

Kirwan Institute Small Grants Program
Awards

- 1. Kevin R. Cox, Ph.D.,** Department of Geography, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **Continuation of a Case Study on Land Restitution in South Africa.** December 2004. \$7,000.

In South Africa, under the Restitution of Land Rights Act (1994), individuals, families and communities who lost their land rights under racist laws have a constitutional right to have their land rights restored. A “strategic partnership,” which emerged in the Limpopo Province to implement land restitution, has been adopted nationally. To make this model a success, many challenges must be overcome. For example, many of the land claims are being contested by white farmers and landowners. This proposal continues a case study of land restitution and the strategic partner solution as it is emerging in the Levubu Valley. In this study, particular attention will be paid to tensions latent in the restitution process. This research is intended to inform policy debates on the future of land reform in South Africa by exposing obstacles, limits, and possibilities. Research findings will be published in conjunction with the Nkuzi Development Association, a land rights organization which works with restitution claimants in Limpopo. It is the intent of this project to submit three papers for publication to major international journals and present findings at local and international conferences.

- 2. Maurice E. Stevens, Ph.D.,** Department of Comparative Studies, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **Symposium to Explore Critical Theories of Trauma.** December 2004. \$5,000.

This proposal brings together scholars and clinicians to examine how ideas of race, gender and class have impacted traditional notions of trauma. In addition to exploring traditional areas of critical psychoanalysis, psychology and life sciences, the symposium engages OSU scholars representing sociology, anthropology, women’s studies, literature, philosophy of science, Germanic studies, architecture, and film studies. Symposium participants will explore the reasons for and ramifications of the racialization and sexualization of trauma and the limits that ideas about race and class have produced within traditional ideas of trauma. The symposium will begin to shape the field of Critical Trauma Theory and it will give recognition to The Ohio State University as a leader in this effort. The symposium, the papers it will engage and the working relationships it will develop between researchers and practitioners will lead to a policy paper that clinicians can use to produce concrete change in clinical settings.

- 3. Esther Jones, M.A.,** The Black Graduate & Professional Student Caucus, The Ohio State University. **“Roll Call: Exploring Feminine Rhythms of Wellness – A Black Women’s Health and Wellness Retreat.”** January 2005. \$1,500.

Health issues impacting African American women at The Ohio State University are often viewed as not critical because of the general perception that these women are successful within the

university community – they are doing well academically and on the basis of other traditional measures. However, there are myriad health issues that impact this population. For example, African American women are more likely to die from heart disease than other groups of women; the death rate from colorectal cancer and pancreatic cancer is higher among African American women than other racial groups; HIV is the leading cause of death for African American women between the ages of 25 and 44; the depression rate among African American women is estimated to be almost 50% higher than that of Caucasian women. This symposium provides an opportunity for African American women at OSU to engage in conversations about living healthier with health professionals, scholars and among themselves. Workshops at the two-day retreat will inform a more proactive preventative model for participants. Program planners hope that this event will reduce the reluctance of African American women to seek counseling and other health services. Information shared at the symposium will contribute to a wellness survey to be developed and disseminated by the OSU Office of Counseling and Consultation Services. The survey will determine how services to African American women at OSU might be improved.

4. Sally Kitch, Ph.D., Department of Near and Far Eastern Languages, College of Humanities and **Professor Margaret Mills**, Department of Women’s Studies, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **Conference – “Afghan Women Leaders Speak: Conflict Mitigation and Social Reconstruction.”** March 2005. \$3,500.

