

Law and Social Science Dissertation and Mentoring Fellowship

The LSA/ABF Law and Social Science Dissertation and Mentoring Fellowship (LSS Fellowship) is a collaborative effort of the Law and Society Association and the American Bar Foundation with funding from the Law and Social Science Program of the National Science Foundation. The fellowship will sponsor 12 PhD students over a five-year period, 2008-2012 and is designed for third and fourth year graduate students who specialize in the field of law and social science and whose research interests include law and inequality.

Fellowships are held in residence at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, IL, where Fellows participate in the intellectual life of the ABF, including participation in a weekly seminar series. In addition, Fellows are partnered with an LSA mentor-at-large and a mentor at the ABF to work closely with the Fellow and his or her advisors at the home institution. Attendance at the Law and Society Association Meetings and the Graduate Student Workshop during the fellowship also are provided as part of the fellowship.

The Call for Applications for coming year is announced in late summer and is available at the LSA and ABF websites, www.lawandsociety.org and www.abfn.org. Applications are due on December 1. Fellowship applicants should be students in a PhD program in a social science department or interdisciplinary program, including humanities students pursuing empirically-based social science dissertations. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

2011-13 Fellows



Camilo Arturo Leslie is a University of Michigan J.D. (2010) and expects his Ph.D. in Sociology in 2012. Mr. Leslie's research examines how national politics and policy affect investment opportunities in global financial markets. Using the case-study of the ponzi scheme perpetrated by the Texas-based Stanford Financial Group, Mr. Leslie compares how different groups of investors fared in the face of fraud. Using comparative-historical sociological methods, he traces the economic policies and trajectories of Venezuela and the United States that shaped these victims' experiences. Mr. Leslie attempts to uncover reasons for similarities and differences in regulatory regimes, politics, and even conventions of private property and savings that shaped investor's starting points, ruin, and recovery. His work already has been recognized by the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation.



Jennifer Woodward is a Ph.D. candidate at University of Albany – SUNY in Political Science. Ms. Woodward studies group mobilization and the implementation of rights. In particular, she is interested in the role of intermediary bureaucracy in public policy and rights enforcement. Ms. Woodward uses the case study of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as one such case study. Her comparative historical and archival research is important not only for understanding rights, rights claiming, rights consciousness but also for current-day policy decisions about the utility of rights for members of traditionally disadvantaged groups.

Returning Fellows



Shaun Ossei-Owusu is pursuing his Ph.D. in African Diaspora Studies at the University of California, Berkeley studying urban marginality. He completed an MLA in Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In an attempt to bring together traditional criminology and critical race theory, Mr. Ossei-Owusu asks: how do race, class and gender influence individual experiences and perceptions of crime as well as broader cultural assumptions about criminality and criminal justice institutions? His dissertation probes individuals' experiences of and orientations toward crime at the micro-level, understanding the relationship between crime and discrimination, as well as the consequences of maldistributed penalties, social burdens, and legal resources for US society. He has published extensively on post-racism, the normalization of violence against women in hip hop, and discretion in criminal law and is the recipient of the Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship and a National Science Foundation grant. Mr. Ossei-Owusu's LSS Fellowship mentors are **John Hagan** and **Austin Sarat**.



Kimberly Welch is a doctoral candidate in History at the University of Maryland after completing her MA in American History at American University. Ms. Welch's research of local legal culture in Louisiana and Mississippi is based on lower court records of interactions between subordinated people in the Old South (slaves, free people of color, and women) and the law from 1820 - 1860. Ms. Welch's careful analysis of several thousand lower court records and manuscripts of lower court trials demonstrates the important ways that subordinated individuals often were the agents, not just the objects of law. Her research has been supported by the Andrew W. Mellon fellowship for research in original sources. Ms. Welch's LSS Fellowship mentors are **Chris Tomlins** and **Dylan Penningroth**.

“Graduating” Fellows

We extend our best wishes to the LSS fellows who have just completed their two-year residence at American Bar Foundation: Jamillah Bowman (JD and PhD Sociology, Stanford University); Jamie Longazel (PhD Criminology and Sociology, University of Delaware); and Rashmee Singh (PhD Criminology, University of Toronto).

THANK YOU

The Fellowship program would not be possible without the financial support of NSF, ABF, and LSA; the hard work of the grant PIs: Laura Beth Nielsen, Jeannine Bell; Laura Gómez, Robert Nelson, and Malcolm Feeley. Lissa Ganter, Mary McClintock, Alison Lynch, and Lucinda Underwood have helped the administration of the grant tremendously. Thanks also are due to the Mentors and our Advisory Board including Richard R.W. Brooks, Kenneth G. Dau-Schmidt, Charles R. Epp, Lee Epstein, Howard S. Erlanger, Valerie P. Hans, Susan F. Hirsch, Ross L. Matsueda, Sally Engle Merry, Alfonso Morales, Frank W. Munger, Austin D. Sarat, Tom R. Tyler, and Barbara Yngvesson.