



PROGRAM ON PHILANTHROPY AND THE NONPROFIT SECTOR DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Social Science Research Council is pleased to announce the fifth annual dissertation fellowship competition of the Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector. Fellowships will provide support for dissertation research on the history, behavior, and role of nonprofit and/or philanthropic organizations in the United States. Up to seven fellowships of \$18,000 each will be awarded to graduate students in the social sciences and humanities to apply their knowledge of the theories and methods of their disciplines to issues concerning philanthropy and the nonprofit sector.

The Program supports dissertation research on a wide range of issues, but especially encourages applications that hold promise in advancing understanding of the following kinds of questions:

- What explains the division of labor among nonprofit, for-profit and public sectors in particular fields, and in the economy as a whole?
- How have nonprofit sectors emerged, under what conditions, and why?
- How and why have the relationships between the nonprofit and for-profit sectors, and between the nonprofit and government sectors changed throughout American history?
- Under what conditions does philanthropy flourish and make a difference, and what kinds of organizational and normative structures support systems that succeed in stimulating the production of collective goods?

Eligibility And Terms

The Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector invites applications from full-time graduate students in the social sciences and humanities. Students must be enrolled in a doctoral program in the United States and conducting research on this country, although proposals that identify countries outside of the United States as cases for comparative inquiry are also welcome. There are no citizenship requirements and applications from women and persons of color are especially encouraged.

Applicants must have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. except the research component, including an approved dissertation prospectus, by April 15, 2004. Fellowships will provide maintenance support for ten to twelve months. Candidates may propose a period shorter than ten months in exceptional cases for a reduced award, but no award will be offered for a period shorter than six months. The fellowship must be held in one consecutive period and must be completed no later than December 2005.

Criteria for selection

To be funded, proposals must focus centrally on the nonprofit sector and/or philanthropy, show promise of drawing on the field of nonprofit studies to contribute to the applicant's academic discipline, and show promise of using disciplinary perspectives to make a contribution to the field. Proposals

must be clearly grounded in appropriate aspects of the theoretical literature on nonprofit organizations and philanthropy, analytically explicit with respect to underlying models and hypotheses, and should specify methods appropriate to the questions at hand. In addition, selection criteria include: a strong record of achievement by the applicant in her/his academic discipline; evidence of having attained an appropriate level of training and skill to undertake the proposed research; clear presentation of rationale for the research; and the feasibility of the proposed research. Projects must be realistic in scope, clearly formulated, and must specify how they will add to the literature of the field.

Awards

Awards provide up to \$18,000 for research support. Fellows will also be eligible to apply *within six months of the completion of the fellowship* for an additional \$5,000 in write-up support. Fellowships will not be provided solely for final write-up.

Students who receive fellowships will also be required to participate in a multi-disciplinary dissertation workshop. The workshop will provide an opportunity for fellows to discuss theoretical, methodological and practical problems of conducting research on philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. Workshops will highlight thematic, empirical and policy-relevant perspectives of fellow's research agendas and address themes that resonate across disciplines. They are intended to facilitate the formation of networks, to foster cross-disciplinary dialogue, and to help fellows anticipate issues beyond their doctoral research.

Deadline

Complete application packets must be received by the SSRC no later than 1 December 2003.

Announcement of Awards

Award decisions will be announced by mail at the end of April 2004.

For Further Information and Application Materials

Information and applications may be downloaded directly from the SSRC web site at <http://www.ssrc.org> or requested from:

Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector
Social Science Research Council
810 Seventh Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10019 USA
212 377 2700 *telephone*
212 377 2727 *fax*
phil-np@ssrc.org *email*

The SSRC does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race or sexual orientation.

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APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST

Do Not Begin Work on This Application Until You Have Read Carefully and Completely the Full Text of the Request for Proposals and Established your Eligibility to Apply.

Please type or print the application using a standard 12-point font. The research proposal must be double-spaced, although information forms may be single-spaced. Where indicated word limits must be observed. Please use paper clips – **not staples** – to assemble **one** packet of application materials. SSRC staff will make copies of all materials for your file.

Please note that fellowships are intended to provide maintenance support for 10-12 months of research. The application form and all supporting materials must arrive at the SSRC no later than 1 December 2003. Please make sure that all materials are addressed to the Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector (PPNPS). Unsolicited materials will be removed from your file and discarded.

Required Materials:

✓ Application Form

Be sure to enter your last name in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the application and to sign and date page 5 of your application.

✓ Research Proposal

The research proposal may not exceed 10 pages. In addition, a 1-3 page bibliography is required, in which citations may be single spaced with a double space between citations. You may use the form enclosed as your first page or attach your proposal to the form. The proposal should be typed on letter sized paper (8½" x 11") with your last name written in the upper right-hand corner of each page. Use one-inch margins all around and follow font and spacing guidelines set above. You are not required to submit a budget with your proposal. The Program reserves the right to discard all materials that do not follow the set guidelines.

In describing your project, please include the following information:

- ⊖ an explicit statement of the major hypotheses you will test or questions you will ask and why the research is important both from the point of view of concerns in your discipline and from the point of view of understanding the nature of philanthropy and the nonprofit sector;
- ⊖ an explicit description and justification of your research methods indicating availability and quality of data, including a specific note concerning the literatures on which your project draws and how it contributes to that literature;
- ⊖ if proposing a case study, you should indicate what your project will contribute to broader research concerns in your field and discipline;
- ⊖ a summary of any preliminary research you have already completed or plan to conduct prior to activating the fellowship;

- ⊖ proposed location(s) and anticipated period of research and explanation of why your project requires research at these locations.

