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

THE PROGRAM
2021-2022
The ISP Program 2021-2022

3 OVERVIEW
Launching a new generation of Inequality scholars

6 RESEARCH AREAS
Top-end income inequality and wealth concentration
Inequality and opportunity
Cross-cutting inequalities of race and place
Poverty and Justice

8 PROGRAM COMPONENTS
Proseminar sequence
Inequality Seminar
The Stone Lecture and events
The Stone Senior Scholars

16 FELLOWSHIP AWARDS AND TERMS
James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholars in Inequality and Wealth Concentration

17 APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL
Marcella Alsan
Desmond Ang
Deirdre Bloome
Michela Carlana
Amitabh Chandra
David J. Deming
Justin de Benedictis-Kessner
Will S. Dobbie
Ronald F. Ferguson
Archon Fung
Jason Furman
Gordon Hanson
Alexander Keyssar
Jennifer S. Lerner
Jeffrey B. Liebman
Quinton Mayne
Khalil Gibran Muhammad
Dani Rodrik
Todd Rogers
Benjamin Schneer
Daniel Schneider
Mark Shepard
Sandra Susan Smith
Julie Boatright Wilson

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL
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Michael Luca
David A. Moss
Michael I. Norton

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Peter Q. Blair
Anthony Abraham Jack
Thomas J. Kane
Jal Mehta
Martin West

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
Christine A. Desan
Nicholas Stephanopoulos
Crystal S. Yang

ECONOMICS
Raj Chetty
Karen Dynan
Xavier Gabaix
Edward L. Glaeser
Claudia Goldin
Nathaniel Hendren
Lawrence F. Katz
David Laibson
Amanda Pallais
Stefanie Stantcheva

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Danielle Allen
Daniel Carpenter
Ryan D. Enos
Claudine Gay
Peter A. Hall
Jennifer Hochschild
Torben Iversen
Paul E. Peterson
Theda Skocpol

SOCIOLOGY
Jason Beckfield
Lawrence Bobo
Mary C. Brinton
Christina Ciocca Eller
Christina J. Cross
Frank Dobbin
Alexandra Konvalinka
Michèle Lamont
Joscha Legewie
Ellis Monk
Orlando Patterson
David Pedulla
Robert J. Sampson
Mario Luis Small
Adaner Usmani
Mary C. Waters
Christopher Winship
Xiang Zhou

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FACULTY 2021-2022
OVERVIEW

A NEW GENERATION OF INEQUALITY SCHOLARS

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

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

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

The Stone PhD Scholar fellowships are particularly intended to catalyze exploratory work and new lines of research on the sizable gains accruing at the top of the income and wealth distributions and the broader implications of these trends.

What are the consequences — for economic growth, intergenerational mobility, political and social inequalities, and public policy—when a country’s income and wealth are tightly concentrated at the top? How can institutions and policies be designed to reduce these forms of inequality or lessen their adverse effects? Research has only begun to investigate the implications of vast wealth concentration at the top and the ways in which this may shape or constrain economic and social policy.

It is significant that James and Cathleen Stone have chosen to invest in PhD students. At a time when inequalities have been laid bare, it is critically important that students in the next generation have chosen to apply themselves to urgent social problems.

New approaches and big ideas are needed more than ever. Against a preexisting backdrop of unequal opportunity, racism and injustice, and enormous wealth concentration, the pandemic has starkly demonstrated how socioeconomic and racial and ethnic disparities translate into a profoundly unequal toll—in deaths and illness from COVID-19, in job losses, in economic precarity, in housing and food insecurity.

The tangled roots of inequality suggest the importance of recognizing the relationships between them and the ways in which these call for new solutions. It is the choices made now, the problems the next generation of scholars chooses 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 originally developed with the National Science Foundation. The Inequality & Social Policy program is motivated by the idea that creating opportunities for PhD students across disciplines to confront new perspectives and to engage and learn from each other will generate new insights and powerful research.

