

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Einstein Drive
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016**

INSTRUCTIONS for REFEREES

_____ has selected you as a reference for his/her application to be a Member in the School of Social Science during the 2015-2016 academic year. We would appreciate your evaluation of the candidate's proposed research, and his or her ability to carry it out.

Please prepare your reference as a PDF attachment, and email to sssrecs@ias.edu, with "Reference for CANDIDATE'S NAME" in the subject line. Also, be sure to include your own name, title and institution within the text of the reference letter.

Reference emails must be received by November 1, 2014.

Background

Each year, the School of Social Science invites about twenty scholars from a large applicant pool. The group is interdisciplinary and international, and scholars are expected to pursue their own research. A completed doctorate or equivalent is required of all applicants.

The following thematic focus for 2015-16 is neither an exclusive nor excluding theme; it is expected that only one-third of the accepted scholars will pursue work relating to this theme. We describe it below in case it is helpful to you in composing your reference letter.

Borders and Boundaries

The external limits of territories (borders) and the internal delimitations within societies (boundaries) have long been thought of in different terms: immigration, nationality and citizenship in the first case; racial, ethnic, religious, caste and class differentiation in the second. If globalization has hardened rather than abolished borders it has also produced new realities and anxieties concerning social boundaries. The immigrants of yesterday have often become the minorities of today. Whether one considers the parallel rise of xenophobia and Islamophobia in an increasingly integrated Europe, the links between undocumented immigrants and Latino politics in North America, the conflicts between neighboring countries involving oppressed minorities in Asia, the repression of ethnic or religious groups in Africa, or the transnational circulation of terrorist networks, the reconfiguration of borders and boundaries in both war and peace raises anew classical problems of state formation, nation-building and social contract. This is not to say that these phenomena are unprecedented: on the contrary, their genealogies and histories, colonial pasts and imperial legacies need to be explored.

How to analyze the continuities and discontinuities in the making of borders and boundaries? How to interpret contemporary insecurities concerning immigration and identities in relation with economic and cultural tensions? How to envisage the consolidation of racial, ethnic, religious differences in a context of transnational circulation of goods and people? How are the psychological dynamics of in-group and cross-group interaction interacting with shifting legal and political realities? How are class and gender inequalities recomposed in the changing patterns of the nation-state? How do public policies, political parties, social movements and non-governmental organizations address these issues? Around such questions, we hope to bring together scholars working in various countries, using empirical and comparative method as well as theoretical and normative approach, and from all disciplines, including history, sociology, anthropology, geography, psychology, economics, law, philosophy and political science.

Should you wish more information about the Institute for Advanced Study, please visit our website at www.ias.edu.