

Ford Summer Workshop Application

(2009)

Application Deadline: May 1, 2009
Announcement of Awards: June 1, 2009

What is the Summer Workshop?

The primary component of our initiative is designed to serve students already enrolled in PhD programs for a summer workshop in research methodology. Specifically, we propose to offer courses on at least three (in Summer 2009 we aim to have 5 courses but have not yet selected topics for the remaining two) topics of particular relevance to researchers in higher education mentioned below based on faculty availability and attendee interest:

- **Multilevel models** – these statistical techniques allow for the simultaneous investigation of factors at multiple levels, such as at the student-, classroom-, and school-level. Their use is widespread in educational research and an essential tool in modeling educational outcomes.
- **Longitudinal data analysis** – these specialized techniques are useful in examining trajectories and the interplay of various features from different realms of life. They are particularly useful in the study of trajectories in higher education.
- **Missing data** – although virtually all datasets suffer from missing data problems, recent statistical advances provide “fixes” for dealing with missing data. These techniques – along with their strengths and weaknesses – will be covered.

In addition to skill-building, this summer workshop will provide a forum help to develop networks of scholars who not only will share their scholarship but also will collaborate in the future, thus further enhancing the growth and development of scholarship in the field of higher education. To help facilitate this aspect of the program, we will hold a conference for participants of the summer workshop in Fall 2009, to reconnect and to aid participants in their preparation of materials for spring education conferences. We will also invite participants back for the 2009 Summer workshop from the 2008 cohort to refresh and further enhance their quantitative training. These meetings will further encourage collaboration, exchange of ideas, and help to build the network of talented scholars we seek to achieve. We hope, particularly in the later phases of this initiative, to bring policy makers into this network through social opportunities within the workshops as well as a conference in the early spring thereby creating an outlet for the cutting edge research performed by the scholars within the program.

What does it involve and who is eligible?

The workshop will begin in mid-late July 2009 and run for approximately 10 business days. It is our goal to draw second-, third-, and fourth-year doctoral students from the nation’s top schools of education and bring them to Columbia for an intensive summer program in cutting-edge quantitative techniques. We will offer five short courses in the summer session.

Additionally, in order to encourage grant-seeking and fund additional research, we will offer five small grants designed to support collaboration in the creation of policy-relevant research papers. These five papers will then be slated to present at a working paper conference hosted at Columbia later in the academic year, as well as to be submitted for presentation at AERA in Spring 2010. These conferences will both enhance the cohort’s strength as well as provide an opportunity to invite policy makers into the research, thereby achieving the

second goal of our initiative-to provide an opportunity for policy and research in the field of higher education to work together.

Funding:

*All attendees will receive a \$500 attendance grant.

*All attendees will have the opportunity to apply for a research grant of up to \$10,000: designed to provide a stipend to scholars performing research using methodologies taught in workshops and to encourage collaboration between attendees as well as to provide financial and professional incentive for the creation of academic research focused on policy needs and goals.

*A Columbia University ID and access to course files indefinitely

*Licenses to software used on courses

Expectations of Attendees:

Attendees are expected to arrive with a specific project -ideally a dissertation. They are expected to attend a majority of the courses and engage in the community. In the interest of creating a tightly woven network of scholars they are also encouraged to develop smaller group projects throughout the workshop that would be viable for submission to academic conferences and possibly for publication.

Conference Schedule 2009 TBA
Sample Schedule From July 2008

Day and Time	Session Title	Expected Faculty Member
Monday July 21, 2008 10am – 1pm	Introductory Session: Keynote Speech	Sara Goldrick-Rab
Monday July 21, 2008 2pm-5pm	Session A: Longitudinal Data Analysis (<i>lecture</i>)	Douglas Ready
Tuesday July 22, 2008 10am – 1pm	Session A: Longitudinal Data Analysis (<i>application</i>)	Douglas Ready
Tuesday July 22, 2008 2pm-5pm	Session A: Longitudinal Data Analysis (<i>lecture</i>)	Douglas Ready
Wednesday July 23, 2008:	Optional meetings with lecturers – <i>day off</i>	
Thursday July 24, 2008 10am – 1pm	Session B: Longitudinal Data Analysis (<i>lecture</i>)	Christopher Weiss
Thursday July 24, 2008 2pm-5pm	Session B: Longitudinal Data Analysis (<i>application</i>)	Christopher Weiss
Friday July 25, 2008 10am – 1pm	Session B: Longitudinal Data Analysis (<i>lecture</i>)	Christopher Weiss
Friday July 25, 2008 1pm-2:30pm	Group Lunch	
Friday July 25, 2008 2pm – 5pm	Optional meetings with lecturers- <i>afternoon and weekend off</i>	
Monday July 28, 2008 10am – 1pm	Session C: Instrumental Variables (<i>lecture</i>)	Sean Corcoran
Monday July 28, 2008 2pm – 5pm	Session C: Instrumental Variables (<i>lecture</i>)	Sean Corcoran
Tuesday July 29, 2008 10am – 1pm	Session C: Instrumental Variables (<i>lecture</i>)	Sean Corcoran
Monday or Tuesday evening	Group Meal	

Tuesday afternoon	Closing Session	
-------------------	-----------------	--

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Two letters of evaluation
- Academic transcript
- Curriculum Vitae
- Statement of no more than three pages describing current status of doctoral level research and include projected timeline of remaining research, writing, and revision.
- Statement should also include description of past research or accomplishments in field of study.

APPLICATION

Please type or print legibly in ink. Submit completed application to the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy Office,
c/o Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences, 420 W. 118th Street, Ste 807 New York, NY 10027.

University and Department: _____
Degree Program: _____

Last (family) name First name Middle Initial Social Security Number

Sex: M F Citizenship: U.S. U.S. Permanent Resident

Current Address: Until () Permanent Address:

Telephone: _____ Telephone: _____
Fax: _____ Fax: _____
Date of Birth: _____ e-mail: _____
City/Country of Birth: _____

- Ethnicity:
- Black/African-American
 - Mexican-American
 - Native-American
 - Puerto Rican

Have you completed your MA? No Yes If yes, please indicate date _____

Please duplicate as necessary

EVALUATION LETTER

A. TO THE APPLICANT:

Please give this form to a Columbia faculty/dissertation advisor, along with an envelope marked "Evaluation Letter." Ask the sponsor to seal the letter he or she has written on your behalf in an envelope, sign across the seal, and return it to you. Do not open or break the seal. Submit the sealed envelope containing your letter of evaluation with your application package by May 1, 2009. No late submissions will be considered.

Name: Last First name Middle SSN:

Department or Program:

Name of academic sponsor:

Under the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives registered students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of evaluation. In the belief that applicants, and the persons from whom they request evaluations, may wish to preserve the confidentiality of those evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

- (1) I waive my right to examine this letter. Please check [] (your signature)
(2) I do not waive my right to examine this letter. Please check [] (your signature)

B. TO THE ACADEMIC SPONSOR:

This form is submitted to you for an opinion of the applicant's graduate work. In a separate letter, please discuss the applicant's abilities, progress, and scholarly potential. If the applicant requesting this evaluation has signed the statement (1) or has signed neither of the statements above, this letter will not be available for the applicant's examination. This form and a letter of evaluation should be given to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature on the back flap.

Signature: Name (print):
Title: Department:
Date:

Please address letter to:
QMSS/Ford Summer Workshop
420 W. 118th St - Suite 807
Columbia University MC 3355
New York, NY 10027