

CENTER FOR AMERICAN POLITICAL STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS on the STUDY OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

The Center for American Political Studies offers **Dissertation Fellowships (Research OR Completion) on the Study of the American Republic** made possible by a generous challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities matched by generous Harvard University Alumni. Eligible applications must contain dissertation topics with a direct engagement with the history, principles, and politics of the American Republic. These fellowships are inclusive to students inside the field of political science as well as History, English and American Literature, Philosophy, American Civilization, Sociology, Economics, Anthropology, and others - whose presence would enrich the collective discussion of enduring political, historical and philosophical themes of the American Republic.

STUDY OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWS, 2018-19

Riley Carney (Government, G-4)

“Why Are Cities So Liberal?”

My dissertation project seeks to answer a fundamental, yet complex question: Why are dense urban areas so consistently liberal and other places are not? This divide in political behavior across space has been consistently observed, particularly in the American context. The dominant explanation suggests that ideological polarization across space is driven primarily by geographic sorting. However, this explanation does not completely account for this enduring relationship between density and political ideology. I propose that features of dense environment itself affect individual attitudes and I aim to systematically explore this relationship using a variety of methods and approaches.

Itzhak Tzachi Raz (Economics, G-5)

“Agriculture, Institutions and Culture during the American Westward Expansion”

The era of westward expansion was a formative moment in the history of the U.S. when the nation’s institutions and culture were shaped. Settlers who moved into unfamiliar territories ahead of formal institutions developed unique cultural characteristics and experimented with different institutional designs. My dissertation focuses on this period in order to study the interactions between institutions, culture, land distribution and economic development. The first chapter shows that during the westward expansion less secure land titles advanced economic development. The second chapter studies the effects of soil heterogeneity on the American tradition of individualism. The third chapter studies the effects of land distribution and farm sizes.