

Newsletter 01/2003

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NEW GRANTS

Congratulations to the following recipients of external grants:

Cabinets and Parliamentary Democracies

National Science Foundation

John Huber (Political Science) introduces an innovative approach to the long tradition of studying cabinet instability in parliamentary democracies. Examining both advanced and developing democracies, Huber's project will focus on individual cabinet ministers, in order to describe and explain patterns of individual turnover and party dynamics.

Transitional International Economic Policy Working Group

Ford Foundation

Joseph Stiglitz will lead a working group examining the policies of international economies in transition. His work will contribute to on-going initiatives of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), which helps developing and transition countries explore policy alternatives, and enables wide civic participation in economic policymaking. For more information, see IPD below.

Housing and Criminal Justice

Open Society Institute

Sudhir Venkatesh, with the Center for Urban Research and Policy, will lead a working group formed to examine the intersection of housing and criminal justice policy in the United States. Over an 18-month period, Venkatesh will unite scholars, advocates, and policy makers to explore and identify critical dimensions of the housing/criminal justice nexus in the context of mid-size and large metropolitan areas. Ultimately, the group will present a strategic plan for advocacy, resource allocation, and program development.

SEED GRANTS

Congratulations to the following recipients of ISERP Seed Grants:

Lance Freeman

Gentrification and the Poor

Research Seed Grant

Lance Freeman, of the Urban Planning Program, will investigate how gentrification affects the life chances of the poor. Through qualitative interviews with poor residents living in both gentrifying and non-gentrifying low-income neighborhoods, Freeman will explore the impact of gentrification on residential mobility, social ties, and neighborhood services.

Francesca Polletta and David Stark

Policy Made Public: Technologies of Deliberation and Representation in Rebuilding Lower Manhattan

Director's Award

Francesca Polletta, and David Stark, both in Sociology, will study the current public deliberation over the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan. Specifically investigating online forums, and how they compare with other forms of public discourse, Polletta and Stark will explore how digital technologies impact citizen participation.

This year's remaining deadlines for ISERP's Seed Grant Program are February 1, and March 15. For more details, please visit:

http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/initiatives/seed_grants/grant_program.html

VISITING RESEARCHERS

This month, ISERP welcomes the following visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows:

David Allyn, an independent research scholar, will join ISERP as a visiting scholar. Allyn received his Ph.D. in American History from Harvard University in 1996. At Columbia, he will conduct research on shame and embarrassment, and the wide-ranging effects of social anxiety.

Nelson do Valle Silva will join the Center for Historical Social Sciences as an Associate Research Scholar. A Professor of Sociology at the University Institute of Research of Rio De Janeiro (IUPERJ), do Valle Silva has contributed a great deal of scholarship to the issues of class, race, and inequality. His current research interests deal with matters of educational opportunity, social stratification, and social mobility in Brazil.

Zeynep Yildirim, from Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, will join the Center for Historical Social Sciences as a postdoctoral fellow. An historical sociologist, Yildirim's research methodology involves the use of historical material, such as currency, in order to investigate social dynamics.

GRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Every year, eight to ten social science and history graduate students are selected to be ISERP Graduate Fellows. The Institute provides Graduate Fellows with office space and a computer, access to the computer lab, administrative support and technical assistance, and the opportunity to participate in a vibrant, interdisciplinary intellectual community. Fellows present their work-in-progress at a bi-weekly seminar. Although no stipend is awarded, modest financial support for travel to conferences or research expenses is available on a case-by-case basis.

The application deadline is April 15, 2003. For more details, visit: http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/education/fellows_program/fellows.html

NEW RESEARCH

ISERP announces the following new research projects:

Collective Dynamics

The Collective Dynamics Group, formed this fall, is a dedicated research effort, the unifying theme of which is the application of mathematical and computational techniques to problems relevant to the social sciences. Consisting of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from mathematics, sociology, and economics, the group has investigated a variety of projects including the structure and evolution of social networks, the dynamics of disease epidemics and cultural fads, and the use of the Internet as a tool for social science research.

Initiative for Policy Dialogue

Now housed in ISERP, the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) was founded by Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz in July 2000. IPD brings together a network of economists, political scientists, and practitioners with diverse backgrounds and views to discuss globally important economic issues. Through four main activities, including task forces, country dialogues, journalism training, and research, this network explores policy alternatives and educates civil society with the aim of enhancing the quality of dialogue on key economic issues.

WORKING PAPERS

The following December working papers will be soon be available on-line at: http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/initiatives/working_papers/paper_program.html

Gina Neff and David Stark (Center on Organizational Innovation). Permanently Beta: Responsive Organization in the Internet Era.

Balázs Vedres (Sociology) and Péter Csigò (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales). Negotiating the End of Transition: A Network Approach to Political Discourse Dynamics, Hungary

1997.

Sean Farhang and Gregory Wawro (Political Science). The Influence of Women and Racial Minorities Under Panel Decision-Making on the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Ran Kivetz (Business) and Itamar Simonson (Stanford Business). The Role of Effort Advantage in Consumer Response to Loyalty Programs: The Idiosyncratic Fit Heuristic.

HEALTH & SOCIETY SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA - SEMINARS/SHORT COURSES

The following courses and seminars are open free of charge to faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students at Columbia University, as well as faculty and postdoctoral fellows at other sites of the RWJ Health & Society Scholars Program:

February 7, 14, 21: Network Analysis Short Course led by Balazs Vedres (9:00-11:45am, IAB 220B).

February 28: Social Determinants of Population Health, presented by Lisa Berkman (10am, Irving Center Conference Room, 10th floor Presbyterian Hospital).

April 4, 5: Sequence Analysis Short Course led by Katherine Stovel (time and location to be announced).

April 11: Presentation by Mary-Jo Good, Harvard Medical School (10am, Irving Center Conference Room, 10th floor Presbyterian Hospital).

May 9: Welfare Reform and Children's Development, presented by Greg Duncan (10am, IAB 220B).

For more details, visit our calendar of events at <http://www.chssp.columbia.edu>