“In November 2005, Mershon Center at Ohio State University will host the first research-oriented conference in the United States on Afghan women's role in their country's social reconstruction. The conference, entitled ‘Afghan Women Leaders Speak: Conflict Mitigation and Social Reconstruction,’ brings together a substantial representation of Afghan women leaders with U.S.-based scholars and students who share expertise and interests relevant to the experiences of women working for social change in Afghanistan. From November 17-19, eleven Afghan women currently performing key roles in government, education, and NGO projects will express their views and share their strategies for Afghanistan's Future. Conference sessions are free and open to university faculty and students, the Columbus community, and visiting scholars. Dr. Massouda Jalal, Minister for Women’s Affairs and former candidate for President of Afghanistan, will present a luncheon keynote address on Thursday, November 17th at the OSU Faculty Club. Dr. Habiba Sorabi , Afghanistan's first woman provincial governor, and the previous minister for women's affairs, will deliver a morning keynote address on Friday, November 18th .” (<http://www.mershon.ohio-state.edu/Events/afghanwomen/afghanhome.htm>)

5. Alicia Monroe, undergraduate honors student and **Osei Appiah, Ph.D.**, School of Communications, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **Mass Media Effect on American Perception and Attitudes Toward Africa.** June 2005. \$1,103.

This research includes a survey of middle school, high school and college students to determine how media exposure impacts American perceptions of Africa. The working hypothesis of this proposal is that Americans have an overwhelmingly negative perception of Africa because of pervasive racism and oversimplified negative images of Africa in the media. This hypothesis will be tested through attitude surveys with middle and high school students, college students and other adults. Survey respondents will be presented with a variety of positive and negative visual and textural stimuli. The impact of these stimuli on attitudes will be measured quantitatively.

These researchers suggest that “positive and realistic images of Africa are imperative for sensitive, long-term economic relationships between African nations and the United States.

6. Lisa Keister, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **Race and Wealth: A Proposal to Study How Differences in Nonstandard Work Practices Shape Asset Inequality.** August 2005. \$6,000.

Professor Keister investigates the interrelationships between race, ethnicity, nonstandard work arrangements and wealth inequity. The principal hypothesis in this investigation is that “nonstandard” workers (part-time and temporary) accumulate wealth (i.e., assets) at lower rates than “standard workers” and that this disparity impacts African American and Latinos disproportionately because of the relatively high number of nonstandard workers from these groups. Professor Keister will conduct both qualitative and quantitative analysis in the research project. The qualitative investigation will include interviews with matching sets of workers (standard and nonstandard) in five cities. Estimated representation of African Americans and Latinos among nonstandard workers in these cities is: Columbus, Ohio – 31%, Columbia, South Carolina – 35%, Los Angeles – 37%, Philadelphia – 34% and Portland, Oregon – 31%. The quantitative analysis will use data compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (tracks individuals into adulthood), and the National Longitudinal Survey of Mature Men. The projected time-frame for this project is two years.

7. Tamar Mott, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **An Evaluation of the Pathways of African Refugees to and within the U.S.** December 2005. \$4,000.

Over the last 50 years, migration has become global in scope. Immigration research has focused heavily on Latin America and Asia and less on immigrants from Europe. African immigrants have been neglected in the research literature. However, despite their relatively small numbers, immigrants from Africa have significant impact on the areas where they settle. This project will investigate the process by which African refugees, principally Somalis and Ethiopians, immigrate to mid-size cities in the United States and the role of resettlement programs and voluntary resettlement agencies (VOLAGs) in that process. The “study cities” are Columbus, Ohio and Providence, Rhode Island. Both quantitative (2000 census data) and qualitative (focused interviews) data analysis will be conducted in this research. Proposed outcomes of this research include a better understanding of the process of immigration with particular attention given to the role of resettlement programs and “VOLAGs” and the opportunity to improve upon this process.

8. Sabra Webber, Ph.D., Departments of Comparative Studies and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **Arab American Family Immigration Sagas: Teachers’ Institute in the Humanities.** January 2006. \$5,000.

Professor Webber proposes a summer institute to raise the awareness of Arab Americans among Ohio high school teachers. During the summer institute, select panels of students from past Arab American family immigration courses at OSU will present portions of edited video tapes of Arab American families and discuss with the teachers their experiences in the video project. The principal goal of the summer institute is to “convey to educators in Ohio the Arab American

experience, deepening the understanding of the causes of and thus possible solutions to the ethnic and racial difficulties they face through the use of Arab American Family Immigration Sagas ...and by drawing upon a spectrum of verbal art, literature and film that brings the voices and faces of Arab Americans into the dialogue.”

