



Self-Determination Narratives Fellowship

Overview:

This summer, CoLab is offering Fellowships for students interested in developing multimedia narratives/portraits of communities working to achieve self-determination. The narratives from the Summer 2016 cohort are available [here on CoLab Radio](#).

Between May and September of 2018, CoLab Self-Determination Narrative Fellows will:

- Join facilitated bi-weekly online sessions designed to workshop multimedia story development;
- Commit to producing 1 multimedia narrative;
- Commit to premiering the multimedia narrative at a storytelling event in the Fall and online on CoLab Radio; and
- Be eligible to receive \$500 from CoLab to cover production costs.

Selected SDN Fellows will have the opportunity to apply with other SDN Fellows (and CoLab support) for travel and other funding. You're welcome to apply even if your summer work and/or travel plans are not yet confirmed.

See below for more details and email Lawrence Barriner II (lqb@mit.edu) with any questions or concerns.

Applications are due Friday, 30 March 2018



Opportunity

CoLab is expanding its collection of multimedia narratives around self-determination. We hope to deepen our own and our network of community-based organizations, labor unions, anchor institutions, and planners, understanding of the concept. Self-determination is always connected to political power. Therefore we are interested in working with students whose political and creative imagination is sparked by the task of identifying and creating multimedia narratives that investigate and amplify efforts at building self-determination in contexts all around the world.

We understand self-determination as the ability for oppressed and marginalized communities to define and then forge their own path in developing interdependent cultural, political, and economic systems. These efforts are usually connected to collective/shared identities and are often intersectional, transnational, and otherwise networked.

Within the bounds of this framing, we believe that efforts to build self-determination are complex and can come in many forms and are happening at many scales. For example, one Native-American community's work to enhance their control of local food systems as a means to address food security and access, reclaim traditional knowledge and decolonize their diets could be an example of a people trying to build self-determination. So, too, are many of the networked efforts arising out of the Black Lives Matter movement as well as the ongoing for land and water sovereignty (#MniWiconi) in North America.

Narratives give centrality to people in a way that other urban planning knowledge products often don't. With narratives there is room to explore characters' relations, expectations, feelings, memories, bodies, and voices; this makes it a powerful tool for shaping our collective understanding of a vision as complex and with so much potential as self-determination. CoLab's hope is that the identification, development, and sharing of these narratives can provoke dialogue that evokes plausible worlds and shapes a new imagination of alternatives around social justice and human dignity.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

The most important criteria is that applicants' political and creative imagination is sparked by the concept of self-determination.

Self-Determination Narrative Fellows must commit to participating in supplemental bi-weekly narrative development workshops and producing one



multimedia narrative according to the timeline below. Preference will be given to students with demonstrated interest or experience in multimedia production, though all Fellows will have the opportunity to receive production support regardless of previous experience.

Application Process

Send an email to Lawrence Barriner II at lqb@mit.edu **by 30 March 2018** with:

- the Subject Line: SDN Fellowship Application
- A paragraph (no more than 200 words) explaining why you are interested in participating in this fellowship
- Your expected location or list of potential locations for Summer 2018 (May to August)
- 2 examples of self-determination stories you are interested in exploring in the location(s) you'll likely be spending summer 2018. For each example, include one paragraph (no more than 400 words) that responds to the following:
 - What is your personal relationship to the place?
 - What is the story idea?
 - Are there are specific characters that you'd want to focus on?
 - Have you already interviewed anyone? If not, who would you like to interview?
 - Do you currently have access to information, research, or people that will inform the story you want to tell?
 - What media format do you imagine this story being told through? (eg, interactive timelines, storymaps, video, audio/podcast, photo essay etc...)
- Details about any past experience with multimedia production
- (Optional) Links to any previously produced multimedia work that you are proud of. You can also attach media pieces to directly to your submission email.

Selected applicants will be invited to interview in the weeks following the application deadline. Final decisions will shared by April 16th.

Fellowship Program Timeline, 2018

- **30 March:** Applications due
- **2-13 April:** Interviews
- **16 April:** All applicants notified of results
- **17 May:** Last Day of MIT Classes



- **June - August:** Facilitated bi-weekly online sessions designed to hold space for reflection, workshop multimedia story development, and give & receive feedback. Online sessions will be complemented by opportunities for 1-on-1 support from other Fellows as well as CoLab's Community Media Program Director.
- **22 August:** Draft multimedia narratives shared with Fellowship cohort
- **29 August:** Feedback received and given to all cohort members
- **5 September:** First day of Fall classes
- **12 September:** Final multimedia narratives begin to be published on CoLab Radio
- **October or November:** Panel discussion and celebration with SDN Fellows at DUSP