

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL  
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP  
SPRING 2010 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF CONTENTIOUS  
POLITICS**

<https://workspace.ssrc.org/dpdf/Pages/DPDF.aspx>

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**Hilton San Diego, Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego, CA  
Wednesday June 2-6, 2010**

This is the first of two workshops designed to help students prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the first workshop are 1) to map the research field with respect to contributing disciplines, methods, sources, and area knowledge; and 2) to help prepare fellows for their pre-dissertation summer research. (The goal of the second workshop will be to focus on the mechanics and methods of writing a dissertation proposal). The two goals stand in close relation to each other: through a sustained and structured discussion of student proposals and their component parts, we hope to contribute to the mapping of the research field itself.

**WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

**ARRIVAL, Wednesday, June 2: Reading handouts / packets will be distributed at registration along with other materials.**

**Wednesday Evening:** Reception, 7-9pm.

**Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

**Session 1: (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)**

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|------------|--|
| 9:00-9:30  | Opening remarks (Doug and Sid)   |
| 9:30-12:00 | Short (12 minute) introductions and project descriptions by each participant |

**Session 2: (2:00 PM – 5 PM)**

- So what is this field of “contentious politics” anyway?
- The thematic elements of the field (Doug)
- The relationship between these themes and the assigned readings (Sid)

**Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>:**

**Session 3: (9 AM – 12:00 PM)**

- 9:00-9:15      Opening remarks (Doug and Sid)
- 9:15-12:00    Six 20-25 minute sessions devoted to each project with the emphasis on theory and relevant literatures. (Each presenter should plan to spend no more than 10 minutes discussing their question and situating it in one or more relevant literatures, leaving the rest of the session for feedback and Q & A)

**Session 4: (2:00 PM – 5 PM)**

- Six remaining 20- 25 minute “theory” sessions

**Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:**

**Session 5: (9 AM – 12:00 PM)**

- 9:00-9:15      Opening remarks (Sid and Doug)
- 9:15-11:00    Thoughts on methods
- Systematic vs. “everyday” research; methodological principles; the special challenges of fieldwork (Doug)
  - Methods in relation to the assigned and other readings (Sid)
- 11:00-12:00    Three 20 minute sessions devoted to each project, with the emphasis on research design and methods. (Each presenter should plan on spending no more than 8 minutes discussing their provisional plan for research, with the rest of the session devoted to feedback and Q & A).

**Session 6: (2:00 PM – 5 PM)**

- Nine remaining 20 minute “methods” sessions

**Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

- 9 – 10:30      Plenary wrap-up session for all DPDF fellows (common problematics, summer requirements, homework, communication over the summer)

**Session 7: (10.30 AM – 12:00 PM)**

- Announcement of peer and mentor/mentee pairs (Sid and Doug)  
(to facilitate ongoing exchange, we intend to pair each of you with another member of the Workshop and with one of us over the course of the summer and as long as you find it useful. These pairings are in no way intended to discourage contact with others in the group, but instead to give each of you at least 2 serious collaborators over the life of the project.)
- Meetings of peer and mentor-mentee pairs (schedule to be distributed on site)
- Next steps (Doug and Sid)

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL  
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP  
FALL 2010 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**CONTENTIOUS POLITICS**

<https://workspace.ssrc.org/dpdf/contentiouspolitics/default.aspx>

**Radisson Plaza – Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia  
Thursday, September 16 – Sunday, September 19**

**Research Director: Doug McAdam ([mcadam@stanford.edu](mailto:mcadam@stanford.edu))  
Research Director: Sidney Tarrow ([sgt2@cornell.edu](mailto:sgt2@cornell.edu))**

This will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> and final workshop, part of the overall DPDF effort to help you prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in your chosen field. The two goals of the September workshop will be to help you (1) make theoretical and empirical sense of your summer fieldwork experience and to (2) translate the lessons learned into a draft of your dissertation proposal. Each of you will make presentations reflecting these two central workshop goals. The specifics of each of our sessions are given below.

Besides the group sessions, we also hope to use our time together in Philadelphia to facilitate lots of informal 1 on 1 and small group meetings. We will use our afternoon session on Thursday (9/16) to organize the first of these one-on-one meetings. But before we get there, we would like you to carry out the following written assignment BEFORE you get to Philadelphia:

**Assignment:** Going beyond the interim report you prepared during the summer, we ask that you do two things in this assignment.

- First, you are to prepare a “final fieldwork summary” that (a) restates your provisional research question(s) and methods before the summer; (b) briefly describes your experiences during the summer, and (c) tells us what you see as the important implications of your experiences for your original research agenda.
- Second, building more formally on the first part of the assignment, we ask that you write a one page abstract of what you see as your “new and (hopefully) improved” dissertation proposal. For some of you, the “new” project will be virtually unchanged from before. For many of you, however, we expect that your summer experiences will have prompted or perhaps even forced you to modify your theoretical and/or methodological conception of the project. In either case, we want you to use the second part of the assignment to anticipate what your dissertation proposal will look like.

## **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16**

**9:00-12:00: dissertation funder presentations** – The SSRC has arranged for a number of funders to make presentations providing details on their dissertation grant/fellowship programs. This will be a general session, attended by all of the DPDF groups.

**12:00-2:00: lunch:** Let's try to meet informally over lunch to schmooze and tell war stories. We bet you'll all be glad to see each other back from the trenches!

**2:00-5:30: Non-Africanist summer fieldwork reports** – each of you will have up to 30 minutes to summarize your experiences this summer and to tell us and each other what you think the implications of those experiences are for the provisional research questions and research methods you shared with us in San Diego. We suggest that you limit your presentation to 15 minutes to allow for an equal amount of time for questions and comments from the group. (NOTE: the seven of you whose projects are not focused on Africa, will present in the afternoon session. That is why the session will end at 5:30 rather than 5:00.)

## **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17**

**9:00-12:00: Africanist summer fieldwork reports** – the morning session will be devoted to reports from the five participants whose projects are at least partially focus on Africa. Our two guests will be:

- Ron Aminzade (Sociology, University of Minnesota) who has worked in East Africa for a long time and is currently finishing a book on evolving conceptions of race and citizenship in Tanzania since independence, and;
- Devra Moehler (Annenberg School of Communications, U. of Pennsylvania, and the author of *Distrusting Democrats: Outcomes of Participatory Constitution Making* in Uganda.

**12:00-2:00: lunch**

**2:00-5:00: One-on-one meetings** – the afternoon session will be given over to 1 on 1 meetings. The participants who made presentations in the morning will be meeting with the two Africanists who have been kind enough to join us for the day.

While Ron and Devra are meeting with the members of the “Africa group,” Doug and Sid will be holding 1 on 1 meetings with everyone else. The schedule for these meetings will be set during the Thursday afternoon session.

## **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18**

The last three sessions of the workshop will be divided into four 45 minute sessions, designed to give each participant time to present a provisional draft of their dissertation proposal and get feedback on the proposal from the group. We suggest that your presentation be limited to 20-25 minutes, to provide ample time for questions and comments from the group. We will set the order of the presentations Friday afternoon by passing around a sign-up sheet.

**9:00-12:00: draft dissertation proposal** – First four presentations.

**12:00-2:00: lunch**

**2:00-5:00: draft dissertation proposal** – Second four presentations

**7:00-?** group dinner (details to be announced; this time we will ask SSRC to try to find a restaurant where we can hear each other talk!)

## **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19**

**9:00-12:00: draft dissertation proposal** – final four presentations

**Noon-1 PM: Goodbyes (sob!)**