

Columbia History Department

Summer Research Fellowship 2026 Opportunities

The deadline to apply is Monday, April 13th, 2026 at 5:00 PM (local time)

Eligibility: sophomores and juniors who have officially declared History as their major (CC & GS only)

How to apply: Interested students should apply through the Summer Research Fellowship Program application found on our website [here](#).

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

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

Timeframe: 60 hours starting May 2026

Project Description:

Mapping Historical New York: A Digital Atlas (mappinghny.com), is a multi-year collaborative project between the History Department and the Center for Spatial Research. The project visualizes census data and shows how New York's rise as the world's most populous city in the world was a spatially contested process. The research fellow will need to know how to use ArcGIS as they are finishing up mapping census material from 1850, 1880, 1910 and 1940, when migration transformed New York City. The research fellow will need to assist with tasks spanning from help with cleaning data, remapping certain data and selected case studies that illustrate the power of spatial history.

Please note: Applicants **MUST** have knowledge of ArcGIS and provide an example of a previous written history research paper, preferably one that uses primary sources which they cite.

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

Timeframe: May - July

Project Description:

Professor McCurry is looking for a research assistant to prepare research reports on primary and secondary source materials on a well-known black journalist, Ida B. Wells, who spearheaded a campaign against lynching in the American South in the 1890s.

This research is related to a chapter of Prof. McCurry's current book project, "Memory and History" which is about the struggle to define the memory of Reconstruction and its radical programs in the aftermath of its defeat (post-1877).

Research assistant will be tasked specifically with research on Wells, on her writings and her personal papers.

Position/Faculty member: Prof. Kalyani Ramnath (kr2573@columbia.edu)

Timeframe: May - June

Project Description:

Professor Ramnath will be working on a book project about the impact of maritime boundarymaking projects in the Indian Ocean on coastal livelihoods in the 20th century.

The research fellow will be assisting with archival research such as requesting manuscripts/documents, scanning them, organizing them sharing them with Prof. Ramnath on Google Drive.

The bulk of my archival research needs to be conducted at the British Library in London.

Position/Faculty member: Prof. Camille Robcis (car2129@columbia.edu)

Timeframe: May - July

Project Description:

Professor Robcis is beginning a new project that will examine the role of gender and sexuality in the rise of the new right in the United States. The project currently looks at the Heritage Foundation and the role of conservative think tanks since the first election of Donald Trump in 2016.

The research fellow will assist Prof. Robcis in compiling an annotated bibliography of what has been published on the topic and put together a who's-who of the Heritage Foundation and other think tanks. The research assistant may also be involved in securing some of the image rights for Prof. Robcis' most recent book, *The War on Gender*.