

Faculty Name	Andrew Roberts (in collaboration with Dan Krmaric & Steve Nelson)
Summer 2018	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fall 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project Title	Billionaires as Politicians
Project Description	There is increasing suspicion that the very rich have an inordinate influence on politics, but there is relatively little research demonstrating this influence. Our project considers one aspect of this influence: the direct participation of billionaires in politics. We have in mind people like Trump, Berlusconi, and Pinera, very rich individuals who hold official positions in government. Our project aims to determine the degree to which billionaires around the world hold elected and appointed political offices as presidents, ministers, legislators, governors, and mayors. We then plan to search for patterns to this participation – for example, the types of office they most commonly hold and the individual-level and country-level determinants of office holding.
Position Expectations	The Farrell Fellow will research the biographies of billionaires on Forbes' list of world billionaires. They will search for evidence of political offices held by these billionaires using online databases like Gale's Biography in Context, Marquis' Biographies Online, or EBSCO's Current Biography as well as Wikipedia and other country-specific sources. The results will be documented and entered into a spreadsheet. Other tasks might include gathering political statements of these billionaires, researching their involvement in scandals, or compiling immunity laws across countries.
Skills/Experience Required	- Some experience using excel or other spreadsheet - Knowledge of major world languages (Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French) may be helpful but are not required
What Will the FF Gain?	This project will involve research about countries across the globe and will acquaint the research assistant with political and economic frameworks outside the US as well as the life paths of successful individuals. In particular, the RA will gain: • Knowledge of politics around the globe and the richest people in the world • Skills in creating, coding and maintaining a database • Experience in the research process – developing concepts, connecting questions to methods

**Time
Requirement**

40 hours/week
