

Call for Applications: 2019–2020 Undergraduate Fellowships with Rock Ethics Institute

Students in the Paterno Fellows Program are invited to apply for a fellowship with the [Rock Ethics Institute](#) at Penn State for fall 2019, spring 2020, or the entire 2019–2020 academic year. These fellowships involve working closely with and assisting Rock faculty on interdisciplinary ethics projects. Some projects focus on research, while others focus on developing programming and networks related to ethics at Penn State. There are five different projects described below for which students can apply. Students selected for a semester-long fellowship will receive a \$1,000 award and those selected for a yearlong fellowship will receive a \$2,000 award.

All current Paterno Fellows are eligible to apply. Applicants must select one project to apply to and submit the following materials:

- (1) Cover letter (one page) that indicates which fellowship you are applying to, why it interests you, your relevant qualifications, and how you would contribute to the project
- (2) Résumé/CV

Please include both these items in a single PDF and send it by email to btj7@psu.edu. **The deadline to apply is 5:00pm EDT on Friday, September 6, 2019.** Applicants will be notified on whether they were selected by September 13, 2019. If you have questions about the fellowship or application process, please contact Ben Jones at btj7@psu.edu.

Descriptions of 2019–2020 Fellowships

1. Moral Agency and Moral Development Fellowship (Fall 2019)

The Moral Agency and Moral Development Initiative would like to recruit a Paterno Fellow for fall 2019. The Paterno Fellow would work with [Dr. Daryl Cameron](#) to co-organize and participate in the interdisciplinary Moral Agency Workshop, a working group comprising faculty and graduate students from a range of disciplines (e.g., psychology, philosophy, political science, sociology, media studies, bioethics). The Fellow would play a role in co-organizing events featuring outside speakers. Finally, the Fellow would be invited to participate in the weekly meetings of the Empathy and Moral Psychology Lab, to learn more about psychological approaches to these topics. These opportunities would afford the Fellow the opportunity to learn about diverse research perspectives on empathy and moral decision-making, and to interact with prominent scholars both here at Penn State and from around the country.

2. Ethics in the Built Environment Fellowship (Fall 2019)

For this project the Fellow will assist in developing a book proposal and plan for an interdisciplinary conference to be held in Fall 2020. Key speakers / authors have already been identified for this project, yet new, cutting-edge work remains to be sought from a variety of disciplinary sources. The Fellow will gain experience in working with a broad array of databases to identify rising research in the field, and will assist in writing a detailed book proposal for the

volume *Ethics in the Built Environment*. The Fellow will work with [Dr. Alexandra Staub](#), Professor of Architecture.

The conference and book will bring together an interdisciplinary array of scholars who will analyze and discuss a common topic: how does the built environment – buildings and urban ensembles – and the process of its production influence how we live, and how does this affect the various stakeholders in such environments? Issues to be explored include planning strategies, land-use policy, use of new technologies such as building and vehicle automation, the marketing of historical areas, infrastructure development, and built-environment effects on health. Ethical questions will include ecological and social sustainability, social parity, technology and ethics, and public life.

This Fellowship is ideal for a student interested in “big picture” thinking that draws from a variety of disciplinary fields. The Fellow will gain firsthand experience in the publishing process (putting together a strong book proposal). The Fellow will have the opportunity to interact with both leading and upcoming scholars in ethics research in fields such as architecture and urban design, management, public policy, sociology, and history, as well as technical fields such as engineering and digital technologies.

3. Children, Youth, and Media in Int’l and Global Conflict Zones Fellowship (Spring 2020)

The Children, Youth, and Media in International and Global Conflict Zones Initiative explores how media may be used to play meaningful roles in conflict zones. Given that demographically, children and youth are most impacted by armed conflict, the initiative focuses on exploring best practices for using media to aid and empower children and youth, specifically.

The initiative is recruiting a Paterno Fellow for spring 2019. The selected Fellow will assist primarily with (1) a project exploring how journalists respond to ethical dilemmas when covering conflict zones. The Fellow will analyze secondary literature about this topic in order to provide a framework for interpreting interviews with North African journalists about decisions they make covering the Western Sahara conflict. To a lesser extent, the Fellow will also (2) analyze education-based literature and related statistical data pertinent for making sense of how Sahrawi refugee youth use media technologies to navigate their educational opportunities overseas. Finally, for those fluent in Spanish and/or Arabic, (3) the Fellow will also work with primary data collection, e.g. by assisting with the translation and transcribing of previously conducted interviews with Sahrawis related to the two projects, and by helping to conduct new interviews. The project will provide opportunities for the Fellow to learn about major debates surrounding journalistic professional ethical roles, refugee youth, educational access, and social media, as well as understanding about and practice in research methods. The Fellow will work directly with [Yael Warshel](#), Assistant Professor of Communications and Rock Ethics Research Associate.

Required Skills: ability to (1) understand academic articles and summarize them in writing and (2) search Online library and other databases and synthesize relevant information retrieved.

Additional (preferred) skills: (1) fluency in both Spanish and Arabic, or one of the two languages and (2) ability to make sense of and manipulate basic statistical data.

4. Ethics, Security, and Critical Network Project Fellowship (2019–2020 Academic Year)

The Ethics, Security, and Critical Network Project (ESCNP) is seeking a Paterno Fellow to work with [Dr. Caitlin Grady](#) and [Dr. Sarah Rajtmajer](#) on investigating the ethical and security implications of critical infrastructure (CI). Motivated by the interdependencies of CI across time and space, this project will pursue both descriptive research about the propagation of risk through CI using network models and normative inquiries into ethical questions around the social and political implications of risk and what it means for our understanding of security. The exact fellowship activities will be assigned based on the fellow's capabilities.

5. Health in a Digital Environment Fellowship (2019–2020 Academic Year)

Profs. [Daniel Susser](#) and [Jonathan Marks](#) would like to recruit a fellow to join their collaborative project with colleagues at Monash University on “Developing Ethical, Policy, and Legal Frameworks to Address the Health Effects of Digital Influence.” There is growing recognition that the huge amount of time the average person spends interacting with smartphones and other internet-connected technologies can have meaningful effects on psychological, social, and perhaps even physical health. Such effects can be beneficial or detrimental. At the same time, it is widely understood that these devices—increasingly pervasive features of our homes, workplaces, and public environments—are frequently designed not to advance the interests (health-related and otherwise) of individual users, but rather those of the private firms that make them, the advertisers that leverage them, and the product makers advertisers represent. This potential misalignment between the health (and other) interests of users, and the interests of advertisers, product-makers, and technology designers, calls out for legal and regulatory intervention. This project has three distinct but related objectives. First, we intend to draw the attention of scholars and policymakers to under-explored dimensions of the nexus between digital environments, digital influence, and health. Second, we aim to map the normative issues that arise in this space, identifying ethical theories and methods that can help elucidate and address contested practices. Finally, we will explore legal and policy responses to the issues identified, with the aim of providing practitioners and policymakers with ethical guidelines for practical policy interventions.

The Fellow would be an integral part of this project, working directly with the research team (including faculty and graduate research assistants) to (1) develop relevant literature reviews and other preliminary resources, (2) identify analysts, policymakers, and other participants for a workshop to be hosted at Penn State, and (3) coordinate between the Penn State and Monash research teams as the project develops. It is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious undergraduate to gain hands-on experience in the academic research process.