



# Ford Foundation Application Workshop

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2017-2018

NASEM  
NRC RAP

# What is The Ford?

Dissertation Fellowship \$25k

Postdoctoral Fellowship \$45k

Entry into a community (i.e., “Ford Family” )

Longstanding Access to Resources including: Ford Fellow Regional Liaisons + a network of former Ford Fellows who have volunteered to provide mentoring/support to current and future Fellows

The most competitive academic fellowship ( approx. 3% acceptance)

Annual Conferences (Years 1 & 2 covered by the fellowship; you can return as invited participant or workshop facilitator)

Increased support at the senior level: (Ford Foundation Senior Fellowship & Conference)\*

\*You must be a fellow prior to applying for the Senior Fellowship

# Eligibility

## Dissertation

- U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. permanent residents, DACA holders, political asylees, & refugees, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation,
- Evidence of superior academic achievement (such as GPA, class rank, honors, or other designations),
- Individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level,
- Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree candidates in an eligible research-based discipline at a **not for profit** U.S. institution of higher education who will complete the dissertation in a period of 9-12 months during the 2019-2020 academic year, and
- Individuals who have not earned a doctoral degree at any time, in any field.

## Postdoc

- U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. permanent residents, Individuals granted deferred action status under DACA, political asylees, and refugees, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation,
- Evidence of superior academic achievement (such as GPA, class rank, honors, or other designations),
- Individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level, and
- Individuals awarded a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree **no earlier than December 6, 2011 and no later than December 6, 2018** in an eligible research-based field from a U.S. institution of higher education.

**Membership in a historically underrepresented group in the U.S. professoriate:**

Alaska Natives (Aleut, Eskimo, or other Indigenous People of Alaska); Black/African Americans; Mexican Americans/Chicanas/Chicanos; Native American Indians; Native Pacific Islanders (Polynesian/Micronesian); Puerto Ricans

# Eligible Fields

- Biological & Biomedical Sciences
- Ecological, Environmental, & Evolutionary Sciences
- Education
- Engineering
- History
- Interdisciplinary Study (Social Sciences & Humanities)
- Literature & Languages
- Performance Studies, Communication, & Art History
- Philosophy & Religious Studies
- Physical Sciences, Mathematics, & Computer Science
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- Social/Cultural Anthropology, and Archaeology
- Sociology

# Preparing the Ford - Part 1

- **Lead Time & Online Portal**

- Give yourself approx 6-8 weeks to prepare your materials
- Begin the application via the [online portal](#) as you begin to write your essay (this step is extremely time consuming)
- Add your letter writers to the portal using their .edu emails
- If you need to use Interfolio for your letters of recommendation reach out to the Ford Office - this is allowed.

- **Feedback & Editing**

- Ask your advisor and at least one other trusted mentor to review your drafts and give you feedback.
- Avoid the jargon of your field (“simplify” your narratives for those who are reading from different areas of expertise)
- You should write 3-5 drafts of each document, ensuring that the final draft is thoroughly proofread
- Do not plagiarize

# Letters of Recommendation

## Who is writing?

- Not only about the “big name” but **familiarity with the research and life of the applicant**, as well as an understanding of the Ford Fellows Program goals
- Nothing can kill an application more quickly than a **lukewarm recommendation** from a recognized scholar
- All letter writers need to be Ph.D. or Ed.D. holders
- For the **Postdoc applicant**: the “host” letter must show what the support will be for the fellow. A letter from a writer within the “home” university can show how the institution will support the fellow’s leave (chair, dean, etc.)

# LOR Basics

## Letters of Recommendation (3-5 aka 5!):

- Contact potential letter writers to submit letters of recommendation and a host letter by the Supplementary Materials deadline (1/8/19)
- Confirm the minimum [Supplementary Materials](#) required for complete application submission.

