

SSRC-MELLON MAYS GRADUATE INITIATIVES PROGRAM FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

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Attendees of our Annual Graduate Student Summer Conference at Bryn Mawr College



Recent PhD Panel:

Jeffrey Coleman, Teresa Gonzales, Anisah Nu'man,
Elliott Powell, and Sa'ed Atshan (Moderator)



Social Capital Panel:

Shanna Benjamin, Jacqueline Lazú,
and Duchess Harris

GREETINGS!

Welcome to the second biannual newsletter. Below is a recap of SSRC-MMGIP events that happened this summer:

The Annual Graduate Student Summer Conference was held June 21-23 at Bryn Mawr College. Fellows came together to present their work, share their experiences on the early years of graduate school, and hear from a number of engaging speakers and panelists. Such presentations included the Benjamin E. Mays Address by Dr. Carlos Decena, a talk by Dr. Carl Hart, a panel on social capital, and the Recent PhD panel.

For the first time, the Proposal Writing and Dissertation Development Seminar (PWDDS) and Dissertation Writing Retreat (DWR) were held concurrently. This event was held July 6-11 in Philadelphia, PA. Fellows attending PWDDS spent the week working in small groups, writing independently, and reviewing their work with peers and faculty. Fellows attending DWR had a week of intensive writing, improving time management skills, and creating a structure of accountability.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

SSRC-MELLON MAYS PREDOCTORAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Graduate Studies Enhancement
Grant & Predoctoral Research
Development Grant
For 2nd to 5th year PhD students

Dissertation Completion Grant
For 6th+ year PhD students

Apply at mellonmays.ssrc.org.

Deadline: November 1, 2016

WOODROW WILSON NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

MMUF Dissertation Grant
For graduate students who have
completed all pre-dissertation
requirements

Deadline: December 2, 2016

Career Enhancement Fellowship
For junior faculty in their third year
tenure-track teaching appointment
Deadline: October 28, 2016

Career Enhancement Adjunct
Faculty Fellowship
For PhDs in adjunct positions
Deadline: November 11, 2016

Contact Ina Noble
(noble@woodrow.org)
for an application packet.

SSRC INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

For PhD students who will be
conducting international dissertation
fieldwork

See www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship.

Deadline: November 1, 2016

POINTS OF INTEREST

NEW FELLOWS PORTAL

This fall, we will be launching a new Fellows Portal that will allow SSRC-Mellon Mays fellows to better connect with each other online. The Fellows Portal will include a directory of fellows with their locations, research topics, and other helpful information. In addition, the portal will feature news and announcements, links to new publications, profiles of fellows, and more. The success of the portal will hinge largely on your participation, so we hope that you use it as a resource for continuing to build the Mellon Mays community. Stay tuned for more information and the launch of the Fellows Portal!

APPLYING FOR MELLON PROGRAMS & GRANTS

The SSRC-Mellon Mays team reviews hundreds of applications each year for all of our funding and programmatic opportunities. Recently, we have seen some very poor ones. We encourage you to treat every application process as a competitive one even if you think the odds of your acceptance are high. This is good practice in general, but particularly if you remain in academia.

1. Make sure you follow the application guidelines, and keep a checklist of all the components.
2. Leave yourself enough time to work on the application. It is often obvious when an application was completed at the last minute.
3. Think carefully about your responses. For example, one-sentence answers are usually insufficient when asked for a description of your project or goals.
4. Typos and grammatical errors are distracting and can get in the way of an otherwise successful application. **Proofread your application before submitting it!**

Moving forward, we will be evaluating applications more carefully. Please make sure that your applications are complete and polished before submitting them to any SSRC opportunities.

A SNAPSHOT OF SSRC-MELLON MAYS FELLOWS

- As of May 2016, 648 fellows received PhDs and 20 are full professors.
- Over 650 PhDs are now in progress.
- The two most popular fields of graduate study are area/cultural/ethnic/gender studies (16% of fellows) and history (14%).
- The MMUF undergraduate component includes 46 institutions and over 500 students.
- Sean Decatur (MMUF '88) is the president of Kenyon College and Brian Johnson (MMUF '93) is the president of Tuskegee University.

