

DEMOCRACY & MARKETS

The Tobin Project is now accepting applications from graduate students undertaking work related to Democracy & Markets. This program seeks to foster empirical, historical, and theoretical research that addresses how markets influence democratic institutions and how democracy shapes market structures.

The deadline for applications is February 15, 2012. For more information, please visit the Tobin Project's website at www.tobinproject.org.

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN DEMOCRACY & MARKETS

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The Tobin Project is interested in fostering work that responds to some aspect of the following interrelated questions:

- What are the conditions that distinguish success from failure in the governance and regulation of the economy?
- What factors and institutions—of government, business, civil society, and beyond—are most central to the functioning of American democracy?
- What are the consequences of the dramatic and continuing rise of income inequality in the U.S.—for the economy, society, and democracy?

Please see page two for more information about the Tobin Project's work on these questions in the upcoming year. Graduate students working on original research in these or related areas are strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information about the Tobin Project's research and graduate student community, please visit our website at www.tobinproject.org

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship is intended to cover research expenses and provide general support to graduate students working on topics related to Democracy & Markets. Most awards will not exceed \$2,000; any additional, anticipated research costs should be noted in the budget and will be considered if funding is available.

Funding priority will be given to students who can demonstrate how their research project connects to the 2012 research priorities listed on page two.

Fellowship recipients will be expected to present final or in-progress work (either a paper or presentation) at a Tobin Project Democracy & Markets research seminar and attend the presentations of other fellowship recipients 6–12 months after receiving the award.

APPLICATION

- Name and contact information
- Current CV
- Name and contact information for a faculty adviser(s)
- Project title and short abstract (1 paragraph)
- Research proposal (3–5 pages). Please include the following in the proposal:
 - Research questions, methodology, and initial hypotheses
 - Connection to Democracy & Markets research priorities
 - Expected outcomes (e.g., journal article, dissertation chapter, etc.) and timeline
 - Potential impact of the project, in both the academic literature and the policy realm
 - Budget and budget narrative, accompanied by a spreadsheet/list of anticipated expenses
 - Other funding sources sought for this proposal, if any

Please submit the entire application as one PDF via email to: research@tobinproject.org

More information at:
www.tobinproject.org



DEMOCRACY & MARKETS / RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Economic Regulation

The Tobin Project seeks new, evidence-based research that aims to provide a more accurate account of how regulatory governance both succeeds and fails. Relevant projects will hold the potential to identify situations in which regulation could be employed to promote the public good and/or to increase understanding of how to mitigate or prevent regulatory capture (and other potential government failures). Of particular interest is how regulatory systems can be better designed to deal with asymmetries between regulators, the public, and regulated parties with regard to information, expertise, and financial resources. For more information on these themes, see the Tobin Project's research inquiry on *Government & Markets*, including the forthcoming volume, *Preventing Capture* (Dan Carpenter and David Moss, eds.), available at www.tobinproject.org.

American Democracy

Through its *Institutions of Democracy* initiative, the Tobin Project aims to foster research that identifies and examines the most important factors—ranging from state structures to cultural norms—that have contributed to the functioning of American democracy over the course of the nation's history. How have these factors persisted or changed through different historical periods? By what mechanisms have these factors affected democratic practices? How could deeper understanding of these factors help scholars and policymakers evaluate the state of American democracy today? The Tobin Project seeks research that explores these foundational influences on American democracy throughout the nation's history.

Inequality

While the United States has seen a dramatic shift in the national distribution of income and wealth over the past three decades, remarkably little is known about the economic, social, and political consequences of this rising inequality. This is not for lack of effort or attention. A great deal of careful empirical work has been produced, particularly in recent years, yet to date there is still little if any consensus on the effects that high and rising inequality may exert on society (as opposed to the effects of material deprivation, irrespective of inequality, for the poor). The Tobin Project seeks to support work that diagnoses why the large body of existing work has produced ambiguous and conflicting results, as well as work that develops creative approaches to identifying possible effects of high and/or rising economic inequality.

Public Goods

The Tobin Project is interested in new research on the economics and the politics of public goods provision over the course of American history. What sorts of public goods have been provided and/or rejected at various moments in American history, and why? Can we identify significant changes or commonalities over time—for example, in the types of public goods provided or rejected, in the scale of public goods provision, in the levels of government involved, in the politics underlying the provision or rejection of public goods, or in the ideas used to justify provision or rejection? The Tobin Project seeks both qualitative and quantitative work that addresses these questions.

More information at: www.tobinproject.org

The Tobin Project is a non-partisan organization recognized as a public charity under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code. Research supported by our grants programs may not be connected to partisan activities or to the support or opposition of a political candidate. Grant funds may only be used for purposes described in the grant proposal.