## Postdoc:

- One letter writer must be the proposed host mentor
- At least one letter writer should be a colleague (e.g. department chair, division chair, or dean) in the applicant's current institution who has had an opportunity to observe the applicant's teaching and research abilities.
- Other letter writers may be selected from within or outside the applicant's institution (e.g. recognized authorities in the applicant's field with whom the applicant is well acquainted, individuals in closely allied fields, or the applicant's thesis adviser).

## Dissertation:

- One of the letter writers should be the applicant's dissertation adviser.
- Other letter writers should be able to comment on the applicant's proposed plan for the completion of the dissertation.
- Letter writers should be faculty members in the applicant's field who are acquainted with the applicant's intellectual ability and long-range goals.

# Organize & Submit by Deadline

## Multiple Deadlines:

- What is your application deadline? (12/6/18)
- What is the deadline for your supplemental materials? (1/8/19)
- What is the deadline for your letter writers? (1/8/19)
  - Use the reminder button for the recommenders (refresh their memory)!

Application Materials must be thoroughly proofread!

**DEADLINE**

**DEADLINE**

**DEADLINE**



# The Research Statement

## Dissertation

- **Research statement:**

Does your statement highlight the novelty/uniqueness of your work *and* its potential impact?

Be specific otherwise you leave interpretation to the readers and they can disagree and derail review as you intended.

Despite short length, include references. The reviewers will comment on this and assess it as demonstration of your knowledge.

## Postdoc

- **Research statement:**

In addition to general points in dissertation section, reviewers will assess demonstration of impact on field and independence for postdoc applications.

- **Annotated bibliography:**

You can use this section as complementary to, rather than repetitive of, research statement. If you are in a “book” discipline use similar to “comparative titles” section of a book proposal to demonstrate readiness to move scholarship towards book.

# Saying More With Your Annotated Bibliography

## 1. Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press, 2008.

This canonical text by Fanon has been claimed by anti, post, and de-colonial authors alike. While *The Wretched of the Earth* is useful because of its critique of colonialism and processes of administrative decolonization, *Black Skin, White Masks* continually helps me think through and with the concept of race, language, and belonging for black (post)colonial subjects. I read Fanon's study of the "lived experience of the black" in relation to the peripheral position of Afro-Latinxs and Afro-Hispanic: what Angela Jorge called "a minority within a minority" in her 1970 essay "The Black Puerto Rican Woman in Society" and Juan Flores called the "triple consciousness" of the Afro-Latin@ subject in his introduction to the 2007 Afro-Latin@ Reader.

## 2. Glissant, Édouard, and Betsy Wing. *Poetics of relation*. University of Michigan Press, 1997.

In *Poetics of Relation*, Glissant maps the crossings and relations of history, trauma, and memory in the context of the Caribbean. These poetics are political and cultural and reflect the relations between and beyond the poly-lingual, multi-ethnic Caribbean and its diasporas. His mediation on several aspects of Caribbean history and thought is central to how I frame the concept of relationality in my book project within the context of understudied Latinx Caribbean and Equatoguinean literary texts. *Poetics of Relation* along with Alexander Weheliwe's *Habeas Viscus* and M. Jacqui Alexander's *Pedagogies of Crossing* are foundational to the relational and Afro-feminist articulations of my work.

## 3. Martínez-San Miguel, Yolanda. *Coloniality of Diasporas: Rethinking Intra-colonial Migrations in a Pan-Caribbean Context*. Palgrave, 2014.

*Coloniality of Diasporas* is groundbreaking transdisciplinary text, which dialogues with and across Caribbean literary scholars and artists in distinct linguistic contexts. The book makes connections across the Anglo, French, and Spanish Caribbean from the 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and in this way produces a formative example of Archipelago Studies (which is part of my approach to the Caribbean and Equatoguinean islands). This book is a primary (and one of the few) examples of the intersections between literary theory and decolonial studies.

## 4. McKittrick, Katherine. *Demonic grounds: Black women and the cartographies of struggle*. U of Minnesota Press, 2006.