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

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

Why top-end? Much research 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 in income and wealth at the very top. Should we worry that the gains of economic prosperity largely accrue to a small share of households, or how losses are distributed when recessions hit?

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

Wealth inequalities are especially vast, wealth that provides greater economic security and protection from downward mobility in the next generation. 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, comparable to levels seen in the early 20th century. At the same time, the bottom 90% 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 Families in the top 10% of the U.S. distribution had fully recovered or surpassed pre-Great Recession wealth levels by 2016. Most others had not. In 2016 the black-white wealth gap was larger than at any point in the preceding three decades.³

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 in the next generation, or on the concentration of economic and political power? How has extreme wealth concentration accelerated or contributed to racial wealth inequalities?

2. AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

The Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy offers unique 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 of Education, and Harvard Law School.

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

PhD students are part of an active research community in Inequality & Social Policy, gaining opportunities they might

1 Summers Kearney, and Hershbein 2015
2 Saez and Zucman 2016. See also World Inequality Report 2018
3 For visualization, see Nine Charts About Wealth Inequality in America, Urban Institute (updated 2017).
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 a group of over 235 Alumni who have come through the Inequality & Social Policy program since its founding in 1998, including eight who now participate as faculty members.

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 of 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 participate in the weekly Inequality Seminar series, designed to expose participants 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 additional opportunities for doctoral participants to examine the big questions, to engage in a broader conversation with national and international visitors.

4. DISSERTATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Inequality & Social Policy program aims to cultivate pathbreaking 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 Scholar receive generous dissertation support to enable their full participation in this initiative. With these resources, the program aims to enable Harvard PhD students to think boldly and creatively in developing their own inequality research agendas.
RESEARCH AREAS

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

Potential questions in each include causes, consequences, and institutions and policies to address forms 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

What are the causes of growing concentration at the top of the wealth distribution? How rigid is the wealth structure, and how can we better understand how wealth inequality has corresponded with historical racial inequality? What are the economic, legal, and policy institutions that shape the distribution of wealth?

What are the consequences of high levels of wealth at the top for intergenerational mobility? What is the relative importance of different channels of intergenerational wealth transmission? What are the effects of a pulling away of top incomes on social stratification and affinity? How does wealth concentration affect political representation?

What are the political and economic interests that have shaped the institutions and regulatory frameworks affecting the wealth distribution: financial markets, housing markets, antitrust and labor law, intellectual property rights, and bankruptcy law? What tax and regulatory policies can address top-end inequality and wealth concentration?

2. INEQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY

Research here examines inequalities as they manifest themselves in specific domains and affect opportunity.

Political inequalities. What are the sources of inequality in political engagement, participation, and representation?

Labor markets. How have skill-biased technological change, changing demographics, globalization, declining unionization and labor power, and policies such as the minimum wage affected income inequality? What explains the gender wage gap? How can firms and institutions increase diversity?

Gender and family. How does marriage and parenthood affect wages? How have changes in economic opportunity and insecurity affected families and children?

Educational inequalities. How can disparities in access, school quality, and resources be narrowed? How will the COVID-19 pandemic affect educational inequalities?

Environmental inequalities. Those living in poor neighborhoods are most apt 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. 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. What are the mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of advantage, and how might these differ at different points in the income distribution? How can we narrow opportunity gaps for low-income children?

3. CROSS-CUTTING INEQUALITIES OF RACE AND PLACE

Research here focuses on cross-cutting dimensions of inequality — disparities not simply reducible to income inequality.

RACE. The nature of poverty, labor force participation, socioeconomic mobility, health, and wealth all exhibit enduring disparities by race. African-Americans experience worse health and shorter life expectancies than whites, health disparities that are present at all income and education levels.4 Racial wealth gaps are vast: White families hold nearly seven times the wealth of black families, an order of magnitude that has barely budged over five decades.5

What are the social and institutional structures that contribute to persistent racial inequalities? How do racial discrimination and bias operate in different domains? How do America’s long history of racism and the politics of race shape social

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4 David R. Williams 2016.  
policy institutions and responses? What institutional reforms and policies are needed to produce sustained gains in racial equality? How can we better understand the insidious effects of racism and discrimination on individuals? How do civil rights movements and protests change people’s attitudes on race-related policy questions?

