

Meet the 2016–2017 APSA Minority Fellows

The Minority Fellows Program (MFP) is a fellowship competition for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds applying to or in the early stages of doctoral programs in political science. The MFP was established in 1969 (originally as the Black Graduate Fellowship) to increase the number of minority scholars in the discipline. Below are the names and pictures of the APSA Minority Fellows for 2016–2017.

ESTEFANIA CASTAÑEDA PÉREZ

Estefania Castañeda Pérez received a BA in political science with a minor in honors interdisciplinary studies at San Diego State University (SDSU). Growing up in



Tijuana, Mexico, and adopting the trans-border lifestyle to attend school in San Diego, California, prompted Estefania to write a senior honors thesis investigating the different experiences and

perceptions of border policing from cross-border commuters in the pedestrian lanes at the Tijuana–San Ysidro border. Her thesis won Best Student Paper Award at the Association for Borderlands Studies Conference. After graduating from SDSU, she was a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, Spain, and worked to prepare high school students to compete in Model United Nations competitions. Estefania will focus her graduate studies on cross-border migration, border theory, human rights, and national security.

ALEJANDRA GIMENEZ

Alejandra Gimenez is a senior from Connecticut studying political science at Brigham Young University (BYU). She has been an undergraduate research fellow with the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at BYU since January 2014. Her research interests include American political behavior, public opinion, campaigns and elections, candidate emergence, and survey research methods. She and her coauthor won first place in the 2015 Pacific Chapter of the



American Association for Public Opinion Research Student Paper Competition for their work on the effects of positive and negative cues on support for an increase in the federal minimum wage using a survey experiment that was fielded on the 2014 Utah Colleges Exit Poll. She has presented her work at MPSA, and in November 2015 she was selected to present at the University of Michigan's Emerging Scholars Conference. After graduation, she plans to pursue a PhD in American politics.

KENISHA GRANSBERRY

Kenisha Gransberry is a graduating senior at Lincoln University majoring in political science and minoring in history. She is very active in the political science department

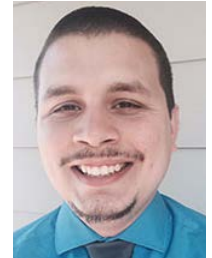


serving as the president of the Model United Nations Club, where they have won several awards for the last three years. In addition to working in her major field, Kenisha currently serves as the Student Government Association president. Given her leadership and passion for political science, she believes that her experiences will prepare her for the advancement the field. She hopes to pursue a masters and PhD in political science, and to utilize the foundation of these degrees to affect her community on the state and national level, through public service as a senator and through advocacy.

JESSE LOPEZ

Jesse Lopez is currently an undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. He will graduate in 2016 with his BA in political science. He holds an associate's degree with high honors from Santa Monica Community College. Jesse has served as a research apprentice on a project

involving the role of gender stereotypes in California elections, and has conducted independent research at APSA's 2015 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute.



He was then invited to present this research, which focuses on the relationship between race, ethnicity, and retrospective voting, at the 2015 APSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. He has also spent a semester at Sciences Po in Paris, building a broader understanding of political behavior. He plans to focus his graduate research on the role of racial identity in people's political perceptions and behaviors.

DONNA YORK

Donna York received a BA in international studies, with a minor in French in 2013 from Georgia Southern University. She joined the Peace Corps for international experience and has participated in a number of other international learning experiences throughout her early years. In 2011, she lived abroad for the first time in South Korea learning about East Asian culture,



economics, history, and learning the Korean language. Then, she began to study Middle East and European cultures by learning Arabic and French. In 2012, she studied in France to learn about European affairs. In her tour in the Peace Corps, she taught more than 30 hours of English and related projects to her community in Benin, West Africa. Her Peace Corps experience prepared her for a comprehensive practical experience in the field of political science. ■