In this cutting-edge geography text McKittrick offers an essential remapping of black women's social lives through a thorough analysis of historical, philosophical, geographical, and literary sources. Her elaborations on land, space, and sites of memory are valuable in my own contentions with these topics (though I approach these themes in different ways). Her use and readings of Sylvia Wynter's corpus are also important touchstones for my project, as Wynter is a central figure on my manuscript.

## 5. Nelson, Alondra. "Afrofuturism: A Special Issue of Social Text." (2002).

Nelson is the editor of this special issue of the journal *Social Text* that focuses on Afro-futurism and includes scholarly articles on black futurities, mediations on music and short stories, and features interviews with sci-fi writers. This issue as a whole represents one of the central texts of chapter 5 of the book manuscript as it situates Afro-futurism in a social and historical black consciousness and within a context of the U.S. and the Caribbean. The essays offer ways to engage the problematics of thinking about the future and the many ways that these

# The Personal Statement

## Dissertation

- You need to highlight what you have done *and* what you WILL do to stand out among other applicants
- Exemplary statements describe how your involvement in the community will support your success *and* how you will contribute to sustaining community

## Postdoc

- For postdocs in a tenure-track position, there can (in some cases) be a discussion as to whether the diversity-related effort is beyond what is expect for anyone in your position, or a unique contribution of the applicant.
- Address all of the prompts!

They want to hear about your: Background, Community Efforts, Unique Perspective?, Teaching success, etc. Tell them about it!

This is your opportunity for you to explain how you will be a benefit to the organization, NOT how the fellowship will benefit you financially. It is assumed that the fellowship will benefit everyone who applies for and receives it.

# PostDoc App Tip!

- **Dissertation Abstract**

- Yes. They want a dissertation abstract. However, make sure that your research statement shows growth from the dissertation abstract to the current project.

- **Keywords**

- Use critical keywords for your field (avoid jargon)

Past tense  
language

| My dissertation project undertook a comparative analysis of literatures written by Afro-Latinx and Afro-Hispanic diasporic and exilic writers in the post-1960's/post-independence period. Through decolonial analyses, the project examined how these texts create new discursive spaces for engaging critical concepts found in Afro-diasporic and exilic literatures. I proposed that these literatures produced in exile and diaspora show how postcolonial literature engages in a (re)telling of history, interrogate foundational narratives of the nation(s), and articulate critical positions that elucidate decolonial discourses. I examined the decolonial possibilities of global Afro-diasporic and exilic literature and proposed the use of the 'decolonial attitude' as a way to read these texts as literary palimpsests. The introduction outlined the historical and linguistic connections between Equatorial Guinea, Puerto Rican, and the Dominican Republic while the three internal chapters discussed the politics of faithful witnessing and recognition, the reimagining of reparations and futurities through decolonial love, and the impossibilities of home and exile.

My interdisciplinary analyses offered a literary mapping of the diasporic and exilic global Afro-Latinx Caribbean and Equatoguinean archipelago. This methodological approach necessarily reconceptualized the fields of Latinx Studies, Afro-diaspora Studies, and the study of literature in light of theories of decoloniality. Thinking about these nations and literatures in the context of the long-durée of colonial/postcolonial histories and migrations made it possible to begin mapping the dialogue between Equatoguinean and Afro-Latinx diasporic and exilic populations. I have further developed and expanded this work in my current book manuscript, *Decolonial Diasporas*. In addition to a new introduction/coda, two new chapters, and three revised/expanded dissertation chapters, I include Afro-Cuban poetics, a refined theoretical framework, and incorporate fieldwork Malabo, San Juan, Madrid, and Barcelona.

Keywords: Afro-Latinx; Equatoguinean; Literature; Decolonial Theory; Diaspora; Exile; Women of Color Feminism; Caribbean; ~~Hispanophone~~

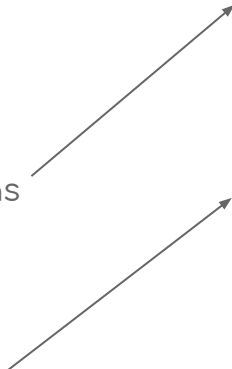
# PostDoc App Tip!