9. Nancy Hill McClary, M.S., Assistant Director, Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **Summer Writing Camp for High School Students.** April 2006. \$6,500.

The OSU Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing will conduct an intensive summer writing camp in 2006 for students from inner-city public high schools in the Columbus school district. The camp will provide opportunities for high school students to engage in substantive college-level writing that both requires and stimulates critical thinking. Students will gain experience with multi-media communication techniques. The following specific goals are articulated in the project proposal: 1) to engage student in critical analysis, research, and writing on a daily basis, using multiple formats of text, audio, and images, and 2) to develop collaborative project abilities through the creation of media-rich written products for a live audience and WOSU listeners and web users. During the five day camp, students will write and edit interviews, photographs, original editorials, tape recordings and other material to produce multi-media pieces. Topics that are important to the students’ social and community life, such as the causes of and solutions to racial and ethnic barriers, will be explored.

10. Adrienne Dixon, Ph.D., School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education, The Ohio State University. **Ethnographic Examination of the Experiences of Middle Childhood Students.** May 2006. \$500.

Professor Dixon proposes an exploratory study utilizing ethnographic methods to examine the experiences of middle school students in urban schools. This qualitative research seeks to deepen the understanding of the experiences of 6th grade students enrolled in two exemplary middle schools in the Columbus, Ohio public school system. Findings will illuminate the specific academic and non-academic barriers to academic success that affect students of color in the district and can be used to assist middle school teachers, district personnel and educational policy makers in developing appropriate middle childhood initiatives that address the psycho-social, developmental and overall educational needs of students enrolled in urban schools.

11. Nina Berman, Ph.D., Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **Conference on Disability Rights in Kenya, June, 2007, Nairobi.** September 2006. \$10,000.

Professor Berman and other OSU researcher are interested in pursuing an investigation that frames disability rights as human rights. Participation in the Kenyan conference will assist in establishing a collaborative relationship between OSU researchers and Kenyan researchers and disability rights advocates. Participation in this conference is one phase of a larger project that is investigating and creating dialogue around the intersections of race and ethnicity with disability rights not only in Kenya, but more globally. Research questions to be addressed in this investigation include the following:

- “What social and economic constraints do persons with disabilities face in Kenya?
- In what ways are ethnic societies in Kenya distinguished by distinct ideas regarding physical and mental disability, and what is the significance of these differences for the development of policy?
- What are the most significant ethnic, racial, and religious values that hinder the acceptability of persons with disabilities in society?
- In what ways do issues of race and ethnicity influence public attitudes and institutional approaches to disability in Kenya, and what can be learned from investigating this nexus in comparative studies that consider the US and Kenya, with regard to both service delivery and cultural ideas?
- ...In what ways can Kenyan models of community-based initiatives facilitate the development of community-based initiatives in the United States?
- In what ways does data from research on disability in Kenya contribute to the articulation of disability rights as human rights?”

12. Martin Joseph Ponce, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of English, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **National Conference on Asian American Studies**. October 2006. \$4,000.

This conference, scheduled for November 5, 2006 at OSU, will address a number of specific questions about the field of Asian American studies. Among these are:

- In what ways does studying the Midwest and other non-coastal regions and establishing programs and departments therein challenge the field’s fundamental assumptions and existing paradigms?
- How does the institutional location of Asian American studies intersect with other interdisciplinary programs such as American studies, Asian studies, queer studies, and women’s studies, particularly in terms of implementing and building programs and departments?
- How might collaborations with the methodological and theoretical possibilities afforded by other departments and programs sensitive to the exigencies of race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality productively reshape the objects and subjects of the critical work of Asian Americanists.

Professor Ponce and other conference planners hope that this convening will have a practical impact on the ways that Asian American studies, and ethnic studies more generally, is conceived, carried out, and carried forward at OSU.

13. James L. Moore, Ph.D., Professor, and Jeanne Reid, M.A., Doctoral Candidate, School of Physical Activity and Educational Services, College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University. **“First Generation Urban College Students Speak Out about Their Secondary School Preparation for Postsecondary Education.”** March 2007. \$1,950.