Please write in a style that will be accessible to readers from multiple disciplines. Applications will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary panel, including scholars from disciplines and fields other than your own. Avoid jargon.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the following reference (available at <http://www.ssrc.org/publications>) before writing your proposal: *The Art of Writing Proposals* by Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon. Also, please pay careful attention to the enclosed request for proposals.

✓ Three References

One of your references must be from your principal advisor. Enter your name and your referees' names on the forms and sign the waiver if you wish. *It is your responsibility to make sure that your referees return the forms and letters to you in a signed, sealed envelope with enough time for you to include them in our application packet to meet the 1 December 2003 deadline.* Only three letters of reference will be accepted.

✓ Academic Transcripts

Only official transcripts submitted in sealed envelopes will be accepted. Please include transcripts from each school or institute you have attended at the graduate level only.

✓ Curriculum Vitae

✓ Personal Information Form

✓ Postcard or email address for acknowledging receipt of application

Submission of Application

All application materials must be mailed to:

Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector
Social Science Research Council
810 Seventh Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10019

The December 1, 2003 deadline is NOT a postmark date. Applications **received** after the deadline, or received by fax or electronic means, will not be accepted.

We will notify you that we have received your application and whether or not your application is complete via the email address you provide us. If you do not have email, please provide us with a stamped postcard with your current address printed legibly on the postcard. If you do not receive an email message or postcard by 10 January 2004, please contact us.

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DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

CONTACT & GENERAL INFORMATION

Please type or computer print. Do not write on back. When using a word processor to fill out forms, use 12 point type and a standard font.

1. Name (Last, First, Middle)

2. Mailing Address

City State Zip

Phone

Fax

E-Mail

Do not begin work on this application until you have carefully and completely read the Application Guidelines and Checklist and the accompanying Request for Proposals.

3. University

4. Discipline(s)

5. Department

6. School

7. Actual or anticipated date (month and year) of approval of dissertation proposal

Your proposal must be approved no later than April 14, 2004

8. Period for which dissertation research support is being requested: From ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Fellowships are intended to provide maintenance support for 10-12 months of research

9. Title and concise description of dissertation research project

Please refer to attached guidelines



PROGRAM ON PHILANTHROPY AND THE NONPROFIT SECTOR
DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

10. Please describe the evolution of your interest in writing a dissertation addressing issues relating to philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. [250 words maximum]

11. Proposed places of study and institutions of affiliation

12. Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.? Yes No
If no, indicate citizenship and U.S. visa type:

13. List, in reverse chronological order, the schools attended above the high school level.

Institution	Degree	Date Degree Rec'd/Expected	Period of Enrollment (From-To)	Fields of Study (Major/Minor)
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COURSE REPORT

14. List undergraduate and graduate courses, including those in which you are currently enrolled, that are pertinent to your proposed research. Explain marking systems other than 1-100 or A,B,C,D,E,F.

Discipline	Course Title	Instructor	Institution	Year	Grade
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15. List any articles, books, or other research you have completed, including M.A. thesis. Attach an additional sheet if necessary. Do not submit copies.



PROGRAM ON PHILANTHROPY AND THE NONPROFIT SECTOR
DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT

16. List, in reverse chronological order, positions you have held since secondary school. Also list any experiences in the nonprofit sector that may be of relevance.

Institution/Organization

Position/Nature of Work

Year

FELLOWSHIPS, ADVISORS, SIGNATURE

17. Awards, academic or professional honors and fellowships held

18. List the three people (including your principal faculty advisor, listed first) who are writing references on your behalf.

Referee

Office Address

Phone/Fax/E-Mail



PROGRAM ON PHILANTHROPY AND THE NONPROFIT SECTOR
DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

19. If you have applied before to any SSRC program(s), please specify program(s) and year(s).
20. List any other funding sources to which you are applying for support for your dissertation research. Also, please identify sources of funds you have already been offered for dissertation research.

Signature: _____ Date _____

**THIS APPLICATION AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS MUST ARRIVE
AT THE SSRC BY 1 DECEMBER 2003**



PROGRAM ON PHILANTHROPY AND THE NONPROFIT SECTOR
DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Use this form as the first page of your research proposal or attach proposal to this form. See the *Application Guidelines and Checklist* of the application packet for guidelines on preparation of the proposal.

Do not begin work on your proposal until you have carefully and completely read the following: (1) Application Guidelines and Checklist, (2) the accompanying Request for Proposals, and (3) *The Art of Writing Proposals* by Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon (available at <http://www.ssrc.org/publications>).



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DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

REFERENCE

Applicant Name

Referee

Title

Institution

Applicant: Under the Privacy Act of 1974, you have the right to inspect & review confidential letters & confidential materials: if you wish to waive the right to read this reference, please sign this form. I hereby waive my right to examine this reference and understand that its contents will not be shared with me.

Signature _____

Date _____

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
2. In comparison with all other students or scholars whom you have know at comparable stages of their careers, how would you rate the applicant's academic achievements and promise?
 Among top 2% Outstanding Above average Average
 Other _____
3. If you have recommended other students to SSRC competitions in previous years, how would you compare this applicant to other SSRC Fellows?
4. Please provide any further information about the applicant and/or the proposal which you feel is significant. Please attach additional sheet(s) to this form as necessary.

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DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

The information provided here will assist the Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector in affirmative action for members of minority groups. It will also assist the Program committee and the Council in understanding some the characteristics of the applicant pool for this program.

Note: Your personal information is considered confidential. It is not provided to reviewers or taken into account in evaluating your proposal.

PLEASE TYPE

1. Name of applicant
Last First Middle

2. To what group do you belong? (please check one category)

- Black/African-American
 - White/Caucasian
 - Hispanic
 - Native American Indian
 - Asian (please specify) _____
 - Other (please specify) _____
-

3. Sex

- Female Male
-

4. Age (please check one category)

- Under 30 30-39 40-49 50 or over