

Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley
Strategic Working Group-Stage 2, 2013-14

Call for Applications
for faculty participation in the Strategic Working Group on
Law and Humanities

Spring 2014

The Townsend Center's Strategic Working Group program (SWG), generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is designed to concentrate on foundational questions and emerging conditions in the humanities. The Townsend Center is accepting faculty applications for participation in the 2013-14 Strategic Working Group on **Law and Humanities**. The co-conveners of the SWG will be Marianne Constable (Rhetoric), Leti Volpp (Boalt School of Law).

Law and Humanities

The Law and Humanities Strategic Working Group seeks to explore what is at stake in the directions that United States legal scholarship has taken in recent decades, as it has moved away from its historical roots in the humanities and soft social sciences to seek validation in quantification. Our project here is concerned with the formation of the discipline of law in its broadest sense. We wish to interrogate not only the texts but also the media and contexts, institutional and social, through which law has become the domain of practice and knowledge that it is; we will also consider the role that the humanities might play in contemporary law and policy.

Justice has long been a subject of inquiry for texts in the fields of philosophy, political theory, history and literature. These texts have taken law to be a site of justice or, at least as a site in which issues of justice can be addressed. Jurisprudence and social theory have offered a range of answers to the questions of who we are, what to do, and how we know. Today, law schools turn increasingly to the quantitative social sciences and to economics to address social problems. Such approaches address longstanding questions in ways that rely primarily on methods and frameworks that tacitly foreclose particular sorts of answers. The rise of law and economics, combined with the marginalization of critical studies and critical theory, means that even socio-legal studies has been increasingly pulled toward the methodological requirements and outcomes of quantitative and statistical research. The relation of law as policy-making to traditional humanistic accounts of justice becomes a pressing issue, even as the relevance of the humanities and of humanistic studies to professional legal study has been called into question.

Themes and topics will depend in part on the interests and expertise of group members, but will include: the ways in which law has considered particular fields and approaches important to it; how questions of obligation, membership, and language have been understood within particular legal traditions and are currently operationalized in law and policy studies; and what humanistic approaches and emphases have to say about these questions. Our own focus has primarily been on United States law, but we welcome those with other related regional, comparative or international law interests.

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Co-conveners

Marianne Constable is Professor and Chair of the Rhetoric Department and holds the Zaffaroni Family Chair in Undergraduate Education. She is the author of *The Law of the Other: Changing Conceptions of Citizenship, Law, and Knowledge* (Chicago 1994); *Just Silences: The Limits and Possibilities of Modern Law* (Princeton 2004); and *Our Word is Our Bond: How Legal Speech Acts* (forthcoming).

Leti Volpp is Professor in the Law School. She is the co-editor (with Mary Dudziak) of *Legal Borderlands: Law and the Construction of American Borders* (Johns Hopkins, 2006), as well as the editor of *Denaturalizing Citizenship, Issues in Legal Scholarship* (2011), and the author of many articles examining how law attends to the relationship between culture, citizenship, migration and identity.

Eligibility

All ladder-rank faculty at UC Berkeley are eligible to apply.

Up to five additional faculty participants will be chosen based on their intellectual strength, their ability to contribute openly to a collaborative process, their representation of different relevant disciplines, and their commitment to the program's intellectual goals. The Townsend Center encourages the inclusion of one or more non-humanities faculty among the participants in the group.

Application Deadline

Thursday, March 1, 2013 – received by 5:00 p.m.

Grant Provision

The SWG will meet once a week during the spring 2014 semester. Participants will receive a 50% research leave from teaching responsibilities for the spring semester (one course). The level of course replacement funding is set at the Assistant Professor level, Step 2, as determined by the Arts and Humanities Dean's Office. Detailed information on the Townsend Center course replacement funds policy can be found on the Townsend Center's website.

For questions about the program, please contact Scott Roberts, Fellowships Administrator at: townsend_fellowships@berkeley.edu or 510-643-8082.

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Application Guidelines

Please compile the following:

- A letter of application explaining how this topic relates to your past and/or expected future teaching and research and what you expect to contribute to the group.
- An updated curriculum vitae.
- A letter of support from your department chair.

All applicants are expected to have secured the endorsement of the department chair regarding their planned course release.

Submission Guidelines

The Townsend Center encourages all applications to be sent electronically. Letters of support, sent under a separate cover, may be submitted by email or paper copy.

Email submissions: Please create one Word or PDF document that contains all of the materials stipulated above (excluding the letters of reference). When you save the file, please include your last name, first initial, and "SWG2013-14" in the filename, separated by periods or underscores, such as:

Smith_J_SWG2013-14.pdf

Send the file as an attachment in an email to ***townsend_applications@berkeley.edu***. We will confirm the receipt of your materials within two business days. If you do not hear from us, please try sending another email to confirm receipt of your application.

Paper Submissions: Pages should be single-sided and should be collated in the order listed above into one paper-clipped packet. Please mail or hand-deliver applications to:

Scott Roberts, Fellowships Administrator
Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley
220 Stephens Hall #2340
Berkeley, CA 94720-2340
Phone: 510-643-8082

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STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP: STAGE 2 PARTICIPANT COVER SHEET

Title of Strategic Working Group: **Law and Humanities**

Participant Information

Name:

Department(s):

Mailing Address and Mailcode:

Email Address:

Phone:

MSO Name:

MSO Email Address:

MSO Phone:

MSO-provided Department Chartstring (for award transfer)

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****Department Chair Signature:**

Date:

Letter attached

***PLEASE NOTE: Participation requires letter of approval and signature from your department chair.*