



Ellertson Fellowship E-Newsletter



SUMMER 2008

ISSUE 3

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

[Integrating Bio-behavioral and Socio-cultural Research to Prevent HIV Transmission and Infection \(R01\)](#)

[Collaborative HIV/AIDS Studies in the Middle East and North Africa \(R21\)](#)

[Sexually Transmitted Infections Cooperative Research Center \(U21\)](#)

[Additional RFPs in Health](#) from the [Foundation Center](#)

The Third Cohort of Ellertson Fellows

The Charlotte Ellertson Social Science Postdoctoral Fellowship in Abortion and Reproductive Health is pleased to [announce the 2008-2010 fellows](#):

- Columbia University: **Silvia De Zordo, PhD**, Anthropology, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (expected September 2008)
Silvia's research interests encompass family planning, contraception, and abortion in Brazil, as well as gender and race studies.
- Guttmacher Institute: **Megan Kavanaugh, DrPH**, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh (2008)
Megan's research explores women's pregnancy intentions, the social determinants of unintended pregnancy, IUD/IUS adoption, and access to medication abortion.
- Ibis Reproductive Health: **Danielle Bessett, PhD**, Sociology, New York University (expected August 2008)
Danielle's research interests include pregnancy, abortion, reproductive rights, medicine, gender, family, and inequality.
- Johns Hopkins University: **Alison Norris, MD, PhD**, Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University (2006)
Alison's research interests encompass the determinants of health and illness, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health.
- University of California, San Francisco: **Julia Steinberg, PhD**, Psychology, Arizona State University (2008)
Julia's research interests include how identity shapes individuals' behavior, cognition, and affect.

A Warm Welcome for Davida Becker

We are delighted that [Davida Becker](#) started her fellowship at the Bixby Center at UCSF in February 2008. Davida received her PhD in public health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2007. She is interested in pursuing research on the accessibility and quality of reproductive health services. For her dissertation, she studied US women's perceptions of the quality of family planning care and explored racial, ethnic, and language group differences in clients' service experiences, using both quantitative and qualitative research methods. She has already embarked on translating her research to improve quality of care. She shared a [brochure](#) of her findings with the women who participated in her doctoral research project, and presented her findings to a meeting of health care providers convened by the California Family Health Council (CFHC) in July 2008. With support from CFHC, she aims to distribute the pamphlet to all Title X clinics in California as well as through the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association newsletter.

During her fellowship, Davida intends to continue to study the quality and accessibility of reproductive health services, expanding her focus to include abortion care. She is interested in learning more about clients' abortion service experiences and their expectations surrounding care, and how these may vary by factors such as race/ethnicity, immigration status, age, and socio-economic status. She welcomes contacts and collaboration!



Of Interest...

Advertising and humor
[Abstinence, the Condom](#)



Blogging
Fellowship Advisory Committee member Dr. Carole Joffe writes on Yale performance art and abortion (“[Where are the grown-ups?](#)”) at [RHRealityCheck.com](#).

Fellows gather at the NAF meeting in April



Courtney Jackson (Ibis), Sarah Holcombe, Jessica Gipson (Hopkins), Joanna Mishtal (Columbia), Davida Becker (UCSF)

New Stages, New Places. Congratulations to Graduating 2006-2008 Fellows!

We are delighted to share good news from the 2006-2008 Ellertson Fellows on the outcomes of their job searches. All have found exciting new positions post-fellowship.

This past January, **Dr. Joanna Mishtal** (Columbia University) accepted an offer from the University of Central Florida’s (UCF) Department of Anthropology for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in medical anthropology. She has been recruited to spearhead the development of the department’s medical anthropology program. She plans to continue her research, teaching, and writing on abortion and reproductive rights and health in Poland, Eastern Europe, and the European Union (EU). As her future research at the EU moves forward, she expects to become more involved in the advocacy community in Europe. She looks forward to teaching undergraduate and graduate students at UCF starting this fall, as she sees teaching and mentoring students as being one of the best ways of advocating for reproductive health issues.

We are also happy to report that **Dr. Farzana Kapadia** (Guttmacher Institute) has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Community Health Program of the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University’s (NYU) Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. She will start at NYU in the Fall 2008 semester. In addition to teaching courses in epidemiology and research methods (as well as some new ones that she hopes to develop), Farzana will continue developing research projects focusing on sexual and reproductive health. Farzana is enthusiastic about the growth trajectory of the Community Health Program.

