



## Meet the SSN Graduate Fellows for 2014-15

MARCH 2, 2015

Regional groups in the Scholars Strategy Network choose a graduate student fellow each year. Our third class includes fifteen young women and men studying at universities from the North to the South and from the Atlantic to the mid-Pacific. Each is doing cutting-edge research that speaks to critical public challenges.

To learn more about each of the 2013-14 Fellows, click on a name to see the person's full profile with research interests and civic involvements. Click on a title to read the full brief. View the full list of Fellows [here](#).



[Laura Bennett](#), Research Triangle SSN Graduate Fellow

Master of Public Policy Candidate, Sanford School, Duke University

*SSN Civic Engagement:* ["How Colleges in North Carolina – And Beyond – Can Help Students Vote"](#)



[Sara Bernardo](#), Boston SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston

*SSN Key Findings:* ["Financial Reforms Alone Cannot Reduce Household Debt for Americans Facing Low Wages and Insecure Jobs"](#)



[Jennifer Crittenden](#), Maine SSN Graduate Fellow

Fiscal & Administrative Officer, University of Maine Center on Aging

*SSN Key Findings:* ["The Value of Volunteer Engagement by Older Americans"](#)



[John D'Attoma](#), Confluence SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Missouri-St. Louis

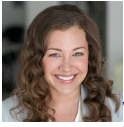
*SSN Key Findings:* ["Roots and Remedies for Rampant Tax Evasion in Italy"](#)



**[Charles Decker](#)**, New Haven SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Political Science, Yale University

*SSN Key Findings:* [“Massachusetts as a Surprising Pioneer in the Turn to Mandatory Sentencing as a Response to Crime”](#)



**[Vontrese R. Deeds](#)**, Evanston SSN Graduate Fellow

Doctoral Student in Management and Organizations & Sociology, Northwestern University

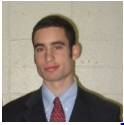
*SSN Key Findings:* [“How School Closures Can Hurt Students by Disrupting Urban Educational Communities”](#)



**[Ryan Gabriel](#)**, Northwest SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Student in Sociology, University of Washington

*SSN Key Findings:* [“Will America's Growing Number of Racially Mixed Families Ensure That Neighborhoods Become More Diverse?”](#)



**[Jake Martin Grumbach](#)**, Bay Area SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

*SSN Basic Facts:* [“San Francisco's Pioneering Health Program Shows That Local Governments Can Help All Working Families”](#)



**[Natalie Novick](#)**, San Diego SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Student in Sociology, University of California, San Diego

*SSN Basic Facts:* [“Will the United States Adopt Start-Up Immigrant Visas to Foster Economic Innovation?”](#)



**[James Stephen Schlauffer](#)**, Oklahoma SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Student in Economics, University of Oklahoma

*SSN Key Findings:* [“Is the Use of Hydraulic Fracturing by the Energy Industry Causing More Frequent Earthquakes in Oklahoma?”](#)



**[Benjamin Toff](#)**, Madison SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*SSN Basic Facts:* [“Rethinking the Role of Public Opinion Polls in American Democracy”](#)



**[Rex Troumbley](#)**, Hawaii SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

*SSN Basic Facts:* [“How New Digital Technologies Make It Possible to Privatize Censorship and Manipulate Citizen-Users”](#)



**[Chandi Wagner](#)**, Texas SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Public Affairs, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin

*SSN Key Findings:* [“Schools are Racing to Adopt Digital Tools without Solid Evidence That They Boost Student Achievement”](#) (with Patricia Burch, Annalee Good, and Carolyn J. Heinrich)



**[Sherry Zhang](#)**, Finger Lakes and Working Group on Criminal Justice SSN Graduate Fellow

PhD Candidate in Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

*SSN Basic Facts:* [“Understanding the Many Difficulties Faced by the Children of Imprisoned Mothers”](#)



**[Robert Zuchowski](#)**, New Orleans SSN Graduate Fellow

Graduate Student in Criminal Justice, Loyola University New Orleans

*SSN Basic Facts:* [“How Free Computer Software and Regularly Collected Data Can be Used to Explore Crime in Urban Environments”](#)