

# Graduate & Dissertation Funding Workshop

Research Opportunities Office  
Bureau of Educational Research  
Rufina Cortez & Norma A. Marrun  
Graduate Research Assistants  
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## Agenda

- 10:00 - 10:15: Welcome & Introductions
- 10:15 - 11:00: Searching and Identifying Funding Sources
- 11:00 - 11:45: *Tackling the Dissertation: I Did It, and So Can You*  
Dr. Lori Rodriguez,  
Postdoctoral Associate,  
Latina/Latino Studies  
Program
- 11:45 - noon: Q & A, Closing Remarks

## Goals for This Workshop

- Learn about potential funding agencies and their competitions you may be eligible.
- Introduce different sources and tools.
- Tips and advice on how to apply for funding.

## Popular Grants

- AERA - Dissertation Grants Program
- APA - Dissertation Research Awards
- Ford Foundation - Dissertation Diversity Fellowships
- Fulbright - Hays Dissertation
- Spencer - Dissertation Fellowship Program
- Bureau of Educational Research - Traditional Dissertation Award Competition

## AERA Dissertation Grants

- The American Educational Research Association (AERA) grants program is the result of six successive grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF)
- The program supports projects that are quantitative in nature, use data from federal agencies such as NSF, and have a U.S. education policy relevance.
- Applicants should be advanced doctoral students at the dissertation writing stage.
- Its primary aim is to increase the number of underrepresented minority professionals.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Fellows receive \$20,000 for 1-year.
- Due dates: September 1, 2009; January 6, 2010, & March 16, 2010

## AERA Dissertation Grant

### Application Material:

- Research abstract (250-words maximum)
- Contribution to the field (200-words maximum)
- Proposal: Narrative, conceptual model(s), statistical model(s), variables list, reference list, budget, applicant's curriculum vitae
- Letters of Reference (2)

## APA Dissertation Research Award

- The American Psychological Association (APA), supports research and programs that enhance the power of psychology to elevate the human condition and advance human potential.
- A student in a graduate department other than psychology is eligible only if she/he demonstrates that she/he is writing a psychological science dissertation.
- Dissertation proposals must be approved by their dissertation committees prior to application.
- Programs awards 30-40 grants of \$1000 and larger grants of up to \$5000
- Due date: September 15, 2009

## APA Dissertation Research Award

### Application Materials:

- An application form
- Cover letter (1-page maximum)
- Summary of the dissertation research (2-page maximum)
- Budget (1-page maximum)
- Curriculum Vitae (2-page maximum)
- Letter of recommendation (1-page maximum)

## Ford Dissertation Fellowship

- Applicants should expect to complete their dissertation during the 2010-2011 academic year, but no later than fall 2011.
- Must be a Ph.D. candidate and expected to be engaged in a full-time program.
- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- One-year stipend of \$21,000
- Expenses will be paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows.
- Due date: November 2, 2009

## Ford Dissertation Fellowship

### Application Material:

- Personal information
- Statement of previous research (2-page limit, double-space)
- Annotated bibliography
- Abstract of dissertation (one-page limit)
- Essay explaining plan and timeline
- Personal statement (not to exceed 3-pages)

## Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship

- Must have received a Ph.D. degree no earlier than November 30, 2002 and no later than November 9, 2009.
- Must be committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level.
- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- One-year stipend of \$40,000
- Expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows.
- Due date: November 9, 2009

## Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship

### Application Material:

- Personal information
- Statement of previous research (2-page limit, double-spaced)
- Annotated bibliography
- Abstract of dissertation (1-page limit)
- Proposed plan of study or Research
- Personal statement (3-page limit)

### Fullbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowships

- Fellowship supported through the Department of Education
- Program funds doctoral students to conduct research in other countries, for periods of six to 12 months.
- Must be a citizen or national of the U.S. or permanent resident.
- Must possess adequate skills in the language(s) necessary to carry out the dissertation.
- Average Fellowship Award: \$40,000 (Estimates of 142 students selected)

### Spencer Dissertation Fellowship

- The Spencer Foundation was established by Lyle M. Spencer, a graduate student in sociology at the University of Chicago in 1938.
- This program supports individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world.
- Approximately 600 applications are received and 20 are awarded.
- Applicants need not be citizens of the U.S.
- Fellows receive \$25,000
- Due date: October 21, 2009

### Bureau of Educational Research Endowment Traditional Dissertation Support Award

- Applicants must be candidates for the doctoral degree in the College of Education, must be full-time in a graduate program.
- Applicants must document that they will have completed all pre-dissertation requirements.
- Preference will be given to students who have passed their Preliminary Oral Exam.
- Recipients can receive a maximum of \$2,000.

### Organizing Your Application

- Carefully read program announcements
- Give yourself enough time to write your proposal
- Create a timeline
- Maintain your professional profile, abstract, and personal statement current
- Tailor your profile specifically to each organization
- Allow six weeks for letters of recommendation

### Be Strategic Identify Research Project

- Create your Professional Profile.
- Consider program timelines and cycles (Annual competition, Fall & Spring Deadlines).
- Allow three months to develop an application package.
- Expect to wait 6-12 months before you receive funding.

### Search Funding Resources

- Check your e-mail periodically for funding announcements from ROO.
- Ask your advisor & other faculty in your department and/or discipline area about different opportunities.
- Search The Graduate Student Fellowships Database.
- Become a member of professional organizations in your field (e.g., AERA, ASHE).

## Submitting

- Following submission rules is VERY IMPORTANT!
- There is a difference between INDIVIDUAL and INSTITUTIONAL submissions. Proposals that must be submitted by the university will take more time and there are usually changes and requests for clarification.
- IRB human subjects approval (may be required).
- Be prepared for LAST minute changes!

## After Submitting

- Patience is necessary, but KNOW the notification date!
- Notifications can take from 30 days to over 3 months.
- If funding comes through from one competition while you are waiting to hear from another, speak with your advisor about proper protocol for declining an award or potential for conflict.

## Bureau Funding Resources

For additional links of funding resources

[http://education.illinois.edu/ber/fundingresources.html#Bureau\\_Resources](http://education.illinois.edu/ber/fundingresources.html#Bureau_Resources)

## Graduate Student Funding Databases

- **BER Dissertation Funding Database**
  - Under Construction
  - Educational & General Focus
  - Research, Awards, & Travel
- **Graduate College Fellowship Opportunities**
- <https://www.grad.uiuc.edu/fellowship/>

## Federal Agencies

- **Student Gateway to the US Government**
  - <http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/index.jsp>
- **Grants.gov**
  - [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/find\\_grant\\_opportunities.jsr](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsr)
- **US Department of Education**
  - <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>
- **National Science Foundation**
  - <http://www.nsf.gov/>
- **National Institutes of Health**
  - <http://www.nih.gov/>

## *Tackling the Dissertation: I Did It, and So Can You*

Dr. Lori Rodriguez

- Ph.D. in English with a specialization in Latina/o literature from the University of Texas at San Antonio.
- 2007 Ford Foundation Dissertation Diversity Fellow.