Dr. Courtney Jackson (Ibis Reproductive Health) has chosen to combine her passion for research with her commitment to advancing access to safe abortion care. She will become the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Abortion Access Project (AAP) in Cambridge, MA. In this position, she will play a leading role in the monitoring and evaluation of AAP’s Least Access States Initiative and will lead other research projects related to abortion training and access. She is happy to be working with an organization to use data to inform its programs and policies related to abortion and reproductive health. She will continue to teach a course on research methods for the Women’s Health Program at Suffolk University.

Dr. Jessica Gipson (Johns Hopkins University) accepted a tenure-track, assistant professor position with the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles’s School of Public Health. The position includes an affiliation with the California Center for Population Research and the Bixby Program in Population and Reproductive Health.

We will share updated contact information for our graduating fellows in September. Gratulacje and congratulations to all!

Annual Fellowship Meeting & Fifth Annual Social Scientists’ Networking Meeting at NAF

Ellertson Fellows participate each year in the National Abortion Federation (NAF) annual meeting and the allied Social Scientists’ Networking Meeting. At these professional meetings, interactions with abortion providers and advocates have deepened the fellows’ understanding of the context of abortion provision and the importance of research focused on abortion.

Joanna Mishtal and **Jessica Gipson** were two of the three presenters at the NAF 2008 International Luncheon, with talks titled “The struggle for abortion rights and access in Eastern Europe” and “‘Having another child would be a life or death situation’: Understanding pregnancy termination in rural Bangladesh,” respectively. As noted below, Courtney Jackson and her colleagues won the 2008 National Abortion Federation Scientific Poster Award for their poster.

News!

November 07: **Dr. Wendy Chavkin** (site director at Columbia) received the Felicia Stewart Advocacy Award at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Congratulations!

May 08: The work of Hopkins site director and fellow, **Dr. Michelle Hindin** and **Jessica Gipson**, was featured in the [Johns Hopkins Public Health Magazine's 2008 Special Issue on Sex and Health](#).

June 08: A warm and appreciative farewell to **Dr. Deborah Kacanek** (site director at Ibis). Good luck, Deb!

July 08: **Stephanie McMurtrie** finished up as Ellertson Fellowship Assistant and will be starting a master's program in public health at Johns Hopkins. Good luck, Stephanie!

September 08: We look forward to having 2008-2010 fellows **Danielle Bessett, Julia Steinberg, Megan Kavanaugh, Alison Norris,** and **Silvia DeZordo** start up at their sites. Welcome!

October 08: The Ellertson Fellowship and the Guttmacher Institute will be hosting an evening reception to welcome the 2008-2010 Ellertson Fellows on Tuesday, October 7th at the Institute. NYC-area researchers, providers, and advocates interested in abortion-related research are welcome. [Let us know](#) if you'd like to join us!

Courtney Jackson (Ibis 2006-2008) Receives NAF Research Award

Courtney Jackson and colleagues at Ibis Reproductive Health received the 2008 National Abortion Federation Scientific Poster Award. Titled, "Abortion training experiences among newly graduated Ob/Gyn residents," the poster presents the results of a qualitative study dedicated to the factors influencing residents' decisions to train in and intentions to provide abortion care. The findings reveal that training opportunities in pregnancy options counseling, abortion procedures counseling, and first trimester abortion procedures need to be strengthened and that requiring residents to use elective time to receive abortion training is impractical. A sociologist whose research focuses on increasing access to abortion care and addressing the abortion provider shortage, Courtney's coauthors include Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Angel M. Foster and former Ibis intern Samantha Charm. The award was sponsored by SCI International, Inc.

This study is one part of a mixed-methods project dedicated to investigating abortion training in Ob/Gyn residency programs. The larger project includes three components: a content analysis of 246 Ob/Gyn residency program websites; a survey of approximately 1,000 residents who completed residency in 2007; and in-depth interviews with 36 physicians who completed residency in 2007. The study was commissioned by [Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health](#) and supported by the [Ellertson Fellowship](#). For information about the study, please contact [Courtney Jackson](#) or [Angel Foster](#).

UCSF Bixby Center Abortion Discussion Group Series Now Offered Via Webinar

Carole Joffe, Professor of Sociology at University of California, Davis and a member of the Ellertson Fellowship Advisory Committee, has been at the helm of the UCSF Bixby Center's Abortion Discussion Group, a stimulating and standing room-only discussion series at UCSF focused on abortion – care, research, and politics – that has brought together social science and clinical researchers, abortion providers, and advocates.

