

Columbia School Linguistic Society

Research Fellowship

Request for *new* proposals for the 2024-2025 academic year

March 2024

For the coming 2024-2025 academic year the [Columbia School Linguistic Society](#) (henceforth the Society) is considering fellowship proposals.

The fellowship is intended for studies that adhere to the general characteristics of a Diverian Columbia School analysis. The successful applicant for the fellowship (the fellow) will develop a linguistic research project that addresses a grammatical, lexical, or phonological problem of the fellow's choice, under the guidance of a mentor who is a member of the Society. Funded projects will address observable facts of distribution. Grammatical and lexical analyses will be moving toward an explicit signal-meaning hypothesis: through their research, fellows will aim to identify and describe the distribution of the hypothesized signal(s), and to propose a meaning hypothesis with explicitly formulated links between these patterns and the hypothesized meaning. Phonological analyses explain the syntagmatic and paradigmatic distribution of phonological units within signals, drawing on both communicative function and human physiological and psychological characteristics.

Applicants with a basic understanding of Columbia School (CS) theory may apply for the fellowship if they can formulate a CS-based research question and if they are committed to exploring the question through a CS lens. If the applicant does not have a CS mentor, a mentor can be assigned after the application is submitted. In addition, an introductory course will be offered so that new fellows can learn more about CS theory.

Each new fellow will receive a stipend for the period covering from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025. Fellowship awards start at US\$5,000 and are calculated on the basis of a 12-month calendar year. The deadline for submitting a proposal for the 2024-2025 fellowship is **May 31, 2024**.

Assuming satisfactory progress in the judgment of the mentor and of the Society's Executive Committee, stipend payments will be made on a quarterly basis by the Society.

Fellowship Requirements

Fellowship awards include requirements for both fellows and mentors.

In addition to the requirements mentioned above, the **fellow** is expected to:

- Participate in the online introductory course for new fellows, which will meet once a week for approximately 9 weeks.
- Take the initiative to actively seek out the mentor during the time of the fellowship and to consult with the mentor on a regular basis on all aspects of the project.
- Participate in proseminars that include their mentor and at least two other invited Society members. Fellows are encouraged to attend a proseminar other than their own. The dates of at least two proseminars each year should be planned in advance and shared with the Society's program manager.
- Give a conference-style presentation (short presentation followed by discussion) at one Seminar during the 2024-2025 academic year. Dates will be selected at the beginning of the academic year.
- Fellows are encouraged to attend the Seminar (held monthly) on a regular basis.
- Work, during and/or after the fellowship period, to present the results of the research at professional conferences and to publish results in a recognized academic venue; publications resulting from the fellowship should acknowledge the support of the Society and copies should be sent to the Society's program manager.

Each fellow is expected to submit a report, in the form of either a proposal for continued funding, or a final report at the conclusion of the fellowship year. For those not requesting continued funding, final reports should be submitted to the Society's program manager no later than December 1, 2025.

The fellow is also expected to be an active supporter of the Society in activities pursuant to its mission. Fellows may be asked to make service contributions such as chairing seminars or organizing other Society activities.

The **mentor** is expected to:

- Support the fellow by meeting regularly.
- Help the fellow organize proseminars, and generally make sure that the requirements of the fellowship are fulfilled.
- Support the fellow to work toward presenting their research at a professional conference and eventually publishing it in a recognized venue.
- Attend the Society Seminar on a regular basis, reflecting a commitment to the Society's scholarly community.

Application

The application consists of:

- A research proposal describing the analytical problem to be addressed as well as previous treatments in the literature, and offering details of any progress the analyst has made. The successful applicant will show that the project falls within the general characteristics of a CS analysis as described above. Mentors, if available, should review applications prior to submission.
- This statement should not exceed 10 double-spaced pages written in 12-point font.
- The applicant's CV.
- A statement regarding the fellow's professional plans

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **May 31, 2024**. Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Society's Executive Committee, assisted by such additional reviewers as they may deem appropriate. The Society will make every effort to notify applicants by the end of June 2024. The application, and accompanying documents must be submitted via the [Society's Fellowship Application Form](#). More information about Columbia School linguistics can be found at www.csling.org. Questions may be addressed to the Society's program manager at admin@csling.org.