

April 1, 2011

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Faculty Research Awards

Faculty Research Awards from the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change

On November 17, 2010, the Hooks Institute issued a Request for Proposals soliciting faculty members who were interested in conducting research that would further the Institute's mission of Teaching, Studying, and Promoting Civil Rights and Social Change. In response to the RFP, the Hooks Institute received submissions from faculty in the School of Public Health, the Fogelman College of Business and Economics, and the Departments of Psychology, Philosophy and Journalism. Submitted proposals were reviewed and ranked by a committee composed of the Hooks Institute staff, a University of Memphis faculty member, and a member of the Hooks Institute's Local Advisory Board. All of the submissions proposed exemplary research. However, after careful review, the Committee determined that the projects suggested by the following faculty members would best advance the Hooks Institute's mission:

Latrice C. Pichon, PhD. School of Public Health. Dr. Pichon's research will focus on African American faith-based organizations. She will study the institutional readiness of these groups to engage in community-based participatory HIV prevention research in the city of Memphis and Shelby County. The study will seek (1) to assess the attitudes, beliefs, and concerns of faith leaders and clergy toward implementing HIV programs within their faith-based organizations; (2) to understand how internal policy and governance, congregational culture, theological views on sexuality, and official teachings may affect, facilitate, or hinder HIV prevention research within faith-based organizations; and (3) to identify salient elements that should be considered when screening and selecting faith-based organizations to participate in future HIV programs.

Chunrong Jia, PhD. School of Public Health. Dr. Jia will research environmental disparities in African American communities of Memphis. Air toxins and other pollutants pose a wide range of public health dangers including cancer, birth defects, or other serious conditions. Dr. Jia's study will catalog the socioeconomic and racial disparities correlated to airborne toxin exposure in Memphis and identify any causally-related changes in lifetime cancer risk.

Dr. Pichon and Dr. Jia will each be awarded \$5,000 from the Hooks Institute to conduct their proposed research.

For information about future RFPs, please check the Hooks Institute calendar for updates in the fall (<http://benhooks.memphis.edu>), or contact the Institute using the information listed above.

E-FILES

EVENTS

Marcus W. Orr **2011**
Center for the Humanities
The Italian Film Festival
New Italian Films on Campus

Tuesday, March 29, 2011
Basilicata Coast to Coast

Thursday, March 31, 2011
Happy Family

Tuesday, April 5, 2011
18 anni dopo
(18 Years Later)

Free and Open to the Public

All screenings will begin
at 7:00 pm in the
University Center Theater
at the University of Memphis.

For more information about these events
or any of the programs of the Marcus W. Orr
Humanities Center, visit their website at
<http://memphis.edu/moch>.

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