The Ellertson Fellowship, in collaboration with the Bixby Center, now makes the Abortion Discussion Group available to those affiliated with the Ellertson Fellowship. As most Ellertson Fellowship participants cannot come to San Francisco and participate in person, we offer the session by conference call and online.

The five sessions this past year started with one by staff of the Ryan Residency Training Program and Fellowship in Family Planning on the programs' research and evaluation agendas. Kate Cosby, a Research Analyst at UCSF, shared her research on the impact of abortion regulation on women's abortion experiences and attitudes. In a presentation titled, "Pro-woman, pro-life? The new framing of antiabortion politics," Melody Rose, Associate Professor at the University of Portland, spoke on her new research on how the antiabortion movement has recast its argument in terms of women's "health." Maya Manian, Associate Professor of Law, University of San Francisco, discussed her work in progress on the rhetoric and rationale of the Carhart decision and its effects on women's healthcare decision making and reproductive autonomy. In June, Carolyn Sufrin, Family Planning Fellow at UCSF, reviewed the challenges faced by incarcerated women with unwanted pregnancies, and discussed research she conducted with correctional health providers on abortion services in prisons and jails.

Please contact us at fellowship@ibisreproductivehealth.org to sign up for notifications of the fall sessions.

Upcoming Meetings & Conferences

Reproductive Health 2008 (ARHP, SFP, SARC, PPFA)

September 17-20, 2008
Washington, DC

International Consortium for Emergency Contraception and American Society for Emergency Contraception

September 25-26, 2008
Washington, DC

Strengthening Links Between Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS: Sexual Violence as a Nexus

Sep 29-Oct 1, 2008
Nairobi, Kenya

Training and Access Working Group Meeting

October 17, 2008
New York, NY

Third Research Meeting on Unplanned Pregnancy and Unsafe Abortion: Public Health Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean

October 7-10, 2008
Mexico City, Mexico

CDC National Survey of Family Growth

October 10, 2008
Hyattsville, MD

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

October 25-29, 2008
San Diego, CA

American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting

November 19-23, 2008
San Francisco, CA

15th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa

Dakar, Senegal
December 3-7, 2008

Ibis-HSPH Joint Course on International Reproductive Health

In the spring semester of the past three years, Ibis Reproductive Health has offered a seminar course at the Harvard School of Public Health titled "International reproductive health issues: Moving from theory to practice." The seminar has offered students the opportunity to explore the development and implementation of reproductive health research projects and programmatic initiatives in international settings. Through the examination of weekly case studies led by Ibis staff and guest speakers, students acquire a better understanding of the complexity of working in the field of reproductive health in the international context and an appreciation of the ways in which the perspectives and methods of various health and social science disciplines can be integrated in the development of effective health programs. Topics have included family planning, emergency contraception, abortion, and HIV/AIDS.

For the past two years, Courtney Jackson (Ibis 2006-2008) has worked with a team at Ibis to develop and teach the course. Her session entitled "Provision of reproductive health services in the US," compared state-level data to shed light on how women in different states have varying degrees of access to reproductive healthcare. In 2008, this session also benefited from guest speaker Dr. Deborah Bartz, a Family Planning Fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital, who discussed the availability of reproductive healthcare training opportunities for health providers. Dr. Joanna Mishtal (Columbia 2006-2008) taught a class in 2007 titled, "Reproductive rights, policies, and health in postsocialist Poland." Ms. Kelly Blanchard (Ibis President and Fellowship Advisory Committee Member), Deb Kacanek (2006-2008 Ibis Site Director), and Angel Foster (Mentor) led a number of sessions dedicated to abortion, emergency contraception, and female-controlled barrier methods.

Thank You and Farewell

I would like to send a fond and heartfelt farewell to all who've been involved with the Ellertson Fellowship. After almost six years, I will be stepping down from my role as fellowship director this month.

It has been a privilege to nurture the Ellertson Fellowship from its inception. I am proud to have built the fellowship with colleagues at Ibis and the other four fellowship sites. I've relished the opportunity to work on a much-needed training and leadership program that equips social science researchers to contribute to improved policy and practice on abortion and abortion care. It has been a pleasure to work with the talented and socially committed researchers associated with the Ellertson Fellowship. The Ellertson Fellowship is now on a positive trajectory with a wonderful group of new fellows joining the program this September. I look forward to the future achievements of the growing community of social science researchers associated with the fellowship, and can't thank our courageous donor enough for making the important work of the Ellertson Fellowship possible.

