

Newsletter 02/2003

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NEW GRANTS

Congratulations to:

- David Park
Doctoral Dissertation Research Support
National Science Foundation, Political Science Program
David Park, an ISERP Graduate fellow, will complete his Ph.D. in Political Science this spring. Par's grant will support the final phases of his dissertation: "The Origins of Divided Government: Asymmetric Information Flow and Split-Ticket Voting in the United States."
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FACULTY FELLOWS

ISERP welcomes the following faculty fellows:

- Owen Gutfreund, History/Urban Studies (Barnard)
Owen Gutfreund, the current director of the Barnard and Columbia Urban Studies Program, has most recently authored "20th Century Sprawl: Accommodating the Automobile and the Decentralization of the United States" (forthcoming, Oxford University Press). Research interests include urban history, suburbanization, sprawl, and transportation policy.
 - Maria Victoria Murillo, Political Science/SIPA
Maria Victoria Murillo will begin teaching at Columbia this semester. The author of "Labor Unions, Partisan Coalitions, and Market Reforms in Latin America" (Cambridge University Press 2001), she has also written a number of articles on labor politics and privatization of public utilities in Latin America. Her current research is on the politics of policymaking in Latin America with a focus on the privatization and regulation of public utilities, labor, and education.
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VISITING RESEARCHERS

This month, ISERP welcomes:

- Olav Velthuis, an economic sociologist from Erasmus University - Rotterdam, is the recipient of a TALENT fellowship, a post-doctoral award sponsored by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). Velthuis' research interests include sociology of the arts, cultural sociology, art theory, and the economics of art and culture. His forthcoming publications will appear in *Theory and Society*, as well as the *Review of Austrian Economics*.
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SEED GRANTS

ISERP's Seed Grant program supports the initial stages of new social science research projects, with a special emphasis on innovative, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research.

The next deadline for new Seed Grant proposals is March 15, 2003. For more details, please visit: http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/initiatives/seed_grants/grant_program.html

QMSS - Master's students interested in RA work:

Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) is ISERP's interdisciplinary Master's degree program in quantitative methods. Through the program, QMSS students develop quantitative research techniques and analytical skills. Representing a diverse range of experiences and interests, QMSS students are well prepared for work in the social sciences, and many are eager to get

involved in research opportunities with Columbia faculty. Many students are work/study eligible as well. To find out more about how these students might contribute to your project, please contact QMSS Director, Chris Weiss, at cw2036@columbia.edu.

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

WORKING PAPERS

The following January working papers are available on-line at:

http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/initiatives/working_papers/paper_program.html

- Shubham Chaudhuri (Economics) and Patrick Heller (Sociology, Brown University). The Plasticity of Participation: Evidence from a Participatory Governance Experiment.
 - Henning Hillmann (Sociology). Factional Politics and Credit Networks in Revolutionary Vermont.
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HEALTH & SOCIETY SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA - SHORT COURSES/SEMINARS

The following short 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. Please send an email expressing your interest to chssp@columbia.edu and we will notify you as soon as the short courses open for registration. No registration is necessary for the seminars.

- February 28: Seminar - Social Determinants of Population Health, presented by Lisa Berkman (10am, Irving Center Conference Room, 10th floor Presbyterian Hospital).
 - March 27: Short Course - Spatial Analysis, (other details tba). *Registration required*
 - March 28: NIH Grantmaking Workshop, led by Jaime Rubin (9-11:45am, IAB 220B). *Registration required*
 - April 4, 5: Short Course - Sequence Analysis, led by Katherine Stovel (time and location tba). *Registration required*
 - April 11: Seminar - The Culture of Medicine: Disparities in Treatment, presented by Mary-Jo Good, Harvard Medical School (10am, Irving Center Conference Room, 10th floor Presbyterian Hospital).
 - May 9: Seminar - Welfare Reform and Children's Development, presented by Greg Duncan (10am, IAB 220B). For more details, please visit our calendar of events at: <http://www.chssp.columbia.edu>.
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HEALTH & SOCIETY SCHOLARS PROGRAM - SEED GRANTS

To promote new population health research at Columbia, H&SS sponsors a seed grant program. Eligible projects model innovative approaches in population health, provide opportunities for Scholar training and investigation, and build connections between public health and the social sciences. All H&SS affiliated faculty and Scholars are eligible to apply.

This year's remaining deadline for the H&SS Seed Grant Program is April 1, 2003. For more details about applying, please visit: <http://www.chssp.columbia.edu/content.asp?cid=9>

Congratulations to the Fall 2002 recipients of H&SS Seed Grants:

- Malgosia Madajewicz (SIPA/Economics) and Alexander Pfaff (SIPA/Economics). Responding to Arsenic Contamination in Bangladesh.
- Elliot Sclar (Architecture, Planning, & Preservation) and Jennifer Madoff (Public Health). Understanding the Transmission of Urban Decay Along a Transportation Route.
- Hilary Silver (Sociology) and Peter Messeri (Sociomedical Sciences). Social Disruptions, Inequalities, and Health: A Multi-Level Analysis.

Project Abstracts:

Building upon their existing efforts in Bangladesh to disseminate information and analyze household responses to arsenic contamination, Madajewicz and Pfaff propose a similar project for the sub-district of Arahazar upazila. Specifically, they will compare the effects of remediation efforts across populations with varied levels of arsenic-exposure and different socioeconomic conditions.

Sclar and Madoff propose a pilot study that will serve as the foundation for a major study of the relationship between the spread of urban decay and illness. From an investigation of two New Jersey neighborhoods that were targets of urban renewal during the 1950s, Sclar and Madoff will identify signs of urban decay and suggest how they might affect residents' health.

Through a multi-level analysis of New York survey data, Silver and Messeri will consider the inter-relationships among social disruptions, inequalities, and health. Ultimately, they plan to share their findings as part of a six-city comparative study in collaboration with INED and INSERM in Paris. Their H&SS seed grant funding will support the collection, synthesis, and analysis of existing ecological data on the social life, demography, and available health indicators on New York City and Westchester County.