reconvene and debrief.

Friday, September 20th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #3: Shared Themes

First, we will divide into three groups based roughly on shared themes: 1) citizenship and sovereignty 2) migration and diaspora, and 3) identity and intersectionality. In these groups, each fellow will present a critically constructive response to the proposals of the other three students in the group. These responses will be focused on identifying strengths as well as areas of the proposal that could be improved or clarified. After the papers have been discussed individually, each group will discuss general themes or theoretical questions that unite the papers.

12:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00pm-5:00pm: Workshop Session #4: Shared Methodologies

In this workshop, we will divide into three groups based roughly on the primary methodology of each student: 1) ethnography, 2) archival research, and 3) literary and visual texts. We will discuss classic works that exemplify these methodologies and will connect our own methodological challenges to those works and to each other's work. This will be an opportunity for students to think about how they will gather more evidence, as well as how they will analyze that evidence.

Saturday, September 21st

Fellows Conference

Fellows will present their summer research in four panels of three students each. Each presentation should be 10 minutes in length and will be followed by 15 minutes of Q&A and conversation among group members. Students should focus their presentations on the following questions: How has your summer research led you to revise your project? What are your most pressing questions or challenges moving forward?

9-9:45 Panel 1: Madhuri Karak, Linda Chhath, Martin Arboleda

9:45-10:30 Panel 2: Kaneesha Parsard, Jordache A. Ellapen, Simon Fisher

10:30-10:45 coffee

10:45-11:30 Panel 3: Lauren Tooker, Lucia Carminati, Simon Cole

11:30-12:15 Panel 4: Silas Webb, Malarvizhi Jayanth, Mingwei Huang

12:15-2:15 lunch

2:15 to 5 p.m.: Workshop Session #5: Walking tour of Cambridge and Boston

This tour will focus on Boston's history as a hub of migration and a center of ethnic and cultural diversity.

Sunday, September 22nd

9:00a.m. to 10:30a.m.: Individual meetings between fellows and research directors

Fellows will meet individually with the research directors and with Robin Cohen. The schedule of these meetings will be provided on Saturday the 21st, if not sooner.

10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. : Workshop Session #6: Moving Forward

This final workshop will focus on practical issues: how to apply for funding; how to balance research and writing; how (and when) to share findings at conferences and in publications; how to develop relationships with advisors; how to best communicate with funding agencies; how to not lose sight of research in the midst of preparing for qualifying exams. We will also discuss how the group might continue our conversations after the program ends (conferences, discussion boards, etc.).

12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Farewell lunch at hotel