PLACE. Research in sociology and economics suggests that one’s neighborhood shapes individual outcomes and upward mobility later in life. Research in political geography highlights the ways in which spatial features shape political processes and policy outcomes. What are the mechanisms by which neighborhoods shape outcomes? What are the implications for policies to improve opportunity?

In the context of growing income and wealth concentration, how does the geography of inequality and economic and racial segregation affect social interactions and individual outcomes? How does political geography influence the mobilization and representation of political interests? How does political geography shape capacities to address local social problems?

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 boost earnings among the lowest-paid workers? How and why do these concerns vary across racial and ethnic groups, and what role does structural racism play?

JUSTICE. After forty years of growth in the scale of criminal punishment, the United States has built a massive penal system, incarcerating whole segments of America’s poor and minority communities. Policing has grown sharply—a “dramatic shift in policing that expanded, deepened, and routinized police involvement in the daily lives of race-class subjugated communities—in their schools, their streets, their homes, and beyond.”

How are racial and economic inequalities reflected in the criminal justice system—in unequal treatment at the hands of police, in prosecution, sentencing, and incarceration? What are the consequences of America’s expansive system of policing and criminal justice for those caught in its net, for families, neighborhoods and communities? To what extent is the criminal justice system itself a source of inequality, reinforcing or exacerbating existing racial and socioeconomic inequalities?

What institutional changes and policies would help bring an end to problems of racism and violence in policing, reduce racial bias in the court system, and improve social and economic outcomes for justice-involved individuals? How can social mobilization around race and policing change public opinion or criminal justice policy.

6 Western 2015
7 Soss and Weaver 2017

Top (clockwise from upper right) - Robert Sampson, Quinton Mayne, Lawrence Bobo, Ira Katznelson and Theda Skocpol, Mary Brinton, Joscha Legewie, Benjamin Schneer, Jason Beckfield, Xiang Zhou, Nicholas Stephanopoulos.

Bottom (clockwise from upper right) - Jennifer Lerner, Thomas Kane, Martin West, Christina Ciocca Eller, Todd Rogers, Ronald Ferguson, Mark Shepard, and Christina Cross.
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. PROSEMINAR SEQUENCE AND RESEARCH

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

Proseminar I and II (to be taken in 2021-2022) will be taught by a team of four faculty members. Both Proseminar I and II are tentatively scheduled to meet Wednesdays, 3-5 pm. Over the course this first year, students work on the development of a substantial research project.

The resulting research paper serves as the focus of the Proseminar III workshop (to be taken in fall 2022), which is dedicated to the presentation and advancement to publication of this research. Each student is paired with an invited speaker from the Harvard Inequality & Social Policy Seminar Series, who attends the proseminar class and serves as principal discussant for the student paper.

The Proseminar III workshop meets on Mondays 1:30-3:30 pm, immediately following the Inequality & Social Policy Seminar Series.

The participation of these faculty visitors, selected by the students themselves, affords a unique 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

The Stone 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 on Mondays from 12:15-1:30 pm, the seminar exposes participants to critical new ideas and research from economics, political science, sociology, and other 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 broader discussion of big ideas.

Stone Lectures have featured Thomas Piketty of the Paris School of Economics on *Rising Inequality and the Changing Structure of Political Conflict* (2018), and Emmanuel Saez of UC Berkeley on his new book, co-authored by Gabriel Zucman, *The Triumph of Injustice* (2019).

