

Meet the 2023 Lee Ann Fujii Diversity Fellowship Program Travel Grant Recipients

INDIA SIMMONS | PROGRAM MANAGER, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS

The APSA Lee Ann Fujii Diversity Fellowship Program (DFP) travel grant provides support for the professional development of APSA Diversity Fellows and alumni at the APSA Annual Meeting. The grant is named in honor of Dr. Lee Ann Fujii.

Dr. Fujii was a professor at the University of Toronto who researched and published in the area of political violence, ethnicity and race, African politics (especially Rwanda and the Great Lakes), field methods, and research ethics. Support for this grant, which is in its fifth year, has been generously provided by the Fujii family and Dr. Fujii's friends and colleagues. To learn more about Dr. Fujii, please visit "[Remembering Lee Ann Fujii](#)."

Priority is given to fellows and alumni whose research, teaching, or mentoring focuses in one or more of the areas of political violence, ethnicity and race, African politics, racial violence in the US South, comparative politics, international relations, conflict processes, research ethics, or qualitative and interpretative methods. Learn more about the Lee Ann Fujii Travel Grant at <https://apsanet.org/dfp/travelgrant>

KEITH PADRAIC CHEW



Keith Padraic Chew is a PhD candidate at the department of government at the University of Texas at Austin. Keith's research focuses on intersectional (gender and ethnic) representation in legislatures and cabinets and their effects in Asia. He currently manages the Politics of Race and Ethnicity Lab at the University of Texas at Austin. The 2023 Lee Ann Fujii Travel Grant enabled

Keith to present his paper titled "Gender, Ethnicity, and Double-Minorities in Asian Cabinets" in the New Frontiers in Identity Politics panel at the 2023 APSA Annual Meeting.

RIKIO INOUE



Rikio Inouye is a PhD candidate in Princeton's politics department, studying how race and racial preferences shape foreign policy-making and support. He also has ongoing research on vaccine diplomacy and great power rivalry in the Asia/Indo-Pacific region. This grant helped him travel to APSA in person where he presented ongoing

research and connect with both the cross-institutional community of race and IR scholars as well as DFP alumni and members. At Princeton, he co-leads the Students of Color and Allies (SoCA) group in the politics department and has contributed to new graduate courses on race in IR and the establishment of the Race and Ethnic Politics subfield at Princeton. Prior to his PhD studies, Rikio taught English and English debate as part of the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) program. He holds a BA with highest departmental honors from UC Berkeley and an MA from Princeton.

LEANN MCLAREN



Leann McLaren is PhD candidate in political science at Duke University. Her research interests are in race, ethnicity, and politics, American politics, Black political behavior, immigration, and social movements. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF-GRFP), the American Political

Science Association Minority Fellowship Program (APSA-MFP), and the Russell Sage Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Grant, among others. Her dissertation research explores how Black candidates with "invisible identities," specifically immigration status, strategize and are perceived in political campaigns. She received her BA from the University of Connecticut in political science and history, as well as an MA in political science from Duke University. Her co-authored published work can be found in the *American Political Science Review*. At APSA she presented a chapter of her dissertation titled "Race, Immigration, and Representation, the Case of Black Immigrant Candidates." Leann intends to use the grant to help defray travel costs associated with presenting at the 2023 APSA Annual Meeting as well as the APSA pre-conference in political communication at the University of California, Los Angeles.

ANGEL M. VILLEGAS-CRUZ

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz (he/him) is a fifth-year PhD candidate at Pennsylvania State University. He is pursuing a dual-title PhD in political science and Asian studies. His research interests focus on the relationship between digital technologies and international politics, with an area specialization in China. In his dissertation, Angel examines how countries use social media to advance their foreign policy interests and whether these efforts can influence foreign public opinion. He is a proud Spring 2020 APSA DFP Fellow. Angel received an MA in political science from Penn State in May 2021 with specializations in international relations and comparative politics. Prior to attending



Penn State, he received an MA in international relations from Beijing Normal University, China. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, he also holds a BA in sociology from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. Angel used the Lee Ann Fujii DFP Grant to participate in the 2023 APSA Annual Meeting, where he presented a paper as part of a panel he organized. The

panel explored the increasingly vital connection between political communications and international relations in the digital era.

ZOE WALKER



Zoe Walker is a PhD candidate (ABD) in political science at the University of Michigan. Her dissertation research interrogates Black Americans' complex beliefs about meritocracy and the American Dream in the face of discrimination. Her broader interests include public opinion about social inequality, racial attitudes, and political behavior.

Outside of her research, Zoe is heavily involved in promoting racial equity on and off campus. She co-founded her department's Interdisciplinary Race, Ethnicity and Politics workshop, and co-led her department's Political Scientists of Color affinity group. She also assisted with the Party at the Mailbox "get-out-the-vote" initiative in Detroit. She currently serves as vice president of Students of Color of

Rackham which serves graduate students at the University of Michigan and is a member of the APSA Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Graduate Student Issues Committee. Zoe holds a BA in political science from the University of Notre Dame where she received the award for best undergraduate senior thesis in American Politics. Her research has been supported by the National Academies' Ford Foundation, the American Political Science Association, and the Russell Sage Foundation.

ALEX RICHARD ZHAO



Alex Richard Zhao is a third year PhD student in the department of political science at the University of California, San Diego. He is originally from Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter of the Navajo Nation and graduated cum laude from the University of California, San Diego before starting his PhD program. Alex's research seeks to explain variation in

Indigenous self-governance by studying the intricacies of Indigenous American political preferences, institutions, and geography. He is a member of UCSD's Race and Ethnic Politics (REP) lab, American Indian Graduate Student Alliance (AIGSA), and recipient of the Ford Pre-doctoral Fellowship. Alex is a proponent of ensuring research benefits the communities he investigates while building empathy through the knowledge of Indigenous people. Therefore, he often collaborates with Indigenous and non-Indigenous policy makers and researchers back home in the Navajo Nation and abroad. After earning his PhD, Alex aspires to continue research dedicated to servicing Indigenous populations by pursuing a position in academia. ■

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