

Call for Applications

Just Tech Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

The Social Science Research Council seeks applicants for the inaugural 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 identify solutions that advance social, political, and economic rights.

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

To complete the online application, you will need to provide the following information and documentation:

Expression of Interest (due January 2, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EST)

- Contact Information: Full name and email address
- Critical Question: What is the central question you would want to pursue with a Just Tech Fellowship? (300 characters max)
- Work Statement: In two to three sentences, please describe your work. How does your work focus on the intersection of technology and social justice? (450 characters max)

You must [submit an expression of interest](#) to apply to the Just Tech Fellowship

Full Application Materials (due January 30, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EST)

- Resume/CV: Up to three pages (saved as a PDF file). The application portal will also allow applicants to submit a link to personal web 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 short proposal for a project focused on the intersection of technology and social justice.

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 toward technological futures that celebrate and manifest justice, equity, agency, knowledge, and joy.

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.

Who are Just Tech Fellows?

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

Just Tech Fellows come from diverse backgrounds and work across a range of fields and practices.

The Just Tech Fellowship seeks researchers and practitioners who will advance our collective understanding of technology and society, and inform or mobilize action around new knowledge.

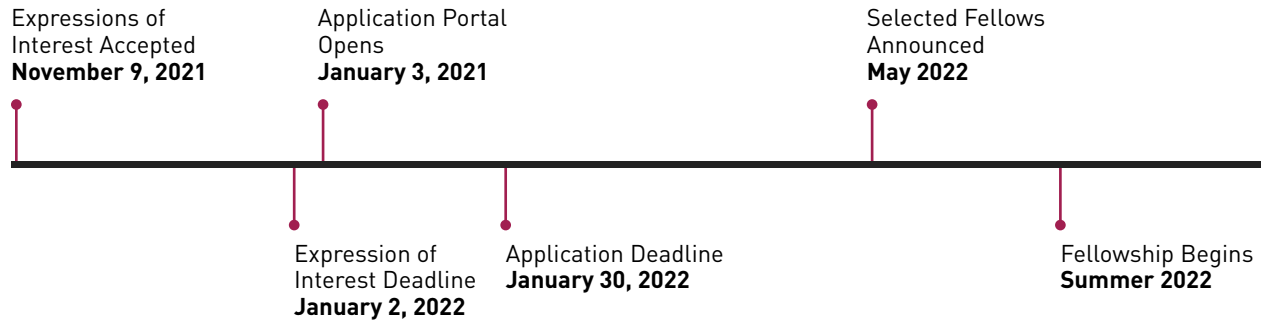
The Just Tech Fellowship experience will be collaborative, seeking active points of participation as it evolves. Through regular convenings and workshops, as well as through purposeful engagement with external stakeholders and peer organizations, the fellowship will establish lasting personal and professional 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, health-care, 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 research that enhances collective knowledge about technology's impacts and potential, illuminates the biases and harms created by some novel uses of technology, and identifies solutions that advance social, political, and economic rights.
- **Center** the perspectives of historically marginalized researchers and practitioners, whose work is often undervalued or underrepresented in the academy as well as policy and tech sector decision-making.
- **Sustain** an intellectually diverse, cross-sector, and collaborative community of researchers and practitioners who can critically engage with and challenge status quo voices and institutions in every sector where technology is produced, deployed, and integrated into daily life.
- **Reimagine** what a fellowship is and what resources are necessary, not only to support a researcher's work but also to invest in the entire person and to build a community of support and collaborations.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION TIMELINE



ELIGIBILITY

Education: Applicants must hold either a college-level credential, such as a bachelor's degree in the arts, fine arts, sciences, or a demonstrated track record of success in their respective fields.

Residence: Fellows are expected to reside in the United States during the term of their fellowship, although applications can be from citizens of any country. 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.

TO APPLY

Submission of an expression of interest is required to submit a full application. Please submit your expression of interest at www.ssrc.org/just-tech-fellowship-eoi by **Sunday, January 2, 2022**.

Full applications will be accepted between Monday, January 3, 2022, and Sunday, January 30, 2022. Details on required contents of complete applications are available on our website.

Please review the [fellowship home page](#) and [FAQ page](#) for more details. For further questions, contact us at just-tech@ssrc.org.

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