

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

**WORKSPACE SITE**

Research Director: Samuel R. Lucas [lucas@demog.berkeley.edu]

Research Director: Lisa G. Materson [lpmaterson@ucdavis.edu]

**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.

Scholars in disparate fields have studied discrimination concerning race/ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language status, and more, often by focusing on one group's experiences of inequality and efforts to obtain full human and citizenship rights, equity, and justice. These treatments contribute to specific literatures, but do not coalesce into systematic study of discrimination as a general social phenomenon. Discrimination Studies leverages existing research while pushing our understanding forward by preparing scholars to study discrimination as a general social phenomenon.

The following questions occupy Discrimination Studies:

1) What is the definition of discrimination?

Scholars and disciplines often use different, possibly conflicting, definitions of discrimination, exacerbating confusion in public discussion of discrimination. Discrimination Studies scholars analyze those definitions in order to render the implications of different definitions explicit.

2) Does discrimination toward a particular social category exist?

Discrimination Studies contends that some injustices are not discrimination. The field distinguishes discrimination from other harmful social arrangements while also documenting the existence of discrimination.

3) What causes discrimination?

The field is grounded in the conviction that understanding discrimination requires an understanding of its causes.

4) What are the effects of discrimination?

Discrimination Studies explores the wide-ranging effects of discrimination on societies and does not presuppose that these effects are: 1) confined to the individual level, 2) confined to targets of discrimination, or 3) positive for non-targets.

In addressing these questions, Discrimination Studies scholars work within disciplines but simultaneously draw on a multitude of fields.

### **Workshop Readings and Resources**

Research Field resources will be placed on the relevant Workspace websites. Students will receive separate explanations and detailed instructions about the access and use of the DPDF digital platform.

### **Workshop Assignments**

#### Writing

Workshop participants should prepare a statement of no more than 1,000 words that specifies the research question(s) they are asking, describing the investigative method(s) they will be using, and discussing the sources of data they plan to examine.

Workshop participants should convert these revised statements into a pdf file and then upload these revised statements onto the DPDF Workspace by Friday, May 21. Once you upload your statement, it will be visible to the other workshop participants.

#### Reading

Workshop participants should reach each other's statements by the first meeting in San Diego.

Further, workshop participants should complete the readings on the list posted on the web-site.

### **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

ARRIVAL, Wednesday, June 2:

Reading handouts / packets will be distributed at registration along with other materials.

*Wednesday Evening: Reception, 7-9pm*

**Thursday, 9am-12noon**

#### **Discrimination Studies Session 1: Mapping the Field, Positioning One's Research**

In this session we convey the four key Discrimination Studies questions and their inter-relationships, as well as critically consider contemporary debates on the value, cautions, and dangers that accompany scholars' efforts to conduct publicly engaged research.

**Thursday, 2-5pm**

#### **Discrimination Studies Session 2: Defining Discrimination**

We will complete an exercise to deepen our perspective on defining discrimination, followed by group discussion of the definitions of discrimination in play.

**Friday, 9am-12noon**

**Discrimination Studies Session 3: The Targets' Experience of Discrimination**

Lecture on Disability Studies by Professor Michael Davidson of the Department of Literature of the University of California-San Diego. Discussion of various social categories in relation to discrimination as a phenomenon.

**Friday, 2-5pm**

**Discrimination Studies Session 4: Possible Discriminator Perspectives**

This session will be devoted to an examination of possible discriminator perspectives.

**Saturday, 9am-12noon**

**Discrimination Studies Session 5: Methodologies and Design**

We will identify multiple analytic approaches, presenting ways of identifying archival sources and conducting archival work, ways of locating large-scale datasets and learning statistical software, and ways of gaining access to field sites and/or securing subjects for in-depth interview research. Using guidance memos as a resource, we will introduce common proposal structures and their relation to larger research agendas. We will also consider strategies for finding the research literature; convey the importance of, challenge, and basis for constructing successful human subjects protection applications; and more.

**Saturday, 2-5pm**

**Discrimination Studies Session 6: Research Plan Development and Proposal Logistics**

Participants will work individually on their project plan, first by developing a proposal outline annotated with research activities needed to flesh out the proposal. Directors will meet with participants in groups of 2 to further discuss their projects and strategic choices they face as they move forward.

**Sunday June 6, 9-10 am.**

***Plenary wrap-up session***

(common problematics, summer requirements, homework, communication over the summer)

**Sunday, 10:30am-12noon**

**Discrimination Studies Session 7: Current Status and Summer Plans**

**Looking Forward**

We will distribute the shared summer reading list, which focuses on conveying multiple definitions of discrimination and social categories of study, and associated questions to ponder. We will also discuss next steps for our collective effort.

