

**Call For Applications For Graduate Fellows**

**Recovering Truth: Religion, Journalism, And Democracy In A Post-Truth Era**

**Deadline: May 10, 2021**

**Program Description:** The Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict invites graduate students to apply for a limited number of positions in the Recovering Truth graduate fellows training program. This program is part of the Recovering Truth project, a collaborative research initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. The project is directed by Professors John Carlson and Tracy Fessenden and gathers team members from across the university and beyond to focus on the pursuit, meaning, discovery, and recovery of truth.

Society grapples today with a striking indifference to truth. This is so in parts of our government, in some of our classrooms, in swaths of media, and among the general public. Authoritarian, anti-democratic, and anti-expertise movements are surging in the United States and around the world. Credibility falters when trust in our institutions falls away. In response to these civic challenges, the Recovering Truth Project brings together scholars and journalists to collaborate as truth-seekers and truthtellers in order to safeguard public trust, enrich each other’s work, invigorate public discussion of the importance of truth, and help repair the fabric of democratic life. We are especially interested in exploring the role that different beliefs about reality, transcendence, theology, moral principles, and other truth claims have played in animating democratic life.

Guiding questions that animate the project include:

* What is truth? How do we know it? How do scholars and practitioners in different fields go about seeking it? Is truth reducible to facts, and what dangers do we court when we insist that it is, or that it is not? How do ideas found in religious or theological traditions enrich or complicate the pursuit of truth?
* Are we living in a post-truth era? If so, how did we get here? What responsibility does the academy bear in having moved us to this point, and in moving us to something better?
* What are the prospects for recovering a shared commitment to truth? What do we mean when we invoke universal or self-evident truths? Are the truths the American founders declared self-evident still so? Were they ever?
* How do power, authority, discipline, and law give force to truth claims? Does truth have standing apart from these?
* What relation does truth bear to objectivity, neutrality, transparency, reason, trustworthiness, beauty, virtue, or authenticity?
* Is truth singular or multiple? What does it mean to speak or own one’s truth? Can truth be personalized, curated, tailored to fit? What unites capital-T truth (if such a concept is useful) with the truths of individual experience?
* Are there different orders of truth—such as those found in art, narrative, journalism, science, or philosophy? What about the truths of different forms of witnessing—legal depositions, spiritual testimony, on-the-record statements, memoir, participant-observation, first-order description? What paths and impasses appear when we seek to bring different orders of truth to bear on one another?

**Expectations & Details:** Graduate students accepted into the Recovering Truth graduate fellows training program will be engaged in various project activities. Components of the training program include: working directly with project team members to explore the project’s themes; attending training workshops on how to write and pitch public scholarship for publication; and attending project events (in-person and/or virtual). There will be 2-3 required meetings per semester, plus mini-meet ups with a project facilitator (these portions of the program will be remote). Graduate Students accepted into the program for this call will be participants for the 2021-22 academic year. Students who successfully complete the training program will receive a participant stipend of $1,000.

## Eligibility: Applicants must be currently enrolled at Arizona State University and plan to be enrolled for the full 2021-22 academic year. Applicants from any Masters or PhD program at ASU are eligible to apply.

## Application Process: Students applying should submit the following application materials:

## Transcript and CV: A PDF copy of your current unofficial ASU transcript and your CV.

## Application Form: The application form is page 3 of this document. Please complete the form by typing into the boxes (do not submit handwritten forms). Once all fields are complete, please add your signature in the appropriate box (electronic/digital signatures are accepted; if you don’t have access to a scanner or digital signature, typing your name there is fine).

## REQUIRED: a recommendation letter is not required, but please make sure you list the name and email of your dissertation/thesis advisor (if you do not have an advisor, please list a professor who is willing to be a reference), so we can contact him or her if necessary.

## Research Statement: in the appropriate box on the form, please provide a short statement or plan of research (approximately 300 - 500 words) that describes your interest in the Recovering Truth project and its relationship to your career aspirations.

**Selection Criteria:** Participant selection will be based upon: a) the significance of the applicant’s work and interests in relation to the project themes and goals; and b) the scholarly record or promise of the applicant.

**Application Timeline:** Applications should be submitted via email.Please direct inquiries and send applications by **May 10, 2021** to:

Matt Correa

Project Coordinator, Recovering Truth

Assistant Research Administrator, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict

Email: matt.correa@asu.edu

Web: <https://csrc.asu.edu/recoveringtruth>

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Recovering Truth Graduate Fellows: Application Form

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| Name: |  | ASU ID: |
| Email address: |  | Cell phone: |
| Address: |  | City:  | State:  | Zip:  |
| Degree Seeking: [ ]  **Master** [ ]  **Doctorate |** Expected Graduation: **Semester:** **Year:**  |
| ASU College/Department:  |
| Faculty Advisor (name and email):  |
| Thesis/Dissertation Title and/or Topic:  |
| Research Statement:  |
| **By signing below, I certify that I am currently enrolled at Arizona State University, and that the information contained herein (and in all additional application materials) is true and accurate. Further, I give the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict permission to verify my academic record. I also understand that accepting the participant stipend for completing the program may affect my financial aid package.** |
| Type your name here: |  | Date |  |
| Signature: |  |

Direct inquiries and submit applications to: **Matt Correa (****matt.correa@asu.edu****).**