



Meet the SSN Graduate Fellows for 2014-15

MARCH 2, 2015

Regional groups in the Scholars Strategy Network choose a graduate student fellow each year. Our third class includes fifteen young women and men studying at universities from the North to the South and from the Atlantic to the mid-Pacific. Each is doing cutting-edge research that speaks to critical public challenges.

To learn more about each of the 2013-14 Fellows, click on a name to see the person's full profile with research interests and civic involvements. Click on a title to read the full brief. View the full list of Fellows [here](#).



[Laura Bennett](#), Research Triangle SSN Graduate Fellow

Master of Public Policy Candidate, Sanford School, Duke University

SSN Civic Engagement: ["How Colleges in North Carolina – And Beyond – Can Help Students Vote"](#)



[Sara Bernardo](#), Boston SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston

SSN Key Findings: ["Financial Reforms Alone Cannot Reduce Household Debt for Americans Facing Low Wages and Insecure Jobs"](#)



[Jennifer Crittenden](#), Maine SSN Graduate Fellow

Fiscal & Administrative Officer, University of Maine Center on Aging

SSN Key Findings: ["The Value of Volunteer Engagement by Older Americans"](#)



[John D'Attoma](#), Confluence SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Missouri-St. Louis

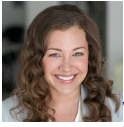
SSN Key Findings: ["Roots and Remedies for Rampant Tax Evasion in Italy"](#)



[Charles Decker](#), New Haven SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Political Science, Yale University

SSN Key Findings: [“Massachusetts as a Surprising Pioneer in the Turn to Mandatory Sentencing as a Response to Crime”](#)



[Vontrese R. Deeds](#), Evanston SSN Graduate Fellow

Doctoral Student in Management and Organizations & Sociology, Northwestern University

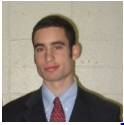
SSN Key Findings: [“How School Closures Can Hurt Students by Disrupting Urban Educational Communities”](#)



[Ryan Gabriel](#), Northwest SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Student in Sociology, University of Washington

SSN Key Findings: [“Will America's Growing Number of Racially Mixed Families Ensure That Neighborhoods Become More Diverse?”](#)



[Jake Martin Grumbach](#), Bay Area SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

SSN Basic Facts: [“San Francisco's Pioneering Health Program Shows That Local Governments Can Help All Working Families”](#)



[Natalie Novick](#), San Diego SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Student in Sociology, University of California, San Diego

SSN Basic Facts: [“Will the United States Adopt Start-Up Immigrant Visas to Foster Economic Innovation?”](#)



[James Stephen Schlaffer](#), Oklahoma SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Student in Economics, University of Oklahoma

SSN Key Findings: [“Is the Use of Hydraulic Fracturing by the Energy Industry Causing More Frequent Earthquakes in Oklahoma?”](#)



[Benjamin Toff](#), Madison SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

SSN Basic Facts: [“Rethinking the Role of Public Opinion Polls in American Democracy”](#)



[Rex Troumbley](#), Hawaii SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SSN Basic Facts: [“How New Digital Technologies Make It Possible to Privatize Censorship and Manipulate Citizen-Users”](#)



[Chandi Wagner](#), Texas SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Public Affairs, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin

SSN Key Findings: [“Schools are Racing to Adopt Digital Tools without Solid Evidence That They Boost Student Achievement”](#) (with Patricia Burch, Annalee Good, and Carolyn J. Heinrich)



[Sherry Zhang](#), Finger Lakes and Working Group on Criminal Justice SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

SSN Basic Facts: [“Understanding the Many Difficulties Faced by the Children of Imprisoned Mothers”](#)



[Robert Zuchowski](#), New Orleans SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Criminal Justice, Loyola University New Orleans

SSN Basic Facts: [“How Free Computer Software and Regularly Collected Data Can be Used to Explore Crime in Urban Environments”](#)