ACLs Leading Edge Fellowship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project:</th>
<th>Communicating Research on Technology, Power, and Social Justice</th>
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<td>Organization:</td>
<td>Social Science Research Council (Brooklyn, NY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Remote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
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<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
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ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is an independent, international, nonprofit organization devoted to advancing interdisciplinary research in the social sciences and related disciplines through a wide variety of workshops and conferences, fellowships and grants, summer training institutes, scholarly exchanges, research, and publications. The SSRC is guided by the belief that justice, prosperity, and democracy all require a better understanding of complex social, cultural, economic, and political processes. To learn more about the SSRC please visit, www.ssrc.org.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

From contact tracing apps to body cams to facial recognition software, new technology often reproduces and augments structures of inequality, even as it reshapes them. Indeed, the biases and inequities masked by ostensibly neutral technology are magnified in the context of a global pandemic that has forced much of our social activity online. Yet investigations into the uneven political and social impacts of technology are chronically underfunded. Moreover, the same communities that have pioneered work to uncover the harms of ill-conceived technology are often underrepresented in tech, in government, and the academy.

The SSRC’s Just Tech program meets this challenge by empowering a diverse and cross-sector network of social researchers—including scholars, civil society researchers, artists, and journalists—to imagine and create more equitable and representative technological futures. Sitting at the intersection of the Council’s Media, Technology & Politics work and Inequality Initiative, Just Tech is organized around two core projects: (1) a competitive fellowship that supports scholars, artists, and practitioners conducting social research on questions of power, technology, and inequity; and (2) a digital platform that will aggregate and distill such research, as well as showcase the work and profiles of the underrepresented social researchers moving the field forward. The Leading Edge Fellow will join the SSRC as Managing Editor for the Just Tech Platform, which will be launched in the summer of 2021 with around twenty pieces of content, including essays, public-facing field reviews, and interviews. With the help of the fellow, content production will increase and expand to reflect the diversity of intellectual contributions to the field. Through their work, the fellow will (1) make cutting edge research about the disparate social effects of increasingly ubiquitous technology accessible to broader public audiences; (2) center and elevate underrepresented social researchers whose intellectual contributions are vital catalysts for social change; and (3) create and amplify public goods that can inform policy and discourse and will have broad social implications for equity, representation, and justice. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Responsibilities and tasks:

- Identify and convene scholars, journalists, artists, and activists to develop new editorial content that advances understanding of the roles technology plays in shaping relationships of power, inequity, and social justice
- Deepen and extend SSRC’s networks within this community
- Curate and edit essays, field reviews, interviews, and profiles
- Maintain a database of citations in a Just Tech Zotero library
- Advise quarterly groups of curatorial interns
- Liaise with staff from other programs to ensure learning and exchange across the SSRC’s Inequality Initiative, and establishing and streamlining a set of editorial practices and procedures, to be compiled in an editorial handbook, that will allow staff to continue production beyond the term of the fellowship
- Help to translate scholarly prose for broader public audiences
- Play a leading role in developing the voice, style, and scope of a new platform that will chart the field’s agenda for years to come

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships);
- Proven ability to write clear, lively, engaging, and compelling texts in a variety of styles appropriate to multiple audiences beyond the academy (e.g., blog posts, reports, memos);
- Experience editing for substance and flow; copyediting experience;
- Ability to assimilate and follow house editorial style and publication guidelines;
- Experience conducting interviews;
- Project management and organizational skills; ability to juggle multiple assignments, both small and large, and to manage workload appropriately;
- Superior interpersonal communications skills, including active listening and effective collaboration skills, openness to editing and critique of work;
- Thorough attention to detail.

Preferred

- Knowledge of WordPress;
- Interest in or familiarity with scholarship on power, technology/media, and identity;
- Experience with workflow or task management software and Google Workspace;
- Classroom teaching or other experience communicating complex academic concepts to broad audiences

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: [https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships](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 EDT, May 6, 2021

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