



INEQUALITY AND DECISION MAKING

GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP

The Tobin Project seeks applications from doctoral students undertaking new research that explores economic inequality's behavioral effects, or the potential macro-level consequences of such effects. Doctoral students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for applications is February 29th, 2020.

The Tobin Project aims to foster innovative and rigorous research that addresses major challenges facing society. Since 2013, Tobin has brought together leading scholars from a wide range of disciplines to investigate how high and rising economic inequality might influence individuals' attitudes, decisions, and behaviors, as well as the potential consequences of these changes for our economy, society, and democracy.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AND WORKSHOP

Fellowship recipients will be awarded grants of up to \$1000 and travel to Cambridge, Massachusetts to share and develop their research-in-progress with a community of other fellows and Tobin Project staff. The fellowship grants are meant to defray research expenses and provide general support to graduate students working on topics related to the Tobin Project's research priorities. Any additional research costs should be noted in the budget and will be considered for funding if it is available.

The Tobin Project seeks applications from doctoral students from all relevant disciplines, including but not limited to psychology, economics, political science, and sociology. Fellows will attend a two-day workshop in Cambridge, MA, where they will present their research-in-progress. The workshop will provide an interdisciplinary seminar-style environment for fellows to receive feedback on their research, with a particular focus on strengthening fellows' skills in formulating and refining core research questions. It represents a rare opportunity to receive critical feedback on new research outside of a departmental environment. The workshop will begin on the evening of Wednesday, April 29, and conclude in the afternoon on Friday, May 1. The Tobin Project will cover reasonable travel and lodging expenses.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applications should include the following:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Project title and short abstract (100-150 words)
- Research proposal (700-1000 words). Please include the following in the proposal:
 - The question(s) your research aims to address
 - Research methodology and initial hypotheses
 - Current stage of research and data collection plans (if relevant)
 - Connection to the Tobin Project's research
 - Expected output (e.g., journal article, dissertation chapter, etc.) and timeline
 - Potential implications for the academic literature and/or the policy world
 - Budget

Please email application materials as a single PDF to research@tobinproject.org by February 29th, 2020. In the subject line, please indicate that you are applying to the Graduate Student Workshop.



The Tobin Project seeks to support graduate students pursuing new empirical research on economic inequality and its consequences. Successful applicants will examine a particular mechanism by which high or rising economic inequality affects individual level decision making or attitudes, and/or the macro-level consequences of such individual-level effects. Applicants may use a wide range of methodological approaches.

Though all applications are welcome, the Tobin Project particularly encourages projects that address one of the following key research areas.

1. What factors contribute to individuals' perceptions of the nature and extent of economic inequality, as well as of their own relative economic status? What roles might one's media diet, immediate surroundings, and larger geographic community play in these perceptions, and how might these sources of information interact? Which reference groups are most salient to individuals' judgments about their own economic status and prospects?
2. How might high and rising inequality shape individuals' political attitudes and actions, and what cumulative effects might these individual-level shifts result in? Do economic inequality's effects on political behaviors or beliefs vary across the economic distribution?
3. How, if at all, does economic inequality or low economic mobility exacerbate individuals' biases towards "in-groups" or discrimination against "out-groups?" How might these effects vary by kind of group (racial, gender, partisan affiliation, or other)? Could economic inequality intensify group conflict in ways that further entrench political conditions that foster inequality?
4. How might high and rising economic inequality cause individuals to take more risks, whether with respect to spending and finances, health behaviors, decision making in the workplace, or other circumstances? What community or societal level consequences might result from such effects on people's tendencies to take risks?

Please see the web pages below for:

- A [history](#) of the Tobin Project's Inequality and Decision Making research initiative;
- A [digest](#) of some of the relevant literature, as compiled for our April 2019 conference; and
- An expanded [list](#) of un- or under-studied research questions.

THE TOBIN PROJECT

The mission of the Tobin Project is to mobilize, motivate, and support a community of scholars across the social sciences and allied fields seeking to deepen our understanding of significant challenges facing the nation. Toward this end, the Tobin Project aims to identify and pursue questions that, if addressed with rigorous scholarly research, could have the greatest potential to benefit society and to unlock doors within the academy to new and vital lines of inquiry. Inspired by Professor James Tobin's belief that scholars have a vital role to play in the public sphere, the Tobin Project has built an interdisciplinary network of over 800 leading scholars across 80 universities, from Nobel Laureates to the most promising graduate students, who are together working to generate pioneering research on pressing problems of the 21st century. Currently the Tobin Project is focused on four core research areas: Economic Inequality; Government & Markets; Institutions of Democracy; and National Security. For more information, please visit www.tobinproject.org

The Tobin Project is a non-partisan organization recognized as a public charity under sections 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 29, 2020.

Please direct submissions and any questions to research@tobinproject.org