



ACLS LEADING EDGE FELLOWSHIP

Project:	The Third Edition of <i>Whose Heritage? Public Symbols of the Confederacy</i>
Organization:	The Southern Poverty Law Center
Location:	Decatur, GA [Fellow will work remotely]
Stipend:	\$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding
Start Date:	February 2021

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people. Headquartered in Montgomery, AL, it has offices in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. For five decades, the SPLC has won landmark cases that brought systemic reforms in the Deep South. It has toppled remnants of Jim Crow segregation and destroyed violent white supremacist groups; shattered barriers to equality for women, vulnerable children, the LGBT community and the disabled; protected migrant workers and immigrants from abuse; ensured the humane treatment of prisoners and reformed juvenile justice practices; and more. Through its Intelligence Project, the SPLC is the premier U.S. non-profit organization monitoring the activities of domestic hate groups and other extremists, including the Ku Klux Klan, the neo-Nazi movement, neo-Confederates, racist skinheads, and antigovernment militias. The SPLC's Teaching Tolerance project provides free resources to educators—teachers, administrators, counselors and other practitioners—including classroom lessons, webinars, podcasts, policy guides, project grants, and much more. To learn more about SPLC, visit <https://www.splcenter.org/>.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the wake of the Charleston Church Massacre, the SPLC compiled a wide-reaching and publicly accessible database of Confederate monuments and symbols on public land: *Whose Heritage? Public Symbols of the Confederacy*. The goal of the 2016 report was to dispel the false narrative that Confederate monuments are symbols of heritage—when they are symbols of white supremacy—and educate the American public on the history of these monuments many of which were erected after Reconstruction, during the rise of Jim Crow, as part of a campaign to whitewash the history of the Confederacy. Revised in 2018, *Whose Heritage?* has established the SPLC as the leading expert on Confederate symbols. The report has been cited by virtually every national media outlet, and extensively by federal lawmakers and activists.

At its heart, this is a project about changing narratives. With more than 1,700 symbols of the Confederacy on public grounds throughout the United States, these symbols have been front and center during the nation's modern-day racial reckoning. They are literal symbols—most of them stone monuments—that were placed on county courthouse and state capitol grounds to send a clear message about the values of local and state governments. And despite COVID-19 highlighting the disproportionate health and economic outcomes for people of color because of structural racism, internal SPLC polling shows that a majority of Americans have yet to fully grapple with this legacy or believe that these correlations exist.

The Leading Edge Fellow will join Intelligence Project's team as a Research Analyst to help SPLC develop a Third Edition of *Whose Heritage?* in 2021 that dramatically expands the data, dives deeper into analysis, and better positions the report to be used for affirmative public education and advocacy

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campaigns. The fellow will use historical research, new data, and personal narratives to revise *Whose Heritage?*; collaborate with the SPLC's Teaching Tolerance project on creating related multigenerational education materials; and collaborate with the SPLC Policy Department to advocate for the removal of Confederate symbols on public grounds. If the public health situation allows, the fellow will have the opportunity to travel to planning meetings at the Decatur, GA home office. The fellowship tenure is 12 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 40 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Lead a comprehensive review and updating of all entries in the SPLC *Whose Heritage?* database
- Add to the database symbols on battlefields and cemeteries
- Add to the database historic markers that engage in "Lost Cause" propaganda
- Review the data and draw on existing research using the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line Shapefiles to identify all streets named after Confederates
- Create new data visualizations (with SPLC technical staff assistance, as needed)
- With SPLC staff, build a new online mapping tool of Confederate symbols in the database
- Draft short profiles listing basic biographic data of Confederate honorees for the *Whose Heritage?* report
- Fully revise the written report section of *Whose Heritage?*
- Drawing on history scholarship and the scholarship and teaching and learning, develop multigenerational education resources with staff in the Teaching Tolerance project
- Develop advocacy materials and campaigns to remove Confederate symbols with Intelligence Project and Policy Department staff

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanistic social sciences, so long as the applicant's research contributes to the scholarship and understanding of religion, theology, or ethics. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Excellent writing, research, and presentation skills
- Familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative analysis; position will not require sophisticated statistical methods, but will require working with and directing someone to manipulate Census Bureau geodata
- Excellent organizational skills and detail-oriented approach
- Strong project management skills and ability to work independently
- Ability to work under time pressure, meet deadlines, and prioritize tasks
- Interest in United States Civil War and history of white supremacy in America
- Enthusiasm for and alignment with the SPLC's mission, vision, and values

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EST, November 2, 2020

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