

Graduate Fellowships at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis
2015-2016

Ethical Subjects: Moralities, Laws, Histories

directed by Seth Koven and Judith Surkis (Rutgers, History)



The Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis (RCHA) invites applications for graduate fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year. Up to four fellowships are available. Applications are due on **April 15, 2015**, and the awards will be announced in late April.

Graduate fellows will receive research stipends of \$2,000. Fellows will have access to all the activities and services of the Center. They will join visiting postdoctoral fellows chosen from outside the university, Rutgers faculty fellows, and associate fellows in the Center's ongoing meetings and events.

Graduate fellows are expected to attend the Center's weekly Tuesday catered lunch seminars (11:15 AM-1:15 PM) and its occasional lectures and/or conferences. They are also expected to give a presentation at a Tuesday seminar during the period of their fellowship.

This project welcomes applications from all disciplines and regional specializations. While individual projects need not be explicitly comparative, weekly seminars and other events will focus on broad themes common to the project.

Applications are warmly invited from RU graduate students, across all disciplines, whose research actively engages with these questions. They will be the core participants, along with the RCHA's postdoctoral fellows, in the weekly seminars around which intellectual and collegial exchanges will be oriented.

To apply, complete the fellowship application. If you have questions about the Center's application process, please contact the Center's Administrator, Lynn Shanko, at 848-932-8701 or rcha@rci.rutgers.edu.



Ethical Subjects: Moralities, Laws, Histories

directed by Seth Koven and Judith Surkis (Rutgers, History)

Who and what counts as an ethical subject? "Ethical Subjects" brings together two sets of inquiries: how certain domains of deliberation come to be topics of ethical scrutiny, and how people claim recognition as moral agents in the world. In different times and places, moral argument and moral feeling have been mobilized in the name of many causes, from "civilizing missions" to civil disobedience. They continue to figure prominently in debates about "development," humanitarian intervention, bioethics, inequality, civil and human rights. In these debates cynicism and sincere conviction can jostle one another uneasily. In attending to multiple perspectives, "Ethical Subjects" challenges methodological divides between "bottom-up" and "top-down" approaches. We hope to explore an overlapping terrain, between the study of lives, subjects and practices, on the one hand; and legal, ethical, political, and religious frameworks, on the other.

Our project is guided by several key questions: Under what historical conditions do particular issues (e.g., the traffic in women or children's rights, forms of unfree and exploitative labor, drone warfare or marriage) first become a focus of ethico-political debate and regulation (state or international), while others remain in the shadows? How are morality and law disarticulated and rearticulated when people and ideas move across borders? Can humanist inquiry help to negotiate the complex interrelations between morality and law when these come into conflict? What new kinds of politics and ethical practices emerge out of such disjunctures? "Ethical Subjects" will explore such questions in an intensive series of seminars and discussions during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years.

We envision bringing together graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and invited speakers whose work engages these questions in pursuing topics including, but not limited to the following:

- histories of slavery and abolitionism
- colonial intimacy and exploitation
- free and unfree labor
- missionaries and martyrdom
- political violence and humanitarianism
- nonviolence and just war
- aesthetics and affect
- welfare, need, and dignity
- women's rights and the "interests of the child"
- sexuality and family law
- technology and bioethics
- secularism and religious freedom
- animals and the environment



Ethical Subjects: Moralities, Laws, Histories

directed by Seth Koven and Judith Surkis (Rutgers, History)

Graduate Fellowship Application, 2015-2016

1. Name.....
2. Department.....Office phone.....
3. Faculty or School.....
4. Home Address.....
.....
5. Home Phone Number.....
6. Email address.....
7. Title of project proposal.....
.....
8. Please provide a three to four page description of your project and its relationship to the current topic of the Center, "Ethical Subjects." Include a bibliography if appropriate.
9. Please include curriculum vitae.
10. Please provide the names of and contact information for three professors as references.

All applications must be returned to the Center for Historical Analysis,
88 College Avenue, CAC, or emailed to rcha@rci.rutgers.edu by **April 15, 2015**