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

**DISCRIMINATION STUDIES**

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

Research Director: Lisa Materson [[lmaterson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lmaterson@ucdavis.edu)]

Research Director: Sam Lucas [[lucas@demog.berkeley.edu](mailto:lucas@demog.berkeley.edu)]

**Radisson Plaza – Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia**

Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

This is the second of two annual DPDF workshops designed to help graduate student fellows prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the second workshop are 1) to help fellows synthesize their summer research; and 2) to draft proposals for dissertation funding. The fall workshop focuses on the mechanics and the philosophy of proposal writing. The workshop also aims to challenge fellows to reflect on their summer research in ways that link meaningfully to their research field. In this, the goals of the fall workshop are closely related to the project of mapping a research field that was started during the spring workshop in San Diego.

We will accomplish these goals by using our workshop time to develop model proposals that participants can either expand or shorten depending upon a given funding agency's requirements. During our sessions, we will focus on the specific challenges individual participants face in crafting their proposals. We will also situate the proposals within the field of Dissertation Studies as a whole.

Fellows will come out of the second workshop with supportive networks, consisting of both mentors and cohorts of new scholars carrying out research in their fields, as well as intellectually mature dissertation proposals.

### **Workshop Readings and Resources**

Before preparing your draft proposal, read the "Sample Funding Proposals" and "Proposal Writing Resources" that are available on the DPDF Workspace.

### **Workshop Assignments**

- September 2: Upload a draft proposal of about 2000-3000 words (double-spaced, 12 point font) to the workspace. If helpful you may also (but you are not required to) submit an appendix. Please see posted instructions for more details on this assignment.
- Read all draft proposals and be prepared to discuss them.
- Be prepared to offer a 10 minute critical review of your partner's proposal. See below for further details.

*ARRIVAL, Wednesday, September 15th: Registration packets will be distributed at check in.*

## **Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Session 1: Plenary Session – The Dissertation Proposal: Strategies and Funding Sources  
(Thursday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Dissertation Funder Presentations

## **Sessions 2-7: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday**

These sessions will focus on student proposals. You will be commenting on the proposal of the participant with whom you were partnered during the spring workshop and over the summer. We have grouped the proposals discussed in each session around a combination of shared research questions and disciplinary approaches.

We will devote 50 minutes to each draft proposal. It is essential that everyone read each draft proposal prior to our first session in Philadelphia. Discussion of proposals will run as follows:

- The principal discussant for each proposal—one of the partners in each pair—will spend 10 minutes discussing the assigned proposal and making suggestions about how to improve the different components of the proposal. Each principal discussant should begin her/his presentation by stating in her/his own words what is the proposal's key research question(s) and how the author plans to answer the question(s).
- The proposal author will have 5 minutes to respond.
- This will be followed by 25 minutes of general discussion during which the author is generally silent.
- The author of the proposal has the last 10 minutes to seek further clarifications that have not been addressed.

At the end of each session, we have built in time for each of you to meet with the Research Directors right after the proposal has been discussed.

Session 2:  
(Thursday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

2:00-2:50 Adler—Discussant: Hoppe

2:50-3:00 Break

3:00-3:50 Hoppe—Discussant: Adler

3:50-4:00 Break

4:00-4:30 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Adler  
4:30-5:00 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Hoppe

Session 3:

*(Friday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)*

9:00-9:50 Jirik—Discussant: Krome-Lukens

9:50-10:00 Break

10:00-10:50 Krome-Lukens—Discussant: Jirik

10:50-11:00 Break

11:00-11:30 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Jirik

11:30-12:00 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Krome-Lukens

Session 4:

*(Friday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)*

2:00-2:50 Fish—Discussant: Shamsuddin

2:50-3:00 Break

3:00-3:50 Shamsuddin—Discussant: Fish

3:50-4:00 Break

4:00-4:30 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Fish

4:30-5:00 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Shamsuddin

Session 5:

*(Saturday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)*

9:00-9:50 Firat—Discussant: North

9:50-10:00 Break

10:00-10:50 North—Discussant: Firat

10:50-11:00 Break

11:00-11:30 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Firat

11:30-12:00 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with North

Session 6:

*(Saturday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)*

2:00-2:50 Ju—Discussant: Reichelderfer

2:50-3:00 Break

3:00-3:50 Reichelderfer—Discussant: Ju

3:50-4:00 Break

4:00-4:30 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Ju

4:30-5:00 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Reichelderfer

5:30-7:30 DPDF Happy Hour

7:30 DS Group Dinner

Session 7:

*(Sunday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM)*

9:00-9:50 Koch—Discussant: Luna

9:50-10:40 Luna—Discussant: Koch

10:40-10:50 Break

10:50-11:35 Wrap-up

11:35-12:05 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Koch

12:05-12:35 individual meeting Lisa/Sam with Luna