

Published by the Office of Foundation, Corporate and Government Relations, *Faculty Grants Quarterly* is an internal newsletter created for Hamilton College faculty members to report on funding and research trends of public and private funding sources, as well as the grant and scholarly activities of their colleagues.



Considering writing a grant proposal?
 Have an idea, but don't know what to do next?
 Need help sorting out your budget?
 Contact our office.



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Claudette Ferrone

Lisa Trivedi back from a year of grant-supported research in India

Fulbright Fellowship supports Trivedi's research in India

Lisa Trivedi, assistant professor of history, knew how she wanted to spend her pre-tenure sabbatical – conducting research in India for her next book. Her only impediment was securing grant support. Determined to see her project come to fruition, Trivedi drafted proposals over the course of two grant cycles. Three years later, she has returned to College Hill after spending a year in India thanks to a Fulbright Fellowship.

Lisa's project, "Bound by Cloth: women textile workers in Bombay and Lancashire, 1860-1940," examines the development of factory reform movements and legislation in British India and Great Britain. She examines the origins of an international labor movement across the British Empire. Between 1869 and 1913, textile mills in India grew from 17 to 259. Despite the increasing need for industrial workers in Bombay, the Factory Act of 1891 significantly limited the conditions of employment for women.

Trivedi examines what these limitations may tell about the predispositions of industrial capitalism.

"My study explores how particular gender ideologies in India and Britain worked in tandem and across cultures to shape women's choices and experiences as industrial workers," she explains. It also takes into account a broader perspective. Europe is frequently credited with developing some of the basic aspects of industrialized life and passing them on to other societies. Trivedi argues that these basic elements — work, leisure, family and community, scarcity and consumption — allow us to consider the common experiences of women across two distinct cultures and within one empire.

"The first part of my project is a comparative study of the proliferation of gendered ideologies implemented through increasingly paternal states and emerging international organizations. The second portion identifies

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Trivedi, from page 1

and then traces the assumptions of what constituted ‘women’s work’ cross-culturally.”

Trivedi began her quest for funding in 2002-03, the year before her scheduled leave. She produced two fellowship proposals — the first was submitted to the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), the second to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). Her first proposal to AIIS was submitted to the Junior Research Fellowship program, which offered four months of support. It was declined, but program officials encouraged her to re-apply in the next cycle to the Senior Research Fellowship program, which would offer nine months of support. She later learned that her ACLS proposal was also declined.

“The Fulbright grant has been enormously helpful professionally. It enabled me to complete a significant portion of the research for my next book, and will more immediately lead to conference papers and an article.”

— **Lisa Trivedi, assistant professor of history**

“I knew competition for both programs was stiff and that this was just part of the process,” she said. Over the following summer, she revised her proposal and prepared for the fall submission deadlines, which fell in the first part of her junior sabbatical.

“The work — the writing of the initial proposal — requires significant

time and thought and might be best done in the summer so you have time to focus on it,” she said. During the second summer, in addition to revising her previous applications for AIIS and ACLS, Trivedi also submitted a proposal to the Fulbright Scholar Program. “Once you have the first proposal done, you can easily revise it to meet the requirements of other granting organizations or refine its content as the project develops. It is a time-consuming process, but it is also a very productive process. It is something that keeps you focused on research during the school year while teaching. Now that most applications materials are on-line, submissions are much easier.”

Her efforts paid off. Trivedi was awarded both the AIIS Senior Research Fellowship and the Fulbright Fellowship. She declined the Senior Research Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian studies and accepted the Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship. The Fulbright funded nine months of overseas research in India, making it possible for her to take a full year’s leave from the College to conduct research in the Maharashtra State Archives at Bombay’s Elphinstone College. These archives contain the papers of the Government of Bombay during the British colonial period, including materials on health, public works, education, industry and labor as well as a large English and vernacular language newspaper collection.

Aside from reading the papers of the textile labor and factory commissions, Lisa also read the government papers relating to health facilities in Bombay, including the Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital. Founded by a leading industrial family to provide women mill workers with free prenatal and maternity care, by the late 1920s an estimated one of six babies in the city of Bombay was born there, making it the most important facility in India of its kind.

“The Fulbright grant has been enormously helpful professionally. It enabled me to complete a significant portion of the research for my next book, and will more immediately lead to conference papers and an article,” Trivedi explained. “Further, the

experience also helped me to develop professional relationships with Indian scholars at Bombay University with whom I hope to collaborate on work in the future.”

Aside from these research goals, the Fulbright also allowed Trivedi to begin work in historical preservation in India. Having learned about the fellowship, she approached the dean of the faculty for seed funding to begin the preservation of the newspaper of one of India’s most important labor organizations, the Textile Labour Association in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. With College support, *Majoor Sandesh* or *Workman’s News* will be digitally preserved, and eventually copies will be deposited in libraries in the United States, Great Britain and India.

“Now that I have contacts in historical preservation in India, I hope to write a grant that will preserve the rest of the Textile Labour Association’s library and perhaps provide research facilities for others,” she said, “Without an outside grant, I would never have approached the dean of faculty for the seed money, let alone dreamed of receiving funding for historical preservation. Carrying out this work is a small way that I can give back to the country in which I do my research.”

The Fulbright Program, the U.S. government’s flagship program in international educational exchange, was proposed to the U.S. Congress in 1945 by then freshman Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. In the aftermath of World War II, Senator Fulbright viewed the proposed program as a much-needed vehicle for promoting “mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries of the world.” His vision was approved by Congress and the program signed into law by President Truman in 1946. Fulbright grants are made to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research, graduate study and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. Since the program’s inception, more than 250,000 participants have had the opportunity to observe each other’s political, economic and cultural institutions.

