

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### Mellon-Sawyer Seminar Graduate Fellows

The Mellon-Sawyer seminar is a two years-long program of public forums, small workshops and reading groups organized around the theme of “Trust and Mistrust of Science and Experts.” The motivation for the seminar comes from the growing anxiety among scientific leaders and observers about a climate of public distrust in experts and science. In response, the seminar would seek to develop a more sophisticated and balanced approach to the timely question of trust and mistrust in science and experts by building a series of conversations among different parts of Columbia university, as well as with residents of adjacent communities. While current conversations about mistrust of science seem to assume that we know what is trust, how to measure it, and how to rebuild it, the seminar will seek to reopen these questions by drawing on social scientific and critical approaches, as well as the rich tradition of thinking about rhetoric, persuasion and authority in philosophy and the humanities. During the academic year 2020/21, the Seminar will address specifically the topics of “Rhetoric and Trust in Climate Science” (Fall 2020) and “Trust in Science in NYC Minority Communities” (Spring 2021).

**Who is eligible to apply?:** Advanced doctoral students from ALL schools at Columbia University, who are within two (2) years of completing their dissertations, are invited to apply for a 2020/21 graduate Fellowship. Space is limited and the program is highly competitive. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. on December 15th, 2019.

#### **Fellowship responsibilities and benefits:**

- The fellowship pays a stipend of \$10,000.
- Fellows will assist in organizing seminar events – invited speakers, reading groups, public forums and small workshops.
- Fellows will be responsible for documenting what has been discussed and learned at seminar events. This includes responsibility for maintaining the Seminar website and blog/e-journal.
- A primary benefit of the fellowship is the ability to participate in potentially innovative forums and discussions about trust in science, and the opportunity to be exposed to diverse viewpoints articulated by invited speakers, members of the public and seminar participants.
- Shared office space at INCITE (3078 Broadway).
- Mentoring and networking opportunities.

#### **Application materials:**

- 1) **Statement:** Describe yourself and address why you are interested in participating in the seminar, specifically how your present or future research interests speak to the seminar’s themes. The maximum length for the statement is one (1) single-spaced page.
- 2) **CV:** Please make sure your cv contains your current mailing address.

- 3) **Writing Sample:** this should be a paper that you have written, either for publication or for class work, which you believe best represents your interests and abilities. It does not have to be related to the themes of the seminar.
- 4) **Recommendation Letter:** Have your adviser or a faculty member who best knows your research write a letter of support.

Submit an electronic copy of all application materials to Julius Wilson ([jmw2255@columbia.edu](mailto:jmw2255@columbia.edu)). Additionally, please submit 3 hardcopies of all application materials to:

Mellon Sawyer Seminar Graduate Fellowship  
C/O Julius Wilson  
INCITE  
3078 Broadway  
NY, NY 10027

Hardcopies should be collated and clipped (not stapled) in the order listed above. A single copy of the recommendation letter is sufficient and may be submitted by your adviser directly in hard or electronic forms. For additional information, please contact Gil Eyal ([ge2027@columbia.edu](mailto:ge2027@columbia.edu)).