THE JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLARS
IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

THE MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLARS
IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

THE PROGRAM
2019-2020
OVERVIEW
Launching a new generation of Inequality scholars

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Top-end income inequality and wealth concentration
Inequality and opportunity
Cross-cutting dimensions of inequality
Poverty and Justice

PROGRAM COMPONENTS
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James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholars in Inequality and Wealth Concentration
Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholars in Poverty and Justice

APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY
A NEW GENERATION OF INEQUALITY SCHOLARS

The Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy is pleased to announce exceptional fellowship opportunities for Harvard University PhD students in the social sciences.

We are now accepting applications for our 2019-2020 cohort of doctoral fellows:

**The James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholars in Inequality and Wealth Concentration**

**The Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholars in Poverty and Justice**

**THE STONE PHD SCHOLARS.** A gift from the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation in 2016 created eight new fellowships each year for doctoral students pursuing research on issues of inequality and wealth concentration.

The Stone PhD Scholar fellowships are especially intended to catalyze exploratory work on the sizable gains accruing at the top of the distribution and the broader implications of these trends. What are the consequences—for economic growth, intergenerational mobility, political and social inequalities, and the design of policy—when a country’s income and wealth are tightly concentrated at the top? How might institutions and policies be designed to reduce these forms of inequality or lessen their adverse effects?

**THE WIENER PHD SCHOLARS.** Alongside the Stone PhD Scholars, we continue to build a group of Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholars in Poverty and Justice. Two additional doctoral fellowships each year are designated for PhD students whose research tackles problems of disadvantage and criminal justice.

It is significant that James and Cathleen Stone and Malcolm Hewitt Wiener have chosen to invest in PhD students. At a time of growing public concern about inequality, disparities in life chances, and the implications of enormous wealth concentration, social science research can bring deep and rigorous scholarship to bear in analyzing these issues. It is the choices made now, the problems young scholars choose to pursue, that will shape the research agenda and our progress on these issues in the coming years.

This enterprise builds on a model of multidisciplinary collaboration in the social sciences at Harvard originally developed with the National Science Foundation. The Inequality & Social Policy program is motivated by the idea that by creating an environment rich in opportunities for PhD students across disciplines to confront new perspectives, engage and learn from each other, and push outside their comfort zones, remarkable things can happen.

A distinctive new focus for the coming years is a coordinated endeavor to develop new avenues of research on top-end income inequality and wealth concentration, the main drivers of economic inequality in the United States and other countries in recent decades.

What are the factors propelling soaring income and wealth at the top of the distribution? What are the economic, political, and social implications of different configurations
of inequality? What is the appropriate framework for thinking about policies to address wealth concentration? Research has only begun to investigate these questions.

1. NEW LINES OF RESEARCH: TOP-END INCOME INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

To stimulate new lines of research, half of the 8-10 Stone PhD Scholar fellowships in Inequality and Wealth Concentration are specifically designated for Harvard PhD students whose research interests encompass questions pertaining to top-end income inequality or wealth concentration: their causes, consequences, and institutions and policies to address these developments. The remaining Stone PhD Scholar fellowships are open with respect to substantive focus within any of the Inequality & Social Policy research domains.

Much research on economic inequality is has focused on important issues of reducing disparities between the bottom and middle of the distribution. Yet overall economic inequality in the U.S. has been propelled largely by growth at the very top, with implications that research has only begun to explore.

Trends at the top may reflect different determinants than inequality in other parts of the distribution. The pulling away of top incomes and wealth may have distinct consequences for economic growth, intergenerational mobility, public spending, or democratic politics. Policies aimed at addressing the sources or implications of inequality at the upper reaches of the distribution will likely differ from those designed to narrow gaps in the bottom half of the distribution. Progress is apt to come from bringing greater analytic clarity to these “distinct, albeit interrelated challenges” of inequality.1

Magnitudes and trends in wealth inequality are even more striking than income inequality, although measurement presents significant challenges and remains an important area of investigation. Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman find that most of the increase in U.S. wealth concentration in recent decades is driven by the top 0.1 percent, whose wealth share has grown from 7% in 1978 to 22% in 2012, comparable to levels seen in the early 20th century. At the same time, the bottom 90 percent wealth share has sharply reversed its historical upward trend, made possible by growing middle class wealth from pensions and homeownership through much of the mid-20th century.2

The scale of these developments invites more systematic inquiry, including historical and cross-national perspectives. Does it matter that the gains of economic prosperity largely accrue to small share of households, or that historical patterns in wealth-building have again become more concentrated? What consequences do trends at the upper reaches of the distribution have on outcomes for others in the larger economy and society—e.g., through their potential effects on economic growth, upward mobility and life prospects for the next generation, or the concentration of economic and political power?

2. AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

The Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy offers unparalleled resources for Harvard PhD students working in these areas. Faculty from across the university participate in the program, drawn from the departments of Economics, Government, and Sociology; Harvard Kennedy School; Harvard Business School; Harvard Graduate School

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1 Summers, Kearney, and Hershbein 2015
2 Saez and Zucman 2016. See also World Inequality Report 2018

Participating faculty bring a wide range of interests in income and wealth inequality, racial wealth gaps, intergenerational mobility, labor markets and human capital investment, government management of private-sector risks, regulation and government accountability; behavioral science in the design of social policy, neighborhoods and urban poverty, families and children, racial disparities and discrimination, criminal justice, civil rights, and politics.

PhD students are part of an active research community in Inequality & Social Policy, gaining opportunities they might not otherwise have to interact and learn from each other, from Harvard faculty drawn from across the university, and from the program’s network of Stone Senior Scholars and visitors.

The PhD Scholars join an accomplished line of nearly 200 Alumni who have come through the Inequality & Social Policy program since its founding in 1998, including several who now participate as faculty members. Former Inequality & Social Policy doctoral fellows are shaping the field today. They have authored some 70 books, and garnered 36 book prizes, 65 early career awards, and over 75 dissertation and article awards.

3. AN INTEGRATED LEARNING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Scholars pursue their research interests through an integrated set of program activities. The three-semester Proseminar in Inequality & Social Policy, taught by a multidisciplinary team faculty members, constitutes the core of the program. PhD students gain exposure to advanced scholarship in other fields and new insights from seeing how other disciplines approach similar research problems.

PhD Scholars also attend the weekly Inequality Seminar series, which is designed to provide exposure to some of the most exciting work at the frontiers of the social sciences.

The annual Stone Lecture in Economic Inequality and other special events offer opportunities for doctoral participants to examine the big questions, to engage in a broader conversation with national and international visitors.

4. GENEROUS DISSERTATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Inequality & Social Policy program aims to cultivate path-breaking scholarship by providing doctoral students with the intellectual and financial support to do their very best work in this area. Students selected as Stone PhD Scholars or Wiener PhD Scholars receive generous fellowships to enable their full participation in this initiative.

PhD Scholars will generally be awarded a dissertation stipend of $32,000, reserved for use at the dissertation research stage (typically G-4 year), plus $5,000 in individual research funds that may be used at any point during their doctoral studies. Additional research and conference funds may be available for those doing work on top-end inequality and wealth concentration.

The research funds are intended to enable Harvard PhD students to carry out ambitious original research where costs otherwise might be prohibitive. In making these enhanced resources available, the program aims to enable Harvard PhD students to think boldly and creatively in developing their own inequality research agenda.
RESEARCH AREAS

The program is broadly organized into four substantive areas, not mutually exclusive. The examples in each by no means exhaust the sorts of questions PhD Scholars might investigate in their own work.

Core questions in each focus on causes, consequences, and policies to address issues of inequality. Policy questions are broadly conceived to include the politics and political economy that give rise to particular institutions and policy outcomes, as well as specific policy interventions.

1. TOP-END INCOME INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

Research in this area seeks to understand the causes and consequences of growing income inequality and wealth inequality driven by trends at the top of the distribution, particularly the gains of the top 1 percent.

Accounting for top-end income growth recognizes both labor market explanations and the growing role of capital income in the rise of top incomes in the U.S. since the late 1990s. To what extent do changes in technology, the supply and demand for education and skills, and globalization explain the rise of the 1 percent? What is the role of CEO pay and executive compensation? How much income inequality is driven by pay dispersion within versus across firms? What explains cross-national differences?

The magnitude of gains at the top invites empirical examination of its systemic consequences—its economic, political, and social effects for those at other strata in the distribution. What is the effect of top-end inequality on economic growth? What are the mechanisms by which it motivates or impedes innovation? Does top-end inequality induce “consumption cascades,” consumption choices that ripple down the distribution? Do these consumption choices in turn increase the odds of financial distress?1

Wealth concentration. A priority of the Stone PhD scholarships is to spur new research on high levels of wealth concentration. Income and wealth inequality are closely linked, but wealth will also reflect differences in savings rates, rates of return, and inherited wealth.

What are the effects of a pulling away of top incomes on social stratification and affinity? How does it affect willingness to invest in public goods? How does growing income inequality at the top affect the distribution of political preferences and political participation? Does economic inequality at the top drive political polarization and government gridlock?

