SSL Fellowship Projects - Winter 2027

List of Projects:

Prof. Kim Yi Dionne (Political Science)..... 1
Title of the Project: Pandemic Politics in Africa.....1
Prof. Juliann Emmons Allison (SEHE).....2
Title of the Project: Participatory Land Management: Rock-climbers and Off-Roaders on Public Lands..... 2
Prof. Indridi H. Indridason (Political Science).....2
Title of the Project: Private Member Bills in a Comparative Perspective.....2
Prof. Jennifer Merolla (Political Science)..... 2
Title of the Project: The Political Causes and Consequences of Loneliness.....2
Prof. Jasmin A. Young (Ethnic Studies)..... 3
Title of the Project: Defending Freedom: Black Women, Political Violence, and the Struggle for Liberation.....3

Prof. Kim Yi Dionne (Political Science)

Title of the Project: *Pandemic Politics in Africa*

Short description of the project: This project supports research for a book on how politics shapes pandemic response across African states. Research assistants will help build an archive of state responses to pandemics (including HIV/AIDS, Ebola, monkeypox, and COVID-19). Tasks will include: collecting and organizing government documents, public health reports, and news coverage; constructing country-level timelines of pandemic response; coding government actions according to a codebook; preparing evidence logs and country memos; and organizing materials for comparative analysis across cases.

Number and type of students: 2–4 graduate and undergraduate students.

Required/preferred skills: Strong work ethic and ability to manage assigned tasks independently with limited supervision. Clear and proactive communication, including willingness to ask questions and seek guidance when needed. Demonstrated reliability, attention to detail, and commitment to honest and transparent research practices, including documenting decisions and communicating mistakes promptly. Ability to collaborate effectively with other members of the research team. Proficiency with Excel/Google Sheets and document organization preferred. Ability to read and synthesize information from primary documents, including but not limited to parliamentary records, policy documents, and technical reports prepared by health agencies and organizations. Interest in African politics and/or global health preferred.

Prof. Juliann Emmons Allison (SEHE)

Title of the Project: *Participatory Land Management: Rock-climbers and Off-Roaders on Public Lands*

Short description of the project: This project employs ethnographic methods to examine how recreational subcultures engage in environmental governance by negotiating space, sovereignty, and state authority on US public lands. The study focuses on two distinct user groups—rock climbers and off highway vehicle (OHV) users—and explores how these communities translate embodied, subcultural practices into formal political leverage.

Number and type of students: 2–4 undergraduate or graduate students.

Required/preferred skills: Strong interpersonal and social skills, ability to observe carefully and take notes simultaneously, qualitative analysis experience. Rock climbers and OHV users are welcome.

Prof. Indridi H. Indridason (Political Science)

Title of the Project: *Private Member Bills in a Comparative Perspective*

Short description of the project: The project aims to examine legislators' use of private member bills in parliamentary systems. The initial aim is to cover the legislatures of those Western European countries that allow legislators to present private member bills and make data on private member bills available in electronic format. The main tasks will include scraping information on private member bills and their process through the legislature as well as background information about legislators.

Number and type of students: 1-2 undergraduate or graduate students.

Required/preferred skills: Graduate student should ideally some experience with scraping data, reasonably proficient in the use of R and/or Python. Undergraduates would ideally have some experience collecting and coding data, and working with organizing data in spreadsheets, etc. R/Python would be plus.

Prof. Jennifer Merolla (Political Science)

Title of the Project: *The Political Causes and Consequences of Loneliness*

Short description of the project: This project examines the political causes and consequences of the global loneliness epidemic. The project entails building a database of loneliness programming by governments and nonprofits across countries and developing an annotated bibliography of existing research on loneliness. Research assistants will research loneliness programming and enter information into a database. The main tasks will involve

searching for existing scholarship on loneliness, entering it into a google sheet, and developing an annotated bibliography from that. Additional tasks involve researching loneliness programming across countries and entering that into a database.

Number and type of students: 1–2 undergraduate or graduate students.

Required/preferred skills: The fellows should be able to find and review academic literature, and feel comfortable looking for primary data on loneliness programs across countries. Students should also be proficient working with excel/googledocs. Students should have strong communications skills, demonstrate attention to detail, and the ability to collaborate with others.

Prof. Jasmin A. Young (Ethnic Studies)

Title of the Project: *Defending Freedom: Black Women, Political Violence, and the Struggle for Liberation*

Short Description of the Project: This project examines how Black women theorized and practiced armed self-defense as a political strategy during the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements (1960–1979). Drawing on archival collections, organizational records, oral histories, and political writings, the project explores how Black women challenged state violence, developed community defense strategies, and articulated alternative visions of political power and liberation. This research considers how Black communities respond to political repression and negotiate the relationship between violence, citizenship, and collective liberation. Students will assist with organizing archival materials, developing research chronologies, and tracing political networks connecting Black women activists and organizations. Their contributions will support the completion of my book manuscript, Defending Freedom: Black Women's Activism in the Liberation Movement, currently under contract with the University of Washington Press. Through this collaboration, students will gain hands-on experience interpreting primary sources, developing research questions, and examining how historical evidence can inform contemporary debates about political violence, state power, and grassroots resistance.

Number and Type of Students: 2–4 undergraduate or graduate students. Preference for at least one advanced undergraduate student and one graduate student.

Required/Preferred Skills: Strong reading comprehension, research, and analytical skills; ability to synthesize historical documents and organize research materials; proficiency with Google Docs, Excel, or similar research management tools. Familiarity with archival research, oral history, African American history, Black feminist studies, political movements, or political violence is preferred but not required. Attention to detail, intellectual curiosity, and an interest in interdisciplinary research are especially welcome.