- **Proposed Project**

- Clear and Concise
- Almost completed
- Timeline to completion

- **Host Institution**

- Why did you choose X university as the host institution?
- Who is your chosen host mentor and why?
- Are there archives/labs/sites that will be critical for completion of the project?



I selected XYZ University as my host institution because of the invaluable resources available in both the English department and the Africana Studies & Research Center. At XYZ I will benefit from Professor ZZZ's critical work on Black global studies and Black aesthetics, YYY's expertise on Caribbean women and literature, XXX's Latina/o cultural criticism, and OOO's contributions to Nuyorican literature. I look forward to continuing my work alongside Z and Y and developing deeper connections to colleagues across my fields. XYZ University is also near critical resources for my research including NYC's Schomburg Center, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, the Caribbean Cultural Center. I will also be near scholars of the Afro-Hispanic world including, ZYX one of the foremost scholars of Equatorial Guinea. The Ford Fellowship will allow me to revise *Decolonizing Diasporas* amidst this rich intellectual environment and will potentially provide the terrain for the crafting of my second major project on anti-Blackness in Latinx literature.

# Review Panel: Insider Tips

## What happens in the room:

- Panel composition & why it matters
- Ranking and discussion
- The diversity statement & key to identifying your “advocate at the table”
- Dissertation: Reviewers discuss *in detail* whether truly in “dissertating” phase or too premature
- Postdoc: Reviewers discuss *in detail* “likelihood that the applicant will fully utilize 9 to 12 months of postdoctoral support” - MAKE IT CLEAR in your statement

## What this means for you:

- Your narrative must demonstrate the pursuit of scholarly excellence *in service to* building diversity & equity
- Your narrative needs to show that you are committed to the professoriate and to teaching and transforming the university.
- You need to be able to prove that your project is almost at completion OR can be completed during the tenure of the fellowship (1-year).



## A Dissertation Fellowship Should:

- Include supplemental support from institution - including tuition & stipend supplement to the level received by other students in your program/institution
- Have strong support for timeline - can be 9 to 12 months, but should have strong support in the letter from your dissertation supervisor that you are able to complete, or *very likely to complete*, within a year



# FYI

## A Postdoc Fellowship Should:

- Extend your tenure clock by one year
- Allow you to move to another location or make alternative arrangements with your host institution
- Relieve you from all teaching and service duties





# Money Matters

**Dissertation \$25k**  
**Postdoctoral \$45k**

What does the money mean to each field?

What it does it signal to the university?

How do you manage your award?

**More Grants...**

# Woodrow Wilson Mellon Mays Career Enhancement Fellowship 10/26/18

## Eligibility:

- Minority junior faculty: African Americans, Latinos and Latinas, Native Americans, and Native Alaskans
- Junior faculty with a demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities, breaking down stereotypes, and promoting cross-racial understanding in their university communities.
- Must be in 3rd year of Tenure Track Job
- Anthropology and Archaeology; Area/Cultural/Ethnic/Gender Studies; Art History; Classics; Geography and Population Studies; English; Film, Cinema and Media Studies (theoretical focus); Musicology, Ethnomusicology and Music Theory; Foreign Languages and Literatures; History; Linguistics; Literature; Performance Studies (theoretical focus); Philosophy and Political Theory; Religion and Theology; Sociology; Theater (theoretical focus)

## Application:

- Forms, CV, Personal & Research Statements, Writing Sample, 2 LORs

## Award:

- \$30k Stipend + \$1.5K Research Support + Workshop

## Network:

- Mellon Mays & Woodrow Wilson Networks

<https://woodrow.org/fellowships/mellon/career-enhancement/>

# **SITPA: Summer Institute for Tenure & Professional Advancement - Duke University/Mellon Mays** (opens in Spring)

## **Eligibility:**

- Untenured faculty entering their first or second year in a tenure-track position who are from underrepresented groups or who otherwise support the diversity missions of their institutions, are eligible to apply.