What are the sources and consequences of even greater levels of concentration at the top of the wealth distribution? How did the Great Recession affect wealth distribution? How rigid is the wealth structure, and to what extent is wealth inequality maintained across generations? What is the relative importance of different channels of intergenerational wealth transmission? What are the consequences of high levels of wealth at the top for intergenerational mobility? 4

The political implications of growing wealth concentration for democracy have drawn public discussion, but empirical research on these issues has only begun to scratch the surface. Theda Skocpol and colleagues have highlighted the importance not simply of vast inflows of money into politics in recent years, but its organization and strategic deployment through wealthy donor networks. How have these developments affected the political parties, their strategies, and policy outcomes? 5

What tax and regulatory policies can address top-end inequality and wealth concentration? What are the political and economic interests that have shaped the institutions and regulatory frameworks governing financial markets, intellectual property rights, housing markets, antitrust and labor law, or bankruptcy law? How does capital mobility affect optimal tax policy? What policies can increase middle class savings and asset-building across the distribution?

2. INEQUALITIES AND OPPORTUNITY

Research explores inequalities as they manifest themselves in specific domains, including their effects on opportunity. Here cross-national comparisons can help disentangle

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1 Bertrand and Morse 2016; Frank 2011.


5 Research on the Shifting U.S. Political Terrain (web)
potential explanations and bring into sharper relief the political underpinnings of different national responses to inequality and mobility.

INEQUALITIES

Political inequalities. What are the sources of inequality in political engagement, participation, and representation? How are economic and social inequalities related to issues of civic trust, democratic governance, and accountability?

Labor markets. How have skill-biased technological changes, changing demographics, globalization, and declining unionization, and government policies such as the minimum wage affected wage dispersion? What explains the gender wage gap? How can firms foster diversity?

Gender and family. To what extent do changing gender norms affect women’s participation in household and labor market activities? How does changing family structure shape patterns of poverty and the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage? How have changes in economic opportunity and insecurity affected family formation and stability?

Educational inequalities. Most explanations of rising inequality focus attention on formal education at all levels as the most powerful mobility device. How might disparities in access and school quality be narrowed?

Environmental inequalities. Those living in poor neighborhoods are particularly likely to be exposed to environmental toxins. What are the economic, political, and social sources of these disparities, and what are the long-term developmental and societal consequences?

OPPORTUNITY AND INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY. To what extent do the circumstances in which a child is born determine life outcomes? Work in this area concerns both socioeconomic mobility over the life course and intergenerational mobility.

How does intergenerational mobility vary over time and cross-nationally? Are income or wealth inequality causally related to socioeconomic mobility, or are they best viewed as distinct phenomena? What are the mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of advantage, and how might these differ at different points in the income distribution?

Research has shown that gaps contributing to later educational achievement emerge quite early in childhood, with enduring consequences for later life chances. How can we narrow opportunity gaps for low-income children?

3. CROSS-CUTTING DIMENSIONS: RACE AND PLACE

Research here seeks to understand cross-cutting dimensions of inequality—disparities not simply reducible to income inequality. How do race and place continue to shape the lives and life chances of individuals?

RACE. The nature of poverty, labor force participation, socioeconomic mobility, health, and wealth all exhibit enduring differences by race. Research has shown that black families live in poorer neighborhoods than white families at similar incomes. Sixty percent of African-Americans who live in today’s poorest, most racially-segregated neighborhoods are from families who lived in similar neighborhoods three decades ago. Evidence suggests that black children raised in middle-income families fall out of the middle class at higher rates than white children in adulthood.

Black joblessness remains higher than that of whites, with no appreciable narrowing of this gap over more than four decades. Black unemployment remains higher at all education levels. African-Americans exhibit premature aging on a variety of health measures and shorter life expectancies than whites, health disparities that are present at all income and education levels. Racial wealth gaps are large and growing: Average family wealth for whites in 2013 was $678,000, compared to $95,000 for black families.

What are the social and institutional structures that contribute to persistent disparities in outcomes by race? What role do bias and discrimination play? How can social policy work to reduce racial disparities in access to opportunity and in the distribution of resources? How does the politics of race influence social policy?

PLACE. Research in sociology and economics suggests that one’s neighborhood shapes individual outcomes and upward mobility later in life. Research in political geography by political scientists highlights the ways in which spatial features shape political processes and policy outcomes.

What are the mechanisms of neighborhood environment that shape opportunity and life outcomes? What are the implications for policy aimed at improving opportunity for

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6 Reardon, Fox, and Townsend 2015.
7 Sharkey 2013.
8 Brown 2016.
9 Williamson 2016.
those living in distressed neighborhoods? What is the role for moving-to-opportunity programs, investments in schools, or investment in neighborhoods?

