

Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society
The Graduate Center, CUNY
is soliciting applications for
Faculty and Doctoral-Student Fellowships
for the
2004-2005 Academic Year

on the topic of

Civil Society, Government, and Governance

(Applications are welcome from all full-time CUNY faculty and
Level III Graduate Students)

The Center

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society provides an interdisciplinary forum for the exploration of issues surrounding the roles of different gender racial, ethnic, religious and economic groups in organizational development, social reform, and the emergence of civil society around the world. The Center is initiating a two-year project to bring advanced graduate students and faculty together to explore a specific theme within this framework. Fellows will present their own work and examine the work of others in *bi-weekly seminars* over the course of the academic year. The Center will also invite other scholars who have done significant work on the annual theme to present their work in the seminar and in a public lecture.

The Theme

Civil Society, Government, and Governance is the theme for the 2004-2005 academic-year Fellowship. Beginning in the 1990s, there was a general euphoria over the future of civil society and civil society organizations [CSOs], which were lauded for their presumed ability to fund social capital and to democratize the actions of the state. (Examples of CSOs would include voluntary associations, nonprofits, community-based organizations, NGOs, social reform groups, and transnational private voluntary organizations.) In many countries, these groups were increasingly asked to bear the burden of social welfare programs as national bureaucracies contracted with government retrenchment and privatization. At the same time, they began to receive growing recognition from organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank, efforts that underscored the growing importance of transnational CSOs as political actors.

In the process, many untested assumptions about the value of these organizations were integrated into public policymaking. This interdisciplinary seminar will examine the political roles of civil society organizations from a variety of viewpoints and disciplines.

How democratic are they, and for whom? How have they historically influenced public policymaking, voting, and/or the allocation of public resources? How has this changed over time, and what factors have contributed to those changes? How prevalent are partnerships

between governments and CSOs, and how has this worked for and against the practice of democracy? Is there any way to measure the presumed benefits of CSOs and social capital? How does the presence of CSOs change the contours of national political cultures? What factors encourage – or discourage – the growth of politically influential CSOs, and when is a vibrant civil society detrimental to the functioning of healthy nation states?

We are looking for participants from a variety of viewpoints and disciplines and many topics will be relevant to this overall theme. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- CSOs and political culture
- CSOs and the socially or politically **un**empowered
- The past and present impact of religious groups on governmental policies
- The legitimacy of “self appointed” CSOs in national and international policymaking
- The interface between social groups and social policy domains in democratizing societies
- CSOs as policymakers (successes, failures, challenges, pitfalls)
- CSOs within the changing historical or political landscape

Fellowships

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society will appoint eight faculty fellows and five graduate-student fellows for one academic year in 2004-2005. Fellows will be drawn from the social sciences and humanities. Faculty Fellows will receive one course release time for the year of their fellowship, and Doctoral Fellows will receive a stipend of \$5,000. All full-time CUNY faculty members are eligible for the Faculty fellowships (release-time awards are subject to departmental approval); level III GSUC students are eligible for Graduate fellowships.

Applications

An application form is attached. The RFP and application forms are also available on the Center’s website -- www.philanthropy.org. Questions and requests may also be addressed to the Center (contact Lobias@gc.cuny.edu or 212-817-2010).

Deadline

Extended application deadline: Wednesday, April 21, 2004 for faculty and graduate student applications.