This project examines the perceptions of urban students about their high school preparation for postsecondary education. Participants are the first generation in their families to attend college. Face-to-face interviews and geographical questionnaires are used in this investigation. These researchers believe that a better understanding of the preparation these students receive in high

school will assist administrators, school counselors, teachers, high education professionals, and educational policymakers in developing appropriate policies, curricula, and programs to enhance success in college.

14. William Nelson, Ph.D., Professor, Department of African American and African Studies, College of Humanities, and Department of Political Science, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **“Political development of Caribbean Immigrant Communities in the City of Toronto.”** March 2007. \$5,210.

This research project investigates the political empowerment of Caribbean immigrants in Toronto, Canada. The focus on Caribbean immigrants can be of great value in expanding our knowledge and understanding of racialized minority and recent immigrant populations. Findings from this research will also contribute to the understanding of the role of race/ethnicity and immigration in shaping the policy making processes in urban centers. “..In Canada, despite a long history of immigration and the decidedly urban character of contemporary immigration patterns, the focus on questions of race and ethnicity has been systematically neglected.” Professor Nelson’s research will attempt to fill in critical gaps in knowledge regarding the role and impact of race and ethnicity in Canadian city politics. Primary sources of data in this investigation include census data in Canada, federal government documents (local, provincial, and national) and approximately fifty interviews with leaders and activists at the local and national level.

15. Ahmad Sikainga, Ph.D., Professor, Department of History and Department of African American and African Studies, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **“Understanding Darfur Conflict: Listening to Sudanese Voices.”** July 2007. \$5,000.

Since 2004, the Sudanese region of Darfur has been the scene of a violent conflict that the United Nations described as the world’s worst humanitarian crises. Although the events in Darfur have attracted unprecedented international attention, Professor Sikainga observes that “much of the media coverage tends to follow the familiar patterns of focusing on the drama rather than analyzing the nature and the root causes of the conflict.” Missing from the coverage of the Darfur conflict is information about how the Sudanese people themselves have responded to and thought about these crises. This research project will shed light on the internal debate within the Sudan, particularly among Sudanese political parties, civil society groups, NGOs, intellectuals, activists, and journalists.

16. Clair Robertson, Ph.D., Professor, Departments of History and Women’s Studies, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **“The Saint Lucia Oral History Project: Preserving the Past to Inspire the Future.”** May 2008. \$5,000.

This qualitative investigation seeks to understand how Saint Lucia has managed to avoid the racial/ethnic tensions characterizing so many Caribbean islands, given a colonial past in which the British practiced “divide-and-conquer” policies utilizing class, ethnic and race discrimination to establish a hierarchical society. Professor Robertson made her first research trip to St. Lucia in 1999 to collect oral histories and to determine the feasibility of carrying out a larger project aimed at preserving the memories of several generations of St. Lucians who know stories about the past that younger persons have not learned. She returned in 2002-2003 and interviewed some

250 elderly St. Lucians ranging in age from 68 to 112. These interviews comprise a collection of 420 CDs and will establish a baseline oral history that covers most aspects of economic, social and cultural life on the island. Small Grant funding will assist in this phase of the project.

17. Madhuri Sharma, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **“Spatial Integration and Neighborhood Diversity in US MSAs, 1990-2000: A Mixed-Methods Approach.”** May 2008. \$7,500.

This project has a very strong potential to contribute meaningfully to the growing body of research on how the arrangement of urban space in the U.S. is influenced by race and ethnicity. Small Grant funding will support Phase III of the project in which a qualitative mixed-method investigation will be conducted to determine how households make decisions about where, how and with whom to live. Methodologies in this phase of the project include archival research, participant observations, in-depth interviews and formal surveys in Columbus, Ohio and Milwaukee. A central question of this project is “Do household perceptions differ according to their own characteristics, racial/ethnic composition, and neighborhood/housing characteristics?”

18. Jay D. Iams, MD, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine, The Ohio State University. **“Stress, Health, and the Pregnancy Experience: The Shape Study.”** September 2008, \$9,623.

