

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR RELEASE:**  
**CONTACT:**

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

Susan Billmaier | Program Officer, Charlotte W. Newcombe  
Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship  
[billmaier@woodrow.org](mailto:billmaier@woodrow.org) | (609) 452-7007 x310  
Patrick Riccards | Chief Communications & Strategy Officer  
[riccards@woodrow.org](mailto:riccards@woodrow.org) | (703) 298-8283

**Note:**

Prospective applicants should call 609-452-7007 x310  
or email [newcombe@woodrow.org](mailto:newcombe@woodrow.org).

## **2017 CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWS NAMED** *FOUNDATION NAMES 21 FELLOWS IN ITS 36TH YEAR*

PRINCETON, NJ (Tuesday, May 2, 2017)—Today, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation has announced awards to 21 exceptional scholars who make up this year’s class of Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellows.

The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation’s largest and most prestigious award for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences addressing questions of ethical and religious values. The highly selective program provides each Fellow with a 12-month award of \$25,000 to support the final year of dissertation work.

The 2017 Fellows are writing on such topics as literary representations of the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, from 1650 to 1865; the definition of sin as a violation of divine law; how religion has shaped institutional structures and experiences of mass incarceration in the United States; and blasphemy as a legal category in early and medieval Islamic history. (*See the full list of Fellows below.*)

Fellows are completing their research at some of the nation’s top institutions. They are working toward the Ph.D. at Brown University, the University of Chicago, Duke University, Harvard University, the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, Northwestern University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Pittsburgh, Princeton University, and the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Funded by the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation, the Fellowship was created in 1981 and has supported just over 1,200 doctoral candidates, most of them now noted faculty and thought leaders in their fields. The Fellowships are designed to encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all fields of the humanities and social sciences.

For more information on the Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, please visit  
<http://woodrow.org/fellowships/newcombe/>

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### **About the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation**

Founded in 1945, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation ([www.woodrow.org](http://www.woodrow.org)) identifies and develops the nation’s best minds to meet its most critical challenges. The Foundation supports its Fellows as the next generation of leaders shaping American society.



## CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWS, 2017

**Daniel Cochran** • University of Wisconsin - Madison, art history

*Building the Body of Christ: Art, Architecture, and the Formation of Early Christian Identities*

**Zebulon Dingley** • University of Chicago, anthropology

*Kinship, Capital, and the Occult on the South Coast of Kenya*

**Samuel Gavin** • University of Pittsburgh, philosophy

*Constitutivism and Natural Normativity in Ethics*

**Ean High** • Northwestern University, English

*Quakerism, Silence, and the Religious Body in American Literature, 1650–1865*

**Randeep Hothi** • University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, Asian languages & cultures

*Sikhism Will Be Televised: Recognition and Religion-Making At Diasporic-Sikh Television Networks*

**Craig Iffland** • University of Notre Dame, theology

*Following and Not-Following the Divine Law*

**Sarah Islam** • Princeton University, Near Eastern studies

*Blasphemy as a Legal Category in Early and Medieval Islamic History*

**Gustavo Maya** • Princeton University, religion

*Resisting Exploitation: The Farmworker Struggle for Justice and the Ethics of Means*

**Alexander McKinley** • Duke University, graduate program in religion

*Mountain at a Center of the World*

**Kalonji Nzinga** • Northwestern University, learning sciences

*The Social Conscience of Rap: Moral Socialization Within Hip-Hop Culture*

**Cyrus O'Brien** • University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, anthropology and history

*Faith in Imprisonment: Religion and the Development of Mass Incarceration in Florida*

**Daniel Platt** • Brown University, American studies

*Race, Risk, and Financial Capitalism in the United States, 1870–1940*

**Jennifer Quigley** • Harvard University, Harvard Divinity School

*Divine Accounting: Theo-economic Rhetoric in the Letter to the Philippians*

**Hannah Scheidt** • Northwestern University, religious studies

*Practicing Atheism: Culture, Media, and Ritual in the Contemporary Atheist Network*

**Brian Smithson** • Duke University, cultural anthropology

*Piety in Production: Moviemaking as Improvised Religious Practice in Benin*

**Debby Sneed** • University of California—Los Angeles, archaeology

*The Life Cycle of Disability in Ancient Greece*

**Emiko Stock** • Cornell University, anthropology

*Touching History: An Anthropology With Images | Cham | Sayyids | Cambodia | Iran*

**Elizabeth Thelen** • University of California—Berkeley, history

*Intersected Communities: Urban Histories of Rajasthan, c. 1500 - 1800*

**Sabine Tsuruda** • University of California—Los Angeles, philosophy

*Moral Agency and the Workplace*

**Daisy Vargas** • University of California—Riverside, history

*Mexican Religion on Trial: Race, Religion and the Law in the U.S.- Mexico Borderlands*

**Arthur Zárate** • Columbia University, history

*Disciplining the Soul: Materialities of Belief and Moral Technologies of Self on the Eve of Islamic Revival in Egypt, 1947–1967*