The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF), in collaboration with the JPB Foundation, is sponsoring the first Summer Institute on Biological Approaches in the Social Sciences (SIBASS) at Northwestern University on June 10-14. The co-directors are Greg Miller (Psychology), Thom McDade (Anthropology), and Emma Adam (Human Development and Social Policy).

The one-week workshop will introduce about 30 early-career scholars in a broad range of social science disciplines to the theory, basic biology, and methods needed to collect and analyze biological processes in the service of social science research agendas. The biology of, and minimally-invasive measurement options for, the central nervous system (brain), autonomic nervous system, neuroendocrine, cardiometabolic, immune, and sleep processes will all be covered, and we will also discuss the contributions of genetics and epigenetics. Stress-sensitive biological systems will be emphasized, as such systems are strong candidates as putative mediators between social-contextual experiences and health and human capital outcomes. The program will include didactic lectures, small-group breakout sessions, and hands-on laboratory exercises.

This SIBASS is intended to provide broad training in human biological systems, with the goal of helping attendees conduct in-depth process research linking social context, biology, and human capital. Applicants who wish to focus on the theories, methods, and statistical expertise required to integrate genetics into social science research should consider RSF’s other Summer Institute on Social Science Genomics (co-organized by Daniel Benjamin, David Cesarini, and Patrick Turley in Santa Barbara, CA).

Eligibility

The target audience is post-doctoral fellows and untenured faculty within 10 years of the Ph.D., although we are open to applications from advanced doctoral students. There are no restrictions based on citizenship, country of study, or country of employment.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via the RSF online application portal, Fluxx (rsf.fluxx.io).

1. Create an account or log in to your existing account. **Allow up to 48 hours for a new account to be approved; please register by January 1, 2019**
2. Start a new “Summer Institute” application and select “Biological Approaches.”
3. Submit the following documents/information:
   (i) a curriculum vitae
   (ii) a 100-word overview of why you want to join the institute
   (iii) a statement (maximum two pages, single spaced, 11 point font) describing your background, your current research, whether you have any existing background in biology, and reasons for your interest in integrating biology in the social sciences, particularly as it relates to RSF research priorities (e.g., behavioral economics, social inequality, future of work, immigration).
   (iv) a list of biology courses you have taken in undergraduate and/or graduate school or during your postdoctoral training and the names of (and links to) any other biomarker workshops you may have attended in the past. (Past experience with biology or biological methods is not required; this is for our information only).

For Ph.D. student and postdoctoral researcher applicants only, please also provide:

   (v) an (unofficial) course/grade transcript for doctoral studies,
   (vi) two letters of recommendation from faculty advisors. These should be as informative as possible about your standing in the program (i.e., approximate rank in your doctoral class; plan for completion of PhD), general ability, research potential, and (if applicable) special interest in biosocial research.

Complete applications, including letters of recommendation, must be received by Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Organizers will notify applicants solely through e-mail by mid-March and will ask selected applicants to confirm their participation shortly thereafter.

Inquiries can be sent to biosocial@northwestern.edu. Technical questions about the application portal (Fluxx) can be sent to grantsmgts@rsage.org.