This research pilot study will explore the disproportionate rate of preterm births among non-Hispanic Black women in the United States. Iams will investigate the relationship between chronic stress attributed to structural racism and the high rate of infant mortality among non-Hispanic Black women. This study will serve as a guide for larger, more definitive studies of racial disparity and its relationship to chronic stress and preterm birth.

19. Angela Ryan, Doctoral Candidate, Department of History, College of Humanities, The Ohio State University. **“What Happened to the Sixties?: Multiracial Coalitions and the Enduring Legacy of Ethnic Studies.”** September 2008, \$9,219.

This historical study counters common historical opinion that the activism of the sixties effectively ceased to operate legitimately and relevantly as the decade came to a close. Ryan’s research will take her to San Francisco, California, Austin, Texas, and Washington, DC, where she will collect data from various universities and institutions to explore how the new intellectual field of ethnic studies created long-lasting, impactful change, helping bridge the gap between races as well as between Whites on both the “left” and “right.”

20. Alvina M. Kubeka, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **“Racial Identity, Religiosity, and Adolescent Development: A Comparative Analysis of African American and Black South African Youth Experiences.”** September 2008, \$6,742

This comparative study examines how racial and religious identity are complexly intertwined within the African American experience, as well as the South African Youth experience. Kubeka will travel to South Africa as well as Atlanta, Georgia, to assess how a racial group’s unfavorable position in the general social structure affects their identity formation. Utilizing various

ethnographic methods, she will interview youth in these areas to better understand the role religion plays in their Black racial identity development.

21. Adrienne D. Dixon, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University. **“Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?: Rebuilding Public Education in Post-Katrina New Orleans.”** September 2008, \$10,000

Professor Dixon’s project investigates the educational system of post-Katrina New Orleans. Her research will consider the impact of a hybrid model of public schooling, one which incorporates both traditional public schools and charter schools. This study will assess the affects of this system on communities of color specifically as it relates to educational and racial equity. She will travel to post-Katrina New Orleans, where she will conduct a series of interviews during the 2008–09 school year, utilizing numerous ethnographic methods in her attempt to gain in-depth assessments particular to the post-Katrina context. Her findings will aid parents, teachers, administrators, and scholars who are engaged in urban school reform and educational equity.

22. Shelly Francis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University. **“Assessing the feasibility of screening for and treating HPV and cervical cancer and introduction of the HPV vaccine in South Africa.”** November 2009, \$4,000

Cervical cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death among South African women, affecting one out of every twenty-six women. The advent of the HPV vaccine has the potential to reduce the burden of disease. However, provider knowledge, beliefs, and access to the vaccine are not well understood. This research will deepen the understanding of the factors that are associated with provider’s knowledge, beliefs, and practices as well as identify potential barriers and facilitating factors to vaccine uptake. The proposed study is part of a larger, formative study that was conducted in 2008 in a black township in Johannesburg, South Africa.

23. Jennifer Kam, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Communication, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University. **“Cultural Stressors Placing Latino Adolescents at Risk for Problem Behaviors and Poor Academic Performance: How can Parents and Peers Help?”** March 2010, \$3,000

The goal of this research project is to determine in what ways parent and peer factors function as protective resources against the effects of cultural stressors on Latino adolescents’ mental health and risky behaviors. The focuses on two types of stressors: ethnic discrimination and language brokering. Ethnic discrimination against Latinos is not only prevalent but is complex because it may be based on generation status (e.g., being born in the U.S. or outside the U.S.), linguistic qualities (e.g., accent and language use), physical features (e.g., skin color); and often disadvantaged socio-economic status. Language brokering refers to individuals, generally with less authority and no formal training, who linguistically and culturally mediate for two or more parties. Existing research on the relationship between discrimination, mental health and risky behaviors has focused primarily on Black adolescents but remains underdeveloped among Latino adolescents.. The findings of this investigation will help develop a theory of coping responses to guide more effective culturally-grounded programs to promote psychological well-being, while

decreasing substance use, delinquent behaviors, and poor academic performance. Such pursuits will, in turn, contribute to enhancing the overall well-being of Latino adolescents.