Spencer Program in Educational Research
Brandeis University

To: Graduate Student Advisers/Graduate Students
From: Joyce Antler and Sharon Feiman-Nemser
Co-Chairs, Spencer Program in Educational Research at Brandeis

Spencer Graduate Fellowships, 2007-08

The Spencer Discipline-Based Scholarship in Education Initiative at Brandeis, currently in the fifth year of funding by the Spencer Foundation, will select three Spencer Graduate Fellows for 2007-08 whose dissertation research concerns the general field of education. Each grant will provide a graduate student stipend of $10,000. Spencer funding will enable doctoral students to concentrate on their research during the grant year. Fellows participate in an Interdisciplinary Research Seminar, which meets every other Tuesday, from 4-6:30 pm. The seminar brings together faculty and doctoral students from different disciplinary departments and schools, promoting serious interdisciplinary conversation while supporting the research preparation of doctoral students interested in education. In addition to the Seminar, Spencer Fellows attend occasional lectures and participate in an annual conference.

Eligibility
Students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in any of the liberal arts departments or in any of Brandeis' professional schools are eligible to apply. While it is expected that students in the latter stage of research will be most likely to apply, the fellowship is open to students at any stage of their graduate career. If the Spencer award interrupts the student's funding cycle, the university will continue an extra year of funding after the conclusion of the Spencer grant.

Spencer Research Grants, 2007-08

Five additional graduate students will be selected to receive mini-grants of $2,500. These students participate in the Spencer Interdisciplinary Research Seminar and all collateral activities, including the annual conference. The mini-grant may be used to fund travel to conferences and for any standard expenses connected to students' research projects. These grants will be awarded to students whose topics have relevance to the field of education but who may be just beginning dissertation research or finishing their dissertation project.

Eligibility
Students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in any of the liberal arts departments or in any of Brandeis' professional schools are eligible to apply. Students may apply for the Spencer Fellowship and/or the Spencer Research Grant. Please specify at the top of the proposal which program you are applying for.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING ~ Thursday, December 7, 2006 ~ 11 am – 12:30 pm
Hassenfeld Conference Center, Luria 1, 2 & 3
Bring your lunch. We'll provide a beverage and dessert.
Past Recipients have come from the following Schools & Departments:

- American History
- Anthropology
- Comparative History
- Computer Science
- English
- Heller School
- History
- Music
- NEJS
- Politics
- Sociology

Sample Dissertation Titles & Research Topics of Past Spencer Fellows

- Education, National Identity & Citizenship in Interwar Poland, 1919-1939
- Immigrant & Refugee Youth's Practice of Democracy
- African American Education in Antebellum New England
- Montgomery: Education, Activism, and Memory in 'The Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement.'
- School-Based Parent Support Systems
- From Different Centerpoints: How Public School Parents Choose Schools
- Technology & Expanding Educational Opportunities
- Structure & Implementation of Education Policies in USA & France
- Role of College in the Transition to Work for Low-Income Women
- Hope, Critical Pedagogy & Trauma Recovery
- Impact of Globalization on Youth Agency
- Educational Discourse Between Composer & Audience
- Genesis: Textual Analysis & Educational Practice
- Interactive Text Interpretation & Meaning-Making

Application Process

Applications for both grants follow the same format and are due Monday, January 29, 2007. Each application should include:

1) Summary of thesis proposal, or statement of research interests in education (1500 words, double-spaced).
2) An abstract of the thesis proposal or research project (150 words).
3) A one-page statement specifying how the Interdisciplinary Research Seminar will help the thesis project and benefit the researcher.
4) An endorsement letter from the applicant's adviser or graduate chair indicating the relevance of the Spencer Fellowship to the student's Ph.D. work.
5) A brief c.v. (include information on years of graduate study completed, and expected date of completion of Ph.D.)

Send three copies of the completed application to Tania M. Mireles, Spencer Program Coordinator, Mailstop 049, Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex #208.

Notification February 26, 2007

For more information, contact:

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