

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 & Society Association Meetings and the Graduate Student Workshop during the fellowship also are provided as part of the fellowship.

The Call for Applications for the coming year is announced in late summer and is available at the LSA and ABF websites, www.lawandsociety.org and www.abfn.org. Fellowship applicants should be students in a PhD program in a social science department or an interdisciplinary program, including humanities students pursuing empirically-based social science dissertations. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. **PLEASE encourage your students to apply.** If you have any questions, you may contact Laura Beth Nielsen via email at lnielsen@abfn.org.

THANK YOU

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2010-12 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. Shaun'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. Kimberly's LSS fellowship mentors are **Chris Tomlins** and **Dylan Penningroth**.

Returning Fellows:



Jamillah Bowman is a graduate student in the J.D./Ph.D. Program in the Department of Sociology at Stanford University. She expects to complete her JD in 2010 and her doctorate in 2011. Her graduate advisors are Cecilia Ridgeway and Michele Landis Dauber. Her research interests focus on law and inequality, with a particular interest in inequality in complex organizations. She plans to conduct experimental and quasi-experimental research on 1) the impact of diversity initiatives on race relations in organizations, and 2) the determinants of minority underperformance in “interaction” efficacy in organizations. Jamillah’s LSS fellowship mentors are **Lauren Edelman** and **Janice Nadler**.



Jamie Longazel is from the University of Delaware’s Department of Criminology and Sociology. Longazel works with Ben Fleury-Steiner and studies anti-immigrant backlash in the city of Hazelton, PA which has been very visible in its vehement legal response to immigrants in the Illegal Immigration Relief Act (IIRA). Longazel’s dissertation tentatively titled, “Immigration Law and a Local-National Dialectic” examines the relationship between local, national, and global politics and law. His dissertation uses archival research, interviews with local elites and immigrants to understand the how Hazelton became so active in attempting to exclude while simultaneously exploiting primarily Latino/a immigrant workers. His research connects the local economic institutions (employment, housing, coal industry) to anti-immigrant and nativist movements that play on race to explore the role of law in institutionalizing inequality. His earlier work examined similar themes but focused on Arab-Americans in the wake of 9/11. Jamie’s Fellowship mentors are **Kitty Calavita** and **Bonnie Honig**.



Rashmee Singh is a student of Marianne Valverde and Ron Levy at the University of Toronto’s Centre of Criminology and her dissertation studies immigrant communities in Toronto – a city in which half the residents are foreign-born. Singh notes that governing the immigrant population in Toronto happens “via a triumvirate of state, law, and community organizations.” Singh’s qualitative and ethnographic research primarily is focused on community-based organizations for immigrants, those who utilize their resources (immigrants) and those who work in the organizations. These sites allow her to study the imperatives of elite trans-national legal and political actors at the same time she has access to the governed immigrants in their quest for law in a variety of contexts (with an emphasis on domestic violence). Using this approach, she is exploring the legal consciousness of immigrant communities, how it varies across immigrant communities, and how globalization plays into legality. The range of legal and quasi-legal actors involved in the research is impressive and informative ranging from judges and litigants to immigrants with social, legal and personal problems to transnational actors engaged in the production of global human rights. Rashmee’s LSS Fellowship mentors are **Susan Silbey** and **John Comaroff**.

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