

NEWCOMBE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS



2023 Newcombe Fellows from left to right: Ariana Peruzzi, University of Michigan; Matthew DeMaio, George Washington University; Aparajita Majumdar, Cornell University

THIS FELLOWSHIP SUPPORTS DOCTORAL CANDIDATES IN THEIR FINAL YEAR OF WRITING, WHO ARE WORKING IN AREAS OF RELIGION, ETHICS, VALUES, OR MORALS.

Now in its fifth decade, the Newcombe Fellowship has become a nationally recognized award that distinguishes recipients within their fields. The Newcombe Fellowships have supported over 1 400 graduate students who have written dissertations which respond to and participate in, deep and meaningful conversations within religion, values, and ethics. Those awarded a Newcombe Fellowship are often at the forefront of creative and original scholarship, proposing new insights and ground-breaking work in the questions and conversations surrounding religion, ethics, and values.

[HTTPS://NEWCOMBEFOUNDATION.ORG/FELLOWSHIPS](https://newcombefoundation.org/fellowships)

Opens: August 1

Deadline: November 1

**CHARLOTTE W.
NEWCOMBE**
FOUNDATION

Funding: \$31, 000

NEWCOMBE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

We are seeking applications that reflect normative complexity. That is, we are looking for proposals that demonstrate moral, ethical, theological, or religious relevance with nuance, depth, and intellectual sophistication. Strong applications will go beyond merely identifying a topic related to values—they will engage that topic rigorously, exploring its implications, tensions, and significance with clarity and seriousness.

Applicants should make the normative dimensions of their work unmistakably clear. We expect to see evidence that the scholar is genuinely wrestling with difficult questions—whether ethical dilemmas, theological tensions, or issues of moral consequence—and doing so with depth, originality, and scholarly rigor.

This does not mean that projects without overt normative arguments are excluded. We also welcome non-normative approaches, provided they attend meaningfully to questions of values, ethics, or religion in ways that reflect analytical subtlety and moral or theological relevance. What we aim to avoid are topics that tangentially engage the deeper questions at the heart of the mission of this Fellowship.

TIMELINE

- Application (phase 1) opens: August 1
- Application closes: November 1
- All applications under review:
November 15 – January 15
- Status notification to finalists and other applicants: January 15 – January 21
- Finalist submission of application (phase 2): January 23 – February 13
- Finalist reviews begin: February 17
- Fellows chosen by April 1; all finalists notified of status: the first week of April

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All applications are reviewed using the same core criteria and rigorous standards of scholarly merit.

Please review the evaluation criteria on the Fellowship webpage:

<https://newcombefoundation.org/fellowships/>

INFORMATION SESSIONS VIA ZOOM FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE APPLYING OR THINKING ABOUT APPLYING:

Join the Newcombe Fellowship Program Officer for an overview of the application with opportunities for questions and answers.

Two opportunities:

Monday September 22, 2025

11 am EST

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86541120257>

Monday October 6, 2025

4 pm EST

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83041933203>