I will be leaving the fellowship but, perhaps in part inspired by seeing the work of all the amazing Ellertson Fellows, I will be embarking on doctoral studies in health policy at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. If you would like to contact me after my departure, my personal email address is sjholcombe@mindspring.com. I would be delighted to hear from you. Kelly Blanchard, president of Ibis, will assume management responsibilities until the new fellowship director comes on board in September.

All the best,

Sarah Jane Holcombe, Fellowship Director

Ellertson Fellowship Staff
Sarah Jane Holcombe *Fellowship Director*
Sarah Gilbert *Fellowship Assistant*

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[Second Congress of the Asia-Pacific Council on Contraception](#)

December 4-6, 2008
Macau, China

Abstract Deadline:
September 15, 2008

[National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting](#)

April 2009

Session Proposal Deadline:
September 29, 2008

Please contact the [Fellowship Assistant](#) for more info

[International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health](#)

February 15-18, 2009
Mumbai, India

Abstract Deadline:
October 15, 2008

[Civil Liberties and Public Policies Reproductive Rights Conference](#)

April 3-5, 2009
Amherst, MA

[International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society](#)

April 16-18, 2009
Hanoi, Vietnam

Abstract Deadline:
October 30, 2008

[The XXVI IUSSP International Population Conference](#)

Sep 27-Oct 2, 2009
Marrakech, Morocco

Abstract Deadline:
September 15, 2008

Current Fellows' Recent Publications

Gurman TA, **Becker D**. Factors affecting Latina immigrants' perceptions of maternal health care: Findings from a qualitative study. *Health Care for Women International*, 2008;29:507-526.

Gipson JD, Koenig MA, Hindin MJ. The effects of unintended pregnancy on health outcomes: A review of the literature. *Studies in Family Planning*, 2008;39(1):18-38.

Foster A, **Jackson C**, Martin S. Reproductive health and cyber (mis)representations: A content analysis of obstetrics and gynecology residency program websites. *Contraception*, 2008;78(2):99-105.

Foster A, **Jackson C**. Factors influencing the decision to participate in abortion training and intention to provide: A national study of obstetrics and gynecology residents. Report submitted to Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, Mar 2008.

Mishtal JZ. "The challenges of reproductive justice in eastern Europe" a chapter in Ross L, editor. *Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: Reproductive Justice and Social Change*, SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective, 2008.

Current Fellows' Recent Presentations, Classes and Lectures

Becker D. Clients' perceptions of the quality of family planning care: An exploration of differences by race, ethnicity and language. Presentation, Bixby Center Seminar Series, May 2008; San Francisco, CA.

Gipson JD, Hindin MJ. 'Having another child would be a life or death situation?' Understanding pregnancy termination among couples in rural Bangladesh. Invited International Luncheon presentation, National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting, Apr 2008; Minneapolis, MN.

Gipson JD, Avila JL. From Utong to Cytotec: Preventing and managing pregnancy in Cebu, Philippines. Poster presentation, National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting, Apr 2008; Minneapolis, MN.

Gipson JD, Hindin MJ. Having another child would be a life or death situation for her: Understanding pregnancy termination among couples in rural Bangladesh. Oral presentation, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Apr 17-19 2008; New Orleans, LA.

Jackson CB. Reproductive health in the United States. Guest lecture, Harvard School of Public Health, Spring 2008; Cambridge, MA.

Jackson CB. Research Methods in Women's Health. Course taught, Suffolk University's Graduate Program in Women's Health, Spring 2008; Suffolk, MA.

Jackson CB, Foster A, and Charm S. Abortion training experiences among newly graduated Ob/Gyn residents. Poster presentation, National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting, Apr 2008; Minneapolis, MN.

Kapadia F. Population and Family Health. Presentation in course taught at New York University, Spring 2008; New York, NY.

Mishtal JZ. Understanding low fertility in Poland: Demographic consequences of postsocialist neoliberal restructuring. Paper presentation, IUSSP conference, Jul 2008; Barcelona, Spain.

Mishtal JZ. Contraceptive Use in Poland: Changes over the Past 17 Years. Paper presentation, Psychosocial Workshop, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Apr 2008; New Orleans, LA.

Mishtal JZ. Wanting children, fearing unemployment: Fertility decline in Poland. Paper presentation, Psychosocial Workshop, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Apr 2008; New Orleans, LA.

Mishtal JZ. The struggle for abortion rights and access in Eastern Europe. Invited International Luncheon presentation, National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting, Apr 5-8 2008; Minneapolis, MN.