In the context of growing income and wealth concentration, how does the geography of inequality and economic segregation affect social interactions and individual outcomes? What are the consequences of growing economic segregation for the supply and distribution of local public goods? How does political geography influence the mobilization and representation of political interests? How does political geography shape capacities to address local social problems?

Declining geographic mobility and labor market fluidity in the US over the past three decades has been identified as a potential contributor to income inequality.10 What are the sources of changes in geographic mobility and labor market fluidity? What role do housing markets and land-use regulation play?

4. POVERTY AND JUSTICE

POVERTY. Research here focuses on the experience of poverty and economic insecurity for individuals and families. What are the causes of persistent poverty? What are the main sources of economic insecurity? What effects do economic shocks have long-term socioeconomic mobility?

What are effective social policies to alleviate material hardship and foster durable mobility out of poverty? What can be done to tackle joblessness and boost earnings among the lowest-paid workers? What has been the impact of the Earned Income Tax Credit, education and workforce training, housing policies, and pay for performance (social impact bonds) as models for tackling problems of economic insecurity and disadvantage?

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. After forty years of growth in the scale of criminal punishment, the United States has built a massive penal system unparalleled in the world, incarcerating whole segments of America’s poor and minority communities.11 What is the effect of the criminal justice system on the families of the incarcerated, victims of crime and violence, and communities now saturated with criminal justice supervision?

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11 Western 2015
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. PROSEMINAR SEQUENCE AND RESEARCH

The three-semester Proseminar in Inequality & Social Policy course sequence serves as the central vehicle for bringing Inequality doctoral fellows from different disciplines together in an intensive and sustained multidisciplinary learning experience.

Students also focus in the first year of the proseminar on the development of a major piece of publishable research. Students receive extensive feedback on this research over the course of this year. Taught by a team of faculty members drawn from the disciplines of economics, political science, and sociology, Proseminar I and II will meet on Wednesdays, 3-5 pm, in both the fall and spring terms.

Proseminar III, taken in the fall of the following year (Mondays, 1:30-3:30 pm), is a research workshop dedicated to the presentation and advancement to publication of this research paper. Each student is paired with an invited academic speaker from the Harvard Inequality & Social Policy Seminar Series, who attends the proseminar class and serves as principal discussant for the student paper.

The participation of these faculty visitors, selected by the students themselves, affords a rare opportunity for doctoral participants to engage in an extended discussion of their own research with leading scholars in their fields.

2. HARVARD INEQUALITY & SOCIAL POLICY SEMINAR SERIES

Stone and Wiener PhD Scholars also attend and participate in the Harvard Inequality & Social Policy Seminar Series, a multidisciplinary seminar that brings in national scholars and Harvard faculty to discuss their latest research.

Meeting weekly over lunch on Mondays from 12:00-1:30 pm, the seminar exposes participants to critical new ideas and research findings from economics, political science, sociology, and neighboring social science fields.
3. THE STONE LECTURE IN INEQUALITY AND EVENTS

The annual Stone Lecture in Economic Inequality and other special events bring together the Harvard community for a larger discussion of big ideas.


Harvard faculty participants shared the stage in an earlier Stone PhD Scholars agenda-setting event, *Ten Big Ideas in the Study of Inequality*. This forum set out to identify the big and important questions in the field as a catalyst for further discussion and research, particularly in the area of top-end inequality and wealth concentration.
4. ENGAGE WITH THE STONE SENIOR SCHOLARS

The PhD Scholars will have opportunities to engage with the Stone Senior Scholars, a group of national faculty affiliates from across the country who bring distinctive insights and perspective from their own work in this area.

The Stone Senior Scholars will be invited to campus from time to time to participate in program events.

DARON ACEOGLU
Economics, MIT

DAVID AUTOR
Economics, MIT

MARIANNE BERTRAND
The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

JANET C. GORNICK
Political Science and Sociology, The Graduate Center, CUNY
Director, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality and the US Office of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)

DAVID B. GRUSKY
Sociology, Stanford University
Director, Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality

ANNETTE LAREAU
Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

MELVIN L. OLIVER
Sociologist and President, Pitzer College

PAUL PIERSON
Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

EMMANUEL SAEZ
Economics, University of California, Berkeley
Director, Center for Equitable Growth

RACHEL SHERMAN
Sociology, The New School

GABRIEL ZUCMAN
Economics, University of California, Berkeley
Co-Director, World Inequality Lab (WID.world)
NICHOLAS CARNES, Creed C. Black Associate Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, Duke University
The Cash Ceiling: Why Only the Rich Run for Office—and What We Can Do About It

MARK DUGGAN, Wayne and Jodi Cooperman Professor of Economics, Stanford University
When Labor’s Lost: Health, Family Life, Incarceration, & Education in a Time of Declining Economic Opportunity for Men

JANET CURRIE, Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University
Violence While in Utero: The Impact of Assaults During Pregnancy on Birth Outcomes

EMILIO J. CASTILLA, NTU Professor of Management, MIT Sloan School of Management
Language and Gender in the Online Recruitment Process

BETSEY STEVENSON, Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan
Does Inequality Reduce Subjective Well-Being?