## **Application:**

- Description of 2 research/teaching projects (no more than 5 pages combined)
- CV
- 1 letter of recommendation from current department chair

## **Award:**

- All expenses paid 3-day workshop at Duke University, \$750 per completed project (up to two projects)

## **Network:**

- SITPA Cohort, 2-years of Mentorship from Mellon Faculty

[\*\*https://regss.trinity.duke.edu/summer-institute-tenure-professional-advancement\*\*](https://regss.trinity.duke.edu/summer-institute-tenure-professional-advancement)

# Woodrow Wilson Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholars Award (12/2/18)

## Eligibility:

- junior faculty who have passed their midpoint tenure review (up to year 5)
- any field of the humanities or social sciences.

## Application:

- A submitted online application + CV + simple budget + 2 LORs
- An essay describing the applicant's research/publication plan and career objectives
- An essay describing the applicant's commitment(s) to building a more inclusive community on campus and/or in the profession
- Abstract of a current manuscript outlining the relationship of this work to the tenure portfolio
- List of courses developed since the start of the tenure-track appointment + 2 sample syllabi +
- List of advising assignments and department service

## Award:

- \$17,500 stipend—\$10,000 to be used for summer research support and \$7,500 for research assistance during the academic year

## Network:

- Mellon Mays & Woodrow Wilson Network

<https://woodrow.org/fellowships/nwmscholars/>

# **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**

## **Fellowships:**

- **Fellowships for Manuscripts**
- **Summer Stipend**
- **HBCU/HSI Faculty**
- **Collaborative Grants**
- **DH Grants**

## **Award:**

- **\$6k - \$750k**

[\*\*https://www.neh.gov/grants/listing\*\*](https://www.neh.gov/grants/listing)

# **Postdoctoral Enrichment Program | Burroughs Wellcome Fund**

## **Eligibility:**

- **No more than 36 months of postdoctoral research experience & no more than 5 years post-PhD; citizens of the United States or Canada**

## **Application:**

- **Research plan/mentor letter/budget**

## **Award:**

- **\$60,000 over three years**

## **Network: PDEP Cohort/peer network**

**To supplement the training of postdocs whose research activities are already supported**

**<https://www.bwfund.org/grant-programs/diversity-science/postdoctoral-enrichment-program>**

# **National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology**

## **Eligibility:**

- **no more than 36 months of postdoctoral research experience & no more than 5 years post-PhD; U.S. citizen (or national) or a U.S. permanent resident**

## **Application:**

- **Research plan/broader impacts statement/sponsoring scientists' statement**

## **Award:**

- **\$69,000 (\$54K stipend + \$15K research/training allowance) per year for 2-3 years**

## **Network:**

- **dependent on program**

**<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15501/nsf15501.htm>**



# Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program

## Eligibility:

- Individuals from gender, racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in the life sciences
- Hold PhD and/or MD
- US citizens, or non-US citizens with degree from US institute
- Already have lab placement
- <16 months postdoctoral experience when applying

## Application:

- Education and training record/personal statement/prior & planned research/letters of support

## Award:

- \$80,000 (\$60K stipend + \$20K research/training allowance) per year for 2-4 years of postdoc THEN \$270K/year as faculty for up to 4 years

## Network:

- Fellows cohort and professional development

<https://www.hhmi.org/programs/hanna-h-gray-fellows-program>

# **WiSTEM<sup>2</sup>D Scholars Award Program**

## **Eligibility:**

- **Woman working in the field(s) of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Manufacturing and Design (STEM<sup>2</sup>D)**
- **Asst. Professor/Lecturer (not tenured) or global equivalent at accredited university**

## **Application:**

- **1000 word Research plan/Digital video of research impact/Resume/Department Head statement of support**

## **Award:**

- **\$150,000 for 3 years (\$50K USD/year), Institutionally limited**

**<https://www.jnj.com/wistem2d>**

# Thank you!



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**@DrYoFiggy**