

Columbia History Department

Summer Research Fellowship 2024 Opportunities

The deadline to apply is Monday, April 8th at 5:00 PM (local time)

Please note: Students can apply for all four opportunities but can only be hired for one.

Position/Faculty member: Prof. Rebecca Kobrin (rk2351@columbia.edu)

Timeframe: July or August

Project Description:

Student Research Worker (SRW) will participate in the ongoing project to map NYC populations from 1850-1940. www.mappinghny.com. (Now working on 1940 and 1820.) The SRW will have to go to libraries and find maps and other data. Then using GIS programs, show demographic and industrial change over time. Will also digitize maps and learn other skills relevant to this resource.

This is an incredible opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about spatial history, immigration history and New York City history. The students will be guided by Prof. Kobrin and the larger Mapping Historical New York team. Research into source materials especially early settlements in Queens and Bronx. The SRW will travel to libraries throughout the city and work with a team on digitizing maps and census data. Opportunity to work on case studies (specific neighborhoods, occupations, land use).

Basic skills in GIS preferred but not required, I will train any student who is interested and has computational skills.

How to apply:

Interested students should apply through the Summer Research Application 2024 found on the History Department's Fellowship page (<https://history.columbia.edu/undergraduate/senior-thesis-2/>)

Position/Faculty member: Prof. Mark Mazower (mm2669@columbia.edu)

Timeframe: May - June

Project Description:

Professor Mazower is working on a short book on antisemitism as a historical concept.

The Student Research Worker (SRW) will identify sources and historiographic debates in specific sub-areas (i.e. ancient, medieval, early modern) assessing the state of historiography and learning to distinguish important from unimportant sources and scholarly accounts from polemics. Discussion of said topics and sources with me on a regular basis.

The work will be through the library primarily but may include contacting sources and organizations in the field for materials.

How to apply:

Interested students should apply through the Summer Research Application 2024 found on the History Department's Fellowship page (<https://history.columbia.edu/undergraduate/senior-thesis-2/>)

Position/Faculty member: Prof. Hannah Farber (haf2126@columbia.edu)

Timeframe: May - June (but flexible)

Project Description:

Professor Farber is working on a book, "Land, Debt, and Damages: Lawsuits in the Early American Republic", which will be the first survey history of civil litigation in the early United States. This summer she will focus on courts of common pleas handling land conflicts and debt litigation in Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. Future chapters will focus on US district court (emphasizing maritime issues), the South Carolina equity court (emphasizing family law), and the New York State supreme court (emphasizing conflicts among wealthy merchants).

The Student Research Worker (SRW) will continue assembling titles of printed compilations of local court proceedings, contributing to SRW's knowledge of how to navigate online historical databases and search for legal materials.

They will assemble quantitative data from the available published volumes: number of lawsuits of different kinds, terminology used, average size of lawsuit, and the like. This work will contribute to the student's knowledge of the function and terminology of the early American legal system, and of regional variations in American legal practice.

The SRW will take 1-2 brief research trips to historical societies that hold unique, non-circulating, non-ILLable volumes of local court proceedings and photograph these volumes. Possible destinations would include Philadelphia, PA; Dover, DE; Rutgers, NJ, which will be confirmed at a later date. These trips will help the SRW learn how to navigate state archives and private historical societies. This task is optional but preferred.

The SRW will help me make the bibliography of published sources available on Prof. Farber's faculty webpage. This would require some basic HTML work and would advance the student's Excel and HTML skills.

How to apply:

Interested students should apply through the Summer Research Application 2024 found on the History Department's Fellowship page (<https://history.columbia.edu/undergraduate/senior-thesis-2/>)

Position/Faculty member: Prof. Stephanie McCurry (sm4041@columbia.edu)

Timeframe: June - July (but flexible)

Project Description:

Professor McCurry is looking for a Summer Research Worker (SRW) to prepare research reports on primary source materials on the political and legal history of the radical Reconstruction period in U.S. history (1868-1876).

This research is related to a chapter in her current book project, "Under the Protection of the Law" which is about the effort to build a new political and criminal justice system in the aftermath of emancipation and black men's enfranchisement. It will focus on the new views of the public and public policy advanced in new constitutions in the southern states, and on the struggle to reform the criminal justice system at the state and local level.

This will provide SRW with hands-on experience in historical research in key primary documents of the period and with the tools required to link that to a larger argument about the reconstruction of the polity and the law.

How to apply:

Interested students should apply through the Google Form below.

<https://forms.gle/gjvx8wC3ZzPKTp328>