Other events have included *Ten Big Ideas in the Inequality*, an agenda-setting event designed to identify a few of the big questions in the field as a catalyst for further discussion and research, *New Evidence from the World Inequality Report*, a panel on *How Wealth Inequality Shapes American Democracy*, and *Strangers in Our Own Land*. 
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 ACEMOGLU
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 of the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality and the US Office of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)

DAVID B. GRUSKY
Sociology, Stanford University
Director of the 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 and Director of the Center for Equitable Growth, University of California, Berkeley

RACHEL SHERMAN
Sociology, The New School

GABRIEL ZUCMAN
Economics and Director of the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Center on Wealth and Income Inequality, UC Berkeley.
Co-Director of the World Inequality Lab and World inequality Database (WID.world)
5 BIG IDEAS IN INEQUALITY LUNCH SERIES

VIRTUAL SEMINAR | MONDAYS 12:00–1:15 PM (ET)

5 BIG IDEAS IN INEQUALITY
THIS WEEK: 6 BIG IDEAS | (1)

VIRTUAL SEMINAR | MONDAY, OCT 26, 2020 | 12:00–1:15 PM (ET)

5 BIG IDEAS IN INEQUALITY
INEQUALITY AND COVID-19 | (3)

VIRTUAL SEMINAR | MONDAY, NOV 2, 2020 | 12:00–1:15 PM (ET)

5 BIG IDEAS IN INEQUALITY
INEQUALITY AND JUSTICE | (4)

VIRTUAL SEMINAR | MONDAY, NOV 9, 2020 | 12:00–1:15 PM (ET)
INEQUALITY
Oct 26, 2020 | Week 1
David J. Deming
Jason Furman
Jennifer L. Hochschild
Kaneesha R. Johnson
Michael I. Norton
Robert J. Sampson

INEquality
Nov 2, 2020 | Week 2
Heather Boushey
Lucas Chancel
Will S. Dobbie
Nathaniel Hendren
Felix Owusu
Anna Stansbury

COVID-19
Nov 9, 2020 | Week 3
Caitlyn Collins
Bradley Hardy
Daniel Schneider
H. Luke Shaefer
Elizabeth Wrigley-Field

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Nov 16, 2020 | Week 4
Danielle Allen
Monica C. Bell
Cornell William Brooks
Sandra Susan Smith
Vesla M. Weaver

GOOD JOBS
Nov 23, 2020 | Week 5
Timothy J. Bartik
William A. Darity Jr.
Charles F. Sabel
Zeynep Ton
Dani Rodrik

RACIAL WEALTH GAP
Nov 30, 2020 | Week 6
Fenaba R. Addo
Vicki L. Bogan
William A. Darity Jr.
Stephen M. LaFata
Peter Q. Blair

INEQUALITY
Dec 7, 2020 | Week 7
Charlotte Cavaillé
Mesmin Destin
Karen Dynan
Gordon Hanson

VIEW 5 BIG IDEAS IN INEQUALITY SERIES
HARVARD INEQUALITY
SEMINAR SERIES - 2020-2021

MICHELÉ LAMONT, Sociology and African African American Studies. Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies, Harvard University
*New Engines of Hope after the American Dream: Finding Recognition in the New Gilded Age*

RICHARD ALBA, Sociology, The Graduate Center, CUNY
*The Great Demographic Illusion - How Assimilation Matters in 21st Century America*

JULIA PAYSON, Politics, New York University
*Growth at All Costs? Managerial Expertise and the Pursuit of Development Over Redistribution in U.S. Cities*

JOHANNA RICKNE, Economics, Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm University
*Sexual Harassment and Gender Inequality in the Labor Market*

LAURA K. NELSON, Sociology, Northeastern University
*Leveraging Machine Learning to Measure Intersectionality*

JOHN J. DONOHUE III, Stanford Law School
*The Impact of Legalized Abortion on Crime over the Last Two Decades*

SARA HELLER, Economics, University of Michigan
*Predicting and Preventing Gun Violence: An Experimental Evaluation of READI Chicago*

