Sophomore Early Research Program 2015-2016
Social Science Faculty Projects


Economics

Julie Matthaei
*From Inequality to Solidarity*

My sophomore research assistant will help me complete a book project, *From Inequality to Solidarity: How Feminist, Anti-Racist, Worker, Ecology, and Other Social Movements Are Building A New Economy*. The book examines the present economic historical conjuncture as a time of transition from the inequality paradigm – based in gender, race, class, and man/nature polarization and hierarchy -- to the *solidarity paradigm*, based in economic values of cooperation, equality, democracy, sustainability, and diversity. Her work will be varied, including compiling summary statistics on various dimensions of inequality, across history, and creating graphical representations of them; developing timelines to illustrate key historical events and achievements of pro-equality movements; and working with me on analysis of my database of solidarity economy groups and practices. She will also be involved in tying up loose ends and getting the manuscript ready to be published. My ideal research assistant would be passionate about and committed to pro-equality transformation and to the topic of the book; have some previous study of race, class, gender issues, of statistics, and of U.S. history; be familiar with photoshop and graphics programs; be comfortable working independently; and have excellent writing and editing skills.

Peace & Justice Studies

Catia C. Confortini
*Bio-Pink: Gender, Power and the Transnational Diffusion of Breast Cancer Governance in Nigeria*

Focusing on breast cancer as a recent object of global health intervention and transnational advocacy, this study examines overlaps and tensions between global discourses and practices and local experiences and understandings of breast cancer in Nigeria. Specifically, this project: 1) analyzes how the biomedical culture of global health organizations and the pink ribbon
The culture of US/European-based breast cancer advocacy organizations intersect as they extend their reach to Nigeria; and 2) traces, practically and discursively, how breast cancer politics and awareness campaigns originating in the United States and Europe are translated, integrated and/or contested in Nigeria, given its own history of breast cancer advocacy and its position as a prominent site for local, national and transnational public health breast cancer initiatives.

A first SERP grant on this project resulted in a co-authored article with a now graduating senior. This article was recently published in Health Policy and Planning. Further research on pink ribbon organization was made possible through a second SERP grant and allowed the identification of Nigeria as a significant case to study and of a list of potential interviewees.

In 2015-2016 the SERP student will learn to use online and library resources to assemble and catalog policy publications, brochures, advertising material, press reports and websites of global health organizations and pink ribbon organizations in relation to their programs on breast cancer in the global south. Further, the student will contribute to the subsequent analysis of the content of this material, thus learning some qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Finally this work will lead to the collective formulation of a set of interview questions with key players in global health governance and transnational and Nigerian breast cancer activism. It is possible that, by the end of the year, the student and I will be able to transcribe and examine interviews collected during my research trips to Europe and Nigeria.

**Political Science**

**Christopher Candland**  
*Analysis of Pakistan Charity Survey*

Project: The Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) is presently conducting a national survey of charitable giving in Pakistan. The only other national survey of charity in Pakistan was the PCP’s first survey, which catalyzed public interest in Pakistani charity in 2000. I would like a Sophomore Early Research Opportunity (SERP) student to assist me in reviewing and analyzing that new data, drawn from a sample using a 150-point questionnaire. I would like to identify significant findings and insights for my book manuscript on Muslim charity in Pakistan. (As it is based on ethnographic methods, the manuscript does not depend on PCP findings or insights for its publication.) The PCP is likely to complete the survey this summer. I expect PCP to share disaggregated data with me in part because I helped to develop the survey instrument and the interview protocol for the survey. In the unlikely event that the PCP survey is incomplete or data is unavailable, the SERP student and I will review and analyze the data of two other recent PCP surveys, of Punjab and Sindh.
Psychology

Stephen Chen and Christen Deveney
*Developing Research Paradigms in Cultural Neuroscience*

The aim of this project is to develop research paradigms that can be used to examine the interplay of cultural and biological processes in psychology. Specific areas of interest include: (1) cultural influences on affective, behavioral, and psychophysiological aspects of self-regulation; (2) biological indicators of stress, risk, and resilience in under-represented, at-risk, and minority populations.

The SERP student will work with faculty sponsors to design, develop and pilot research paradigms examining these questions. The student will be trained in researching and reviewing relevant literature, developing an IRB protocol, recruiting participants, and administering a range of behavioral, psychophysiological, and questionnaire-based assessments.

Religion

James Kodera
*Nagasaki as "City of Prayer": from the Jesuit mission in 1549 to the Atomic Bomb in August 1945*

The research project, which began in Spring 2015, will involve a number of research topics, starting with the investigation of the Jesuits who came to Asia in the 16th century from the Basque Region of Spain first to Goa, India, then to Maccao, China and eventually to Nagasaki. Early research materials are in Spanish. After the initial phase, the research will focus on the complex of international, "geo-political" issues that led Japan and the United States, among others, into the World War II. The decision to drop the second atomic bomb in Nagasaki was a result of the crucible of tragic histories involved in the transmission of Christianity to Japan, which Japan initially rejected, even by deporting the missionaries and torturing and murdering the converts. In spite of this anti-Christian, anti-European and anti-colonial campaign, some of the converts went "underground." Takashi Paul Nagai, the chief architect for turning Nagasaki into the "City of Prayer," in contrast to Hiroshima, which is remembered today as the "City of Anger," was a descendent of the "Clandestine Christians" of the 16th century.

A student conversant in both Political Science and Religion, who is also proficient in Spanish language, is exactly the kind of student assistant I would need in this project.

Sociology

Peggy Levitt
*Creating Global Citizens: How Cultural Institutions Spread Cosmopolitan Values and Practices*
I am interested in how cultural institutions like museums, publishing houses, and schools spread global values and skills. The student who works with me will do background research on institutions such as UNESCO, the Sesame Street Workshop, and the International Baccalaureate Program. She may also interview people involved in these activities and/or observations at local museums, monuments, and festivals.