Gain?

Northwestern | Department of Political Science Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences

Faculty Name	Julie Lee Merseth
Summer 2018	
Fall 2018	
Winter 2019	
Spring 2019	
Project Title	Anti-Immigrant Frames and Immigrant Political Incorporation
Project Description	The 2016 presidential election featured contentious debates over whether and which immigrant communities in the post-9/11 United States are rightly viewed as dangerous outsiders. Repeatedly, campaign messages employed racialized xenophobic and nationalistic frames most apparently in efforts to mobilize nativeborn voters; however, large and fast-growing foreign-born populations, including noncitizens and refugees, also received and responded to these messages. This project investigates the political consequences of intensely negative immigrant frames among immigrants themselves. In particular, it examines the effects of restrictionist/anti-immigrant campaign messages on the political incorporation of new or recent immigrants, especially those from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. To what extent and in what ways do xenophobic and nationalistic campaign messages shape immigrant political attitudes? (e.g., the formation of group-based identities, beliefs about citizenship/membership, perceptions of equality and opportunity) How do these impact participation both in and outside elections, such as naturalization, voting, and protest? In addition, the project attends closely to variation across and within immigrant communities, such as race, ethnic/national origin, nativity, citizenship status, legal status, class, gender, sexuality, and religion.
Position Expectations	The research assistant will contribute to this project through tasks related to the collection and analysis of original data, quantitative (large-N surveys, experiments) and qualitative (in-depth interviews). Additional tasks include coding content (campaign speeches, social media) and writing research memos.
Skills/Experience Required	The research assistant must have excellent writing and organizational skills, demonstrating attention to detail. Basic knowledge of statistics and familiarity with Stata and/or R is strongly preferred but not required. Coursework or other experience related to immigration and/or racial and ethnic politics is also preferred but not required.
What Will the FF	The research assistant will have varied and extended opportunities

to both observe and gain hands-on experience across different

stages of the research process. It is my hope that this experience will not only strengthen the student's research skills but also cultivate a passion for pursuing rigorous and engaged political science research.

Time Requirement

10 hours/week during academic year (Fall, Winter, Spring)