

**CENTER FOR AMERICAN POLITICAL STUDIES  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Center for American Political Studies offers **Dissertation Fellowships (Research OR Completion) on the Study of the American Republic**. 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. Relevant themes include (but are not restricted to) the politics, history, and philosophy of the American Founding and the Early Republic, the political philosophy of republicanism (particularly as applied to the United States), the Civil War and its legacies, the politics of slavery and abolition, and political institutions in the United States.

**PROGRAM ON THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS 2012-13**

**Deirdre Bloome (Social Policy and Sociology, G-6)**

**“Economic Inequality, Mobility, and Opportunity in the United States”**

My dissertation explores the interplay between economic inequality and economic mobility and opportunity in the United States. A foundational American principle maintains that individuals should have opportunities to succeed, regardless of family background. Historically, equal opportunities have been seen as the American alternative to equal rewards. Today, some academics and policymakers have come to question the extent to which we can neatly separate the two, since parents' rewards shape children's life chances. Yet, the scholarly literatures documenting patterns in the distribution of economic resources across individuals (inequality) and the connection between individuals' economic resources in childhood and adulthood (mobility) remain largely disconnected from one another. My dissertation works to bridge this divide.

**Jennifer Page (Government, G-4)**

**“Reparations: History, Theory, and Practice”**

The purpose of my dissertation is to establish that there will always be the need for a backward-looking conception of justice—and therefore monetary reparations—within liberal democracies. This, I argue, is the logical upshot of taking seriously J.S. Mill's notion that social progress is inherent to liberalism. However, reparations movements for colonial-era injustices like slavery, Indian land removal, etc. are unique to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the historical chapter of my dissertation, I look at how the meaning of “reparation” has evolved from the war spoils of a victor intent on punishing his enemy to a social justice demand of marginalized groups.

**Bernardo Zacka (Government, G-6)**

**“Personifying the State: An Inquiry into the Everyday Moral Life of Street-Level Bureaucrats”**

My dissertation explores the everyday moral life of street-level bureaucrats – frontline workers who effectively serve as mediators between citizens and the state. The first part of the dissertation draws on empirical studies of public agencies and on debates in political theory to assess the scope of the discretion that such workers have, and to suggest how we could account for it in a normative theory of the state. The second part of the dissertation examines the challenges in moral psychology that frontline workers must face on a day-to-day basis. These workers are expected to be, at the same time, faceless representatives of an impersonal institution (the state), and responsive participants in face-to-face encounters with particular clients. I argue that reconciling these two aspects of the job leads to a host of difficulties, as a result of which street-level bureaucrats are often driven towards one of three reductive conceptions of their role: indifference, care-giving, or enforcement. I devote the last and most extensive part of the dissertation to exploring the ways in which managerial strategies, organizational culture, and practices of the self can be deployed to help street-level bureaucrats retain a balanced and multi-faceted understanding of their responsibilities.