JAMES ELLIOTT, Professor of Sociology, Rice University
Damages Done: The Longitudinal Impacts of Natural Hazards on Wealth Inequality in the United States

KIRABO JACKSON, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, Northwestern University (joint PIER Seminar)
Reducing Inequality Through Dynamic Complementarity: Evidence from Head Start and Public School Spending

SUZANNE METTLER, The John L. Senior Professor of American Institutions, Cornell University
The Government-Citizen Disconnect

MICHAEL BURAWOY, Professor of Sociology, University of California at Berkeley
Public Sociology in the Era of Trump

VESLA M. WEAVER, Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Johns Hopkins Portals to Politics: Grassroots Narratives of Policing in Race-Class Subjugated Communities

WILL S. DOBBIE, Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University
The Intergenerational Effects of Parental Incarceration

SEEMA JAYACHANDRAN, Professor of Economics, Northwestern University
The Effects of Attending Kindergarten on Child Development in Rural India

HILARY HOYNES, Professor of Public Policy and Economics and Haas Distinguished Chair in Economic Disparities, University of California, Berkeley
Is the Social Safety Net a Long-Term Investment? Large-Scale Evidence from the Food Stamps Program
FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The Inequality & Social Policy program aims to select 8-10 James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholars in Inequality and Wealth Concentration and two Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholars in Poverty and Justice.

Applicants should note that half of the Stone PhD Scholar fellowships are specifically designated for Harvard PhD students who will pursue research on top-end income inequality or wealth concentration. The purpose of these fellowships is to spur academic work on the implications of these trends at the top of the distribution.

The remaining Stone PhD Scholar fellowships are open with respect to focus within the Inequality & Social Policy program’s areas of interest. Applicants will be automatically considered for all applicable fellowships.

The selection committee may take into account existing resources in those cases where students already hold outside multi-year fellowships that effectively ensure five or more years of full stipend coverage (e.g., NSF, Soros, Ford Foundation). In these circumstances, PhD Scholars are generally awarded a more flexible individual research fund of $12,000 to $18,000 to directly support their academic work, rather than a dissertation-stage stipend.

THE PHD SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIPS

(i) A dissertation-stage stipend of $32,000, reserved for use at the dissertation stage (generally G-4 year) so that PhD Scholars may focus exclusively on their own dissertation research and writing.

(ii) Individual research fund of $5,000, which may be used at any time during the Scholar’s doctoral studies. These resources are intended to spur innovative student research where costs might otherwise be prohibitive.

These are meant to support field research and in-depth interviews, original data collection, data purchases, field or laboratory experiments, large-scale surveys, and similar research needs.

(iii) Supplemental Stone research and travel funds may be available for research and conference travel that contributes to the development of research on top-end inequality or wealth concentration.

FELLOWSHIP TERMS

KEY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS SUMMARIZED

Those selected for the PhD Scholar fellowships are expected, under the terms of these awards, to:

1. Enroll in the three-term proseminar course sequence beginning in fall 2019, culminating in the completion of an original research project and its presentation in the third-term proseminar in fall 2020.


3. Attend the annual Stone Lecture in Economic Inequality and Inequality & Social Policy special events.

4. Make full use of opportunities to engage with the Stone Senior Scholars and other Inequality & Social Policy visitors.
APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

This program is designed for Harvard doctoral students in the social sciences who are now completing their first or second year of doctoral study (G-1 or G-2).

The curriculum focuses primarily on research from the disciplines of economics, political science, sociology, and social policy. Students from Harvard’s PhD programs in African and African-American Studies, Economics, Education, Government, Health Policy, Political Economy and Government, Psychology, Public Policy, Sociology, Social Policy, or in a related doctoral program with a focus on social science research are eligible to apply.

Both U.S. and international students are fully eligible for the Inequality & Social Policy fellowship awards.

APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB
inequality.hks.harvard.edu/apply

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS VIA EMAIL (preferred)
inequality@harvard.edu

Or in hardcopy form to Pamela Metz (address next page)

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Friday, June 14, 2019 — 5 pm.