JAMILA MICCHENER, Government, Cornell University
*Uncivil Democracy: Race, Class, and Civil Legal Inequality*

KIMBERLY KAY HOANG, Sociology, University of Chicago
*Playing in the Gray - Offshoring and Foreign Investment in Frontier Markets*

EMILY RYO, Law and Sociology, University of Southern California Gould School of Law
*The Unintended Consequences of U.S. Immigration Enforcement Policies*
JULIA BURDICK-WILL, Sociology and Education, Johns Hopkins University
Student Mobility and Violent Crime Exposure at Baltimore City Public Elementary Schools

JENNIFER DOLEAC, Economics, Texas A&M University
Algorithmic Risk Assessment in the Hands of Humans

JENS LUDWIG, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago
Discrimination in the Age of Algorithms

RUCKER C. JOHNSON — PIER SEMINAR*
Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley
Children of the Dream: Why School Integration Works

The Tenuous Attachments of Working-Class Men

FREDERICK WHERRY, Sociology, Princeton University. Director of the Dignity and Debt Network.
The Hidden Costs of Debt: The Case of Student Loans

ROBERT VARGAS, Sociology, University of Chicago. Director, Violence, Law, & Politics Lab.
Redistricting and the Territorialization of Urban Space

JENNIE E. BRAND, Sociology and Statistics, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
Uncovering College Effect Heterogeneity Using Machine Learning

ROBERT E. HALL, Economics, Stanford University
The Extreme Inequality of the Burden of Unemployment, Interim Jobs, and Brief Spells Out of the Labor Force

JONATHAN RODDEN, Political Science, Stanford University
A Model of Political Demonization

AMANDA Y. AGAN, Economics, Rutgers University; Visiting Fellow, Stanford Center for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)
The Minimum Wage, EITC, and Criminal Recidivism

Postponed due to COVID-19:

SENDHIL MULLAINATHAN, Economics and Computation and Behavioral Science, University of Chicago Booth

PATRICK SHARKEY, Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University. Founder of AmericanViolence.org
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.

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 both fellowship lines.

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 partial fellowship 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) Supplemental Stone research and travel funds may be available for research and conference travel that contributes to the development and advancement of research on inequality and wealth concentration at the top of the distribution.

FELLOWSHIP TERMS

KEY PHD SCHOLAR REQUIREMENTS SUMMARIZED

1. Enroll in the three-term proseminar course sequence (beginning fall 2021 + spring 2022, and culminating in the completion of an original research project and its presentation in the third-term proseminar (fall 2022).

2. Participate in the weekly Harvard Inequality & Social Policy Seminar Series (Virtually and/or on-campus when safe to do so. Seminar Series is subject to university travel and event guidelines)

3. Attend the annual Stone Lecture in Economic Inequality and Inequality & Social Policy special events (Virtually and/or on-campus when safe to do so)

4. Make full use of opportunities to engage with the Stone Senior Scholars and other Inequality & Social Policy visitors. (When on campus programming and events resume).
APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

This program is designed for Harvard doctoral students in the social sciences who will be entering their second or third-year of doctoral study in fall 2021 (G-2 or G-3).

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
inequality@harvard.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Monday, June 14, 2021—6 pm.
Faculty recommendations due by Friday, June 18.

Cover photos by row (left to right):

(1) Daniel Schneider; Stone PhD Scholars Daniel Prinz, Kadeem Noray, and Felix Owusu; Sandra Susan Smith, and Alexandra Killewald.

(2) Michele Lamont and Peter Hall, Christopher Winship, Lawrence Katz, Mario Luis Small, and Maya Sen.

(3) Claudia Goldin, Raj Chetty.

(4) Amanda Pallais, Mary Waters, Stefanie Stantcheva, Jennifer Hochschild, David Deming, Ryan Enos, and Nathan Hendren.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN INEQUALITY & SOCIAL POLICY

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Photo by Pamela Metz