ISGRJ Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for Global Racial Justice

The Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, with generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is pleased to launch its inaugural postdoctoral program for the 2021–2022 academic year. Our postdoctoral fellowships provide focused support for both research and concrete engagement with global racial justice issues and campaigns. These humanities-centered fellowships will support scholars whose academic research demonstrates a deep investment in the areas of inquiry related to anti-racism and social inequality, at home and abroad. These fellowships foster the academic careers of scholars who have recently received their Ph.D. degrees by permitting them to pursue their research while also receiving guided mentorship.

The program supports five postdoctoral scholars engaged in full-time research and writing for a one-year term starting September 1, 2021 (with the possibility of renewal). Fellows in the program are supported by the institute and are provided with $5,000 for research funds, a $55,000 annual salary, and further support including faculty mentor(s), office, computer, and health benefits. In addition, fellows will have opportunities to access, review, and/or collaborate with existing anchor institution equity activities that are happening within the Rutgers University community. This cohort of fellows will participate in meetings and workshops structured for the purposes of networking, social interaction, and supporting professional development for fellows within the program. Applicants may request to be affiliated with a particular campus across the Rutgers corridor and will teach one class over the course of the academic year. In deciding placements, the ISGRJ will consider the postdoc’s campus preference and the teaching requirements/needs of each campus.

The Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers University is committed to the idea of the humanities as a discipline that travels beyond the university and engages the public sphere. The institute will fuel and amplify the scholarship of researchers who are based in the humanities or lean on humanistic methods and whose work has consequences in applied spaces such as policy reform, K–12 education, social justice work, public health, and the carceral state. The institute is also committed to the creation of spaces for scholars to be in conversation with communities, as both an aspect of scholarly inquiry but also for the purpose of mutual sharing of knowledge between the university and its surrounding communities. The ISGRJ draws from a range of fields, including: visual, language and other creative arts; traditional humanities disciplines; new fields such as the digital and environmental humanities; the humanistic social sciences; and research in law, public policy, and behavioral health.
Eligibility and Criteria

Applicants must have completed and been awarded their Ph.D. in a humanities-related field no more than five years prior to the date of application.

All U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and U.S. permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card); individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program;* Indigenous individuals exercising rights associated with the Jay Treaty of 1794; individuals now eligible to apply for DACA under the new reopening of the program; individuals granted Temporary Protected Status; political asylees; and refugees, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

*Eligibility includes individuals with current status under the DACA Program, as well as individuals whose status may have lapsed but who continue to meet all the USCIS guidelines for DACA.

Application Guidelines

- All application materials are due by March 15, 2021. Materials should be addressed to Michelle Stephens, Founding Executive Director, Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, and submitted electronically. For further inquiries and information about applying to the fellowship, please write to isgrj@oq.rutgers.edu.

- Project description not to exceed 1,500 words. Document should be single-spaced, 12 pt. font (approx. three pages). The project description will be considered by a panel of scholars from a variety of humanities disciplines and should be written for non-specialists.

- Curriculum vitae of no more than three pages.

- Three letters of recommendation.

- Writing sample not to exceed 15 double-spaced pages.

January 25, 2021