NIH opens new unit

The National Institutes of Health has opened a new strategic planning unit (*Federal Grants and Contracts Weekly*, Sept. 12, 2005). The new Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI) will collect and analyze information that will help support planning for NIH's granting programs and initiatives. NIH currently operates 26 institutes and centers. The new office will not only assist with planning for all the institutes and centers, but will help create cooperative ventures between institutes. NIH Deputy Director Raynard Kingston was quoted as saying that the new office will examine research gaps and will provide "an institutionalized process for scanning the horizon for public health needs."

OPASI will operate three branches: 1) Resource Development and Analysis will be responsible for resource assessment, portfolio management and emerging scientific opportunities; 2) Strategic Coordination will develop priority-setting recommendations, address exceptional scientific opportunities and provide the director with the information needed to lead the agency; and 3) Evaluation and Systemic Assessment will oversee program evaluations and systemic assessments. OPASI was created at the behest of Director Elias Zerhouni, who was concerned about changing circumstances and increased budget stringency.

Agencies scramble to assess effects of Katrina and Rita

Virtually all the federal agencies that have discretionary granting programs responded to the Katrina and Rita disasters. NIH, NSF, NEH, NEA and the Department of Education, among other agencies, extended or changed the deadline dates for hurricane-ef-

ected applicants. Many agencies went a step further and offered additional funding or time extensions to researchers whose work may have been set back or destroyed.

Shortly after the extent of the devastation was realized, NIH posted the following on its Web site: "As soon as investigators and institutions are able to assess the damage to their NIH-supported research programs and communicate with NIH, NIH will consider requests for administrative supplements for extensions in time that include personnel costs, and replacement of equipment, supplies and unique resources damaged or lost as a result of the storm."

Likewise, NEH is offering emergency assistance to humanities organizations in the effected areas. Shortly after the hurricane hit, NEH Chairman Bruce Cole released a short statement: "In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, millions of Americans have faced incredible hardships. For centuries, New Orleans and the Gulf Coast have made distinctive contributions to the history, literature, music and art of our nation, and as families, businesses and institutions recover from this terrible storm, NEH will help rescue and restore the vibrant historical and cultural resources of the region."

The NEH is partnering with state and local humanities officials to distribute the funding in order to salvage important collections and artifacts. The National Science Foundation, meanwhile, is using the Small Grants for Exploratory Research mechanism as a way to fund emergency requests for assistance with regard to facilities, equipment or data.

Grants.gov begins to see more traffic

In the 2006 fiscal year, federal agencies will be under pressure from the White House to expand the grant op-

portunities they advertise and grant applications they accept through the grants.gov site (*Federal Grants and Contracts Weekly*, Oct. 10, 2005). Grants.gov is part of the federal government's attempt to present applicants with a consistent entry point into the federal grant process. Under a directive from the White House Office of Management and Budget, 26 funding agencies will be asked to facilitate 100 percent of their grant applications through Grants.gov, up from 25 percent this year.

Fiscal year 2005 saw the largest amount of activity on the site. In the past, users often complained about technical problems that plagued the site. At times, applicants were locked out of competitions and program officers found themselves re-opening competitions. While critics are suspicious that the system can handle the expected surge in traffic, officials maintain that most technical problems have been resolved and that the system is safe, secure and ready. They are about to launch an aggressive outreach and education campaign that will include workshops, seminars, tutorials and webcasts to woo users back to the site.

A Sampling of Awards and Submissions

Please join the Office of Foundation, Corporate and Government Relations as we extend congratulations to the following faculty members who have recently received awards or submitted proposals.

Derek C. Jones, the Irma M. and Robert D. Morris Professor of Economics, and a colleague from Colgate University have received a \$181,703 grant from the National Science Foundation for their project "Collaborative Research: The Nature and Effects of Human Resource Policies: Econometrics Case Studies of Firms in the U.S., China and Finland."

Kyoko Omori, assistant professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures, has submitted her proposal, "Detecting Modanizumu: New Youth Magazine, Detective Fiction and the Culture of Japanese Vernacular Modernism, 1920-1950," to the American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship program and to The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers Fellowship program.

Ann L. Owen, associate professor of economics, and **Julio R. Videras**, assistant professor of economics, submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation's economics program requesting \$149,618 for support of their project, "Religious Beliefs, Public Goods Contributions and Economic Growth." Owens and Videras also submitted a similar proposal, "Spiritual Capital, Economic Growth and the Provision of Public Goods," to the Templeton Foundation requesting \$150,000.

Heidi M. Raven, professor of religious studies, has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for support of her project, "Searching for Ethics in a New America."

George C. Shields, the Winslow Professor of Chemistry, along with colleagues from Mount Holyoke College, Hobart & William Smith colleges, Connecticut College, Truman State University, Westminster College, Rhode Island College and The College of Wooster, were awarded a \$100,000 grant from the National Science

Foundation's Major Research Instrumentation program for their project, "Acquisition of a Linux cluster for the Molecular Education and research Consortium in Undergraduate Computational Chemistry." Shields also received a \$219,913 grant from the National Institutes of Health for his project, "The Reactivity and Dynamics of Eneidyne National Products," and a \$113,620 award from the Department of Defense's Congressional Directed Medical Research Program for his project, "Development of a Computational Assay for the Estrogen Receptor."

Selected Spring Application Deadlines

Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement, NSF
January 24, 2006

Major Research Instrumentation, NSF
January 26, 2006

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program, NSF
February 9, 2006

Academic Research Enhancement Awards, NIH
February 25, 2006

Summer Seminars and Institutes, NEH
March 1, 2006

Faculty Humanities Workshops, NEH
April 7, 2006

Fellowships, NEH
May 1, 2006

Cottrell College Science Awards, Research Corporation
May 15, 2006

Research Experiences for Undergraduates, NSF
June 7, 2006