

THE WORKER INSTITUTE

ADVANCING WORKER RIGHTS AND COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION

TO: Undergraduate Students

FROM: Prof. Kate Griffith, on behalf of the Worker Institute

SUBJECT: Worker Institute Undergraduate Research Fellows Program (2019-2020)

We invite you to apply for an Undergraduate Research Fellowship with the Worker Institute.

At its heart, the Worker Institute views its work as a contribution to reversing the growing inequality, now at historic levels, which undermines the economic and social sustainability of a vibrant democratic society. The Institute provides the nation's most comprehensive education, training, research, and organizational support for union leaders and worker advocates. Worker Institute research fellows, sometimes in small teams, will have the opportunity to work directly with Ithaca-based faculty and ILR labor extension faculty based in NYC, Rochester and Buffalo.

The fellowship program's goal is to provide ILR students with a unique opportunity to contribute to important projects concerning workers and unions, expand their research skills, learn about potential career paths and interact with faculty, labor leaders and other fellows.

Fellows will work 5-10 hours/week, paid at an hourly rate of \$15/hour. Awards will be made on a one-semester basis, with renewal possible for the second semester at the project supervisor's discretion.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: Applications are due on or before **April 30, 2019**.

Please fill out the attached application form and email it, along with your resume and a writing sample, to Anne Sieverding (acs5@cornell.edu) by April 30, 2019.

The main selection criteria include a strong academic record and a demonstrated interest in one of the Worker Institute's research areas.

Award notifications for Fall 2019 fellows will be announced sometime by July 2019.

If you have any questions please email Kate Griffith (kg275@cornell.edu)

THE WORKER INSTITUTE

ADVANCING WORKER RIGHTS AND COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION FORM: Due April 30, 2019

Please complete all three parts of the application and email it to Anne Sieverding (acs5@cornell.edu) by April 30, 2019. Also, please attach your resume and a writing sample.

Part I:

Name/Address/Email:

Cornell Class of:

Please indicate any languages other than English in which you are proficient:

Name and contact information of reference (ILR faculty member):

Part II: Please indicate which of the project(s) listed below you are interested in. If you are interested in more than 1, please designate your first choice with a “1”, second choice with a “2”, and so on:

_____ *Impacts of the gig-economy and new technologies on workers and local communities* – This project involves applied research on the impacts of the gig-economy broadly defined to include non-standard work arrangements such as temporary and on-call work, and independent contracting. Among other issues, the research will examine the effects of digital hiring platforms such as Uber and Handy on working conditions and on the economy of local communities. – with Maria Figueroa

_____ *The Politics of Outsourcing IT work in the US, Germany, and Norway* – Comparative research on the work organization and job quality implications of IT outsourcing in the US, Germany, and Norway. Case studies will be carried out in the IT service industry, as well as in auto manufacturing and telecommunications firms that contract with IT service providers. We will investigate the role of labor market institutions, unions, and organizational strategies in explaining different practices and worker outcomes (e.g. pay, job security, voice). Research will include literature reviews, interviews, and transcriptions. Some knowledge of European institutions is desirable but not required – with Ginny Doellgast

_____ *Transnational Labor Advocacy and Latino Immigrant Rights* – This project examines transnational efforts to advance immigrant worker rights in North America. Through interviews and archival research, we examine the role that government agencies and civil society in origin and destination countries play in implementing existing, and advocating for new, protections. RA should be fully bilingual in English/Spanish. – with Shannon Gleeson

_____ *Labor Leading on Climate: Climate Jobs Program for New York State* – a policy, research and education initiative for New York unions, workers' organizations and their allies on labor-climate-employment issues, with a focus on how ambitious climate protection policy can drive job creation and economic development in New York State. The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the role of labor and working people in addressing the climate crisis. WI Fellows will conduct research to assist in the writing of New York State “climate jobs” policy papers that address topics like including job and training quality standards in energy efficiency and renewable energy work and exploring innovative financing models for climate mitigation activities. – with Lara Skinner <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/workerinstitute/initiatives/labor-environment-and-sustainable-development.html>.

_____ *Employment and a Cornell Anchor Mission* – Research on how Cornell could make a greater contribution to the local area through better employment practices. This will include research on successful models at other universities and an in-depth case study of efforts at Buffalo State University – with Ian Greer

_____ *The Right to Work in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* – a project challenging the popular view that the right to work means only a fair opportunity to pursue work opportunities, rather than a literal right to work – with Jim Gross

_____ *Hiring Platforms and Wearable Technologies in the Workplace* – The first part of this two-part project examines worker responses to emerging technologies in the workplace (particularly focusing on hiring platforms used by large corporations and wearable tech). The second part examines the ground floor development of such technologies with a focus on ethical concerns and legal issues confronted by the creators of these technologies. Research will include literature reviews, ethnographic observation, interviews, and transcriptions. Some knowledge of legal research and prior experience conducting interviews will be helpful but is not required – with Ifeoma Ajunwa

Part III: Please answer the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in this particular project? If you have indicated interest in more than one, please provide a brief description of your interest in each.
2. Please describe any relevant coursework, experiences, skills and abilities or anything else that you would bring to the project and make you a good candidate.
3. Will you be available to work up to 10 hours/week during the semester?