

Call for Applications

JUST TECH FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

The Social Science Research Council seeks applicants for the second cohort of its Just Tech Fellowship.

The Just Tech Fellowship supports and mobilizes diverse and cross-sector cohorts of researchers and practitioners to imagine and create more just, equitable, and representative technological futures. Fellows will identify and challenge injustices emerging from new technologies and pursue solutions that advance social, political, and economic rights.

Fellows receive two-year awards of \$100,000 annually, robust supplementary funding packages to subsidize additional expenses, and seed funding to work on collaborative projects with other Just Tech Fellows. The fellowship provides the space and time necessary for deep reflection, an engaged community, and opportunities for ambitious cocreation.

To complete the online application, you must provide the following information and documentation:

- **Résumé/CV:** Up to two pages.
- **Personal Statement:** Applicants should submit a written or recorded (video) personal statement of up to 500 words (written) OR four (4) minutes (video).
- **Work Proposal:** Applicants should submit a proposal for a project focused on the intersection of technology and social justice.

Complete applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The last day to submit Full Application Materials is January 30, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION

New technologies have opened doors to connection, creativity, learning, and justice, but emergent benefits and harms have not been distributed equally. From artificial intelligence to data harvesting to the gig economy, new technology has also ushered in more expansive surveillance and given platforms to hate speech and automated discrimination.

Investigations into the uneven political and social impacts of technology are not well understood by the general public and are too often left out of policy decisions. And the same communities that have pioneered work to uncover the harms of ill-conceived technological designs are subject to historical and ongoing forms of discrimination and are underrepresented in positions of power.

It doesn't have to be this way. As the world reckons with a global legacy of systemic discrimination and racial injustice, we have an opportunity to reimagine the limits and potential of new technology and to ensure that both expertise and experiential knowledge inform efforts to produce structural change.

The Just Tech Fellowship and its fellows seek to build technological futures that celebrate and manifest justice, equity, agency, knowledge, and joy.

WHO ARE JUST TECH FELLOWS?

Just Tech Fellows are researchers or practitioners who systematically collect and uncover evidence to answer critical questions about society for the public interest.

Just Tech Fellows come from diverse backgrounds and work across a range of fields and practices, including the arts, journalism, civil society, and the social sciences, the humanities, and computer science.

Six leaders are part of the inaugural cohort of the Just Tech fellowship—[Kim Gallon](#), [Chris Gilliard](#), [Christine Miranda](#), [Clarence Okoh](#), [Meme Styles](#), and [Rua Williams](#).

Just Tech takes a capacious view of “researchers and practitioners.” By supporting a vibrant network that reflects diverse communities and life experiences, Just Tech will identify solutions that protect and expand social, political, and economic justice and challenge persistent inequities.

The Just Tech Fellowship experience will be collaborative, seeking active points of participation as it evolves. Through regular convenings and workshops, as well as through purposeful engagement with external stakeholders and peer organizations, the fellowship will establish lasting personal and professional connections and will offer practical support and learning opportunities matched to the needs and suggestions of the fellows community.

The Just Tech program will administer two-year awards of \$100,000 per year, augmented by robust supplementary funding packages to subsidize expenses related to dependent care, healthcare, workspace, technical equipment, project materials, communications, or other needs. These innovative awards are designed not only to support a researcher's work but to invest in their entire person and to build a supportive and collaborative community. Fellows may apply for additional funding to seed collaborative projects within or across Just Tech cohorts.



The Just Tech Fellowship has several related goals

- **Champion** vital investigation into tech’s impact, and its potential for both harm and benefit
- **Center** historically marginalized perspectives
- **Build and sustain** a diverse community of researchers and practitioners
- **Reimagine** how to invest in people to build and sustain communities of care and collaboration
- **Envision and build** toward technological futures that celebrate and manifest justice, agency, knowledge, and joy

APPLICATION AND SELECTION TIMELINE

Application
Portal Opens
December 6, 2022

Announcement of
Selected Fellows
May 2023

Last Day to Submit
Complete Applications
January 30, 2023

Fellowship Begins
Summer 2023

ELIGIBILITY

Positionality: This fellowship seeks to center the perspectives of individuals from social, racial, or ethnic groups that have been historically marginalized, oppressed, or excluded by emerging technologies, such as Black/African Americans, Latinx/Hispanics, Indigenous peoples, Alaska Native groups, gender nonconforming individuals, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities.

Residency: Citizens of any country may apply, but fellows will be expected to reside in the United States during their fellowship term. The SSRC will not sponsor visas and may not be indicated as an affiliate or sponsor of visa applications. To learn more about visa requirements, please refer to the US State Department.

Education: Applicants must have a demonstrated track record of success in their respective fields, OR hold academic credentials, such as a degree in the arts, fine arts, or sciences.

Commitment: Full-time must be dedicated to the fellowship (Full Time Equivalent 90% = 36 hours/week). Candidates with teaching or other permanent positions must be able to take leave or obtain course buyouts for at least one year during their time as a fellow.

Experience: All candidates need to have a track record and experience working on the intersection of digital and novel technologies, power, and social justice. The fellowship is not for dissertation completion or to finance postdoctoral positions.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Fellows will be selected on the basis of a rigorous review process. We will evaluate applications according to the following criteria:

- **Alignment with Fellowship Goals:** Applicants must champion vital research into tech's impact and its potential for both harm and benefit; must center historically minoritized or racialized perspectives; must show commitment to building and sustaining a diverse community of researchers and practitioners; and must demonstrate a commitment to vision and build toward technological futures that manifest justice, agency, knowledge, and joy.
- **Scope of Work:** Project must address the relationship between digital and novel technologies, power, and social justice.
- **Clarity of Purpose:** Applicants should communicate how they would use their time as a fellow to systematically uncover evidence, build understanding, and shape public interest solutions to advance the goals of Just Tech.
- **Public Impact:** Applicants should communicate how their proposed work will contribute to equity and social justice. Applicants should also demonstrate a track record of successful, public-facing work that engages broad audiences through different forms of media or organizing.
- **Collaboration:** Applicants should demonstrate a track record of successful collaboration, as well as a willingness to share, learn, and create with others.

TO APPLY

Please submit your complete application at SSRC's [application portal](#). Complete applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The last day to submit Full Application Materials is January 30, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EST. Check the [fellowship home page](#) and [FAQ page](#) for more details. For further questions, contact us at just-tech@ssrc.org.

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