

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship

The Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship, based in the APS Museum, will provide hands-on experience in curatorial work and the opportunity to pursue an independent project, preferably one related to the collections or programs of the Society's Library and Museum. The Fellow will work four days each week on an APS Museum exhibition and one day each week on their own project.

There are two Mellon Curatorial Fellows at the APS Museum at any time, a first-year and a second-year. The first-year fellow is the co-curator for that year's exhibition, supporting the second-year fellow who is the lead curator. All exhibition objects are drawn from the extensive APS collections of over 13 million manuscripts and approximately 500,000 rare books, photographs, Native American language materials, fine art, and other objects. Loans from other institutions are included in exhibitions only to provide necessary context.

Exhibition topics are determined in advance by the APS Exhibitions Committee and are based on the strengths of the APS collections. Fellows are not required to have specialized expertise in the individual exhibition topics. However, general interest in the topics is desirable. There is one exhibition per year, running from mid-April through December. Upcoming exhibition topics are:

2019: *Mapping a Nation: Shaping the American Republic*

2020: *Benjamin Franklin's Science* (2019-2021 fellow will be co-curator)

2021: *Women in Science: Unequal Recognition* (2019-2021 fellow will be lead curator)

Mellon Curatorial Fellows are fully integrated into the APS Museum staff, collaborating closely with others on the curatorial team. They do intensive research in the Library and Museum collections, select objects for exhibitions, and develop thematic narratives. Fellows gain extensive experience in planning and implementing exhibitions as well as writing interpretive materials for non-scholarly audiences, e.g. exhibition labels, gallery text panels, and website text. They will also create a digital version of the exhibition for which they were lead curator that will be hosted on the APS website.

Depending on the Fellow's interests and the Museum's needs, they may also participate in public programming, museum education, collections management, and website development. Twenty percent of the Fellow's time will be reserved for their own independent research, ideally using resources at the APS or other regional institutions. Fellows often use this time to begin turning their dissertation into a book or prepare an article for publication.

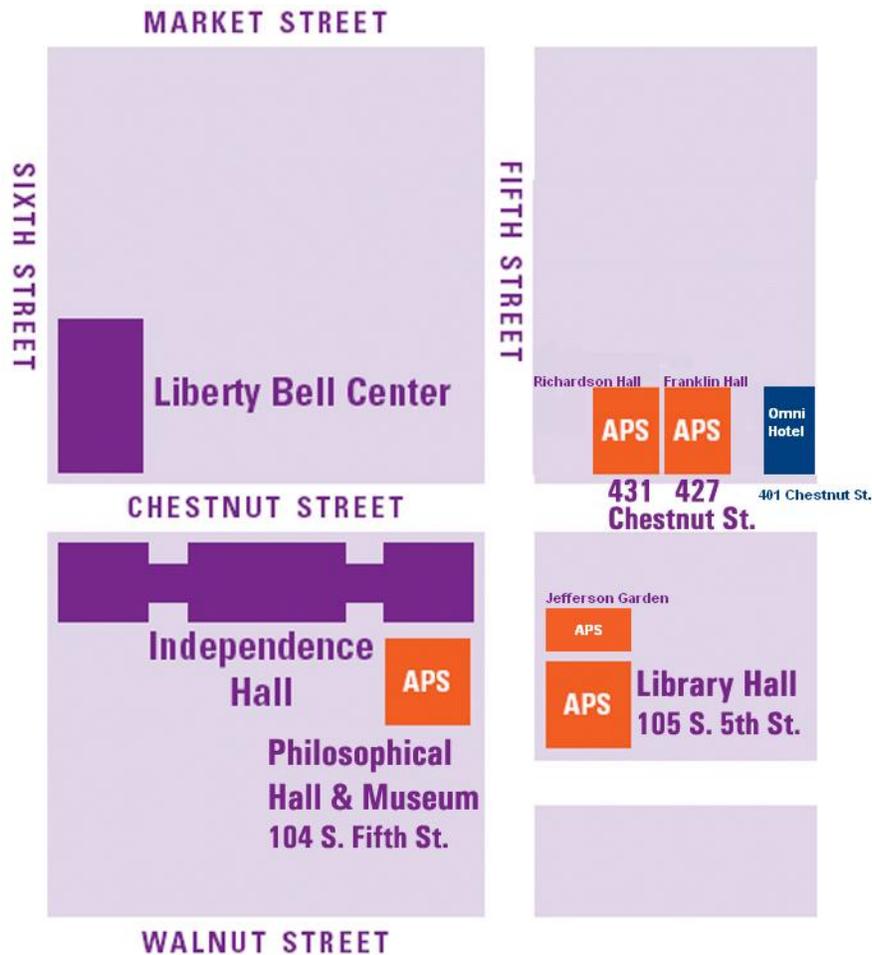
Fellows are expected to participate in the vibrant intellectual community at the Society, which holds events such as biannual symposia for the elected Members of the APS, monthly lunch

presentations at with visiting scholars, and evening programs with specialists in a wide range of fields. The APS Library supports 25 fellows, both short-term and long-term. There are many opportunities for all APS fellows to meet, including weekly brown bag lunches where fellows present their work and Library Social Hours.

This two-year Curatorial Fellowship begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2021. Compensation is \$48,500 a year plus benefits, along with additional funds for research support, travel, and relocation. The Fellowship may not be held concurrently with any other fellowship or grant.

About the APS

The American Philosophical Society (APS) serves to advance knowledge and promote scholarship in the humanities and social, mathematical, life, and physical sciences. Members of the Society are elected from among the most eminent scholars and civic and cultural leaders in North America and abroad. More than 100 living APS Members are Nobel laureates.



APS Campus

The APS is located in the Philadelphia Historic District and near the Old City neighborhood. The campus consists of four buildings and a large garden. Fellows use all locations.

- *Richardson Hall*: Museum administrative offices where the two curatorial fellows share an office. Museum collections are stored here.
- *Philosophical Hall*: The Museum's gallery is on the first floor. APS administrative offices occupy the other floors.
- *Library Hall*: Fellows conduct primary source research here. The bulk of the APS manuscripts and other paper collections are stored here.
- *Franklin Hall*: Library collection storage, mostly for books. There is a state-of-the-art paper and book conservation laboratory here, and a 350 seat auditorium where conferences, symposia, and public lectures are held.
- *Jefferson Garden*: This large garden is used for a variety of both staff and public events. The Museum often installs commissioned sculpture here that interprets the historical exhibition theme.

The APS funds:

- Meetings and Conferences
 - Twice a year conference on the leading research in sciences and humanities
 - Annual Fall scholarly symposium
- Research Grants
 - Over \$1M a year for fieldwork in a diverse range of fields
- Museum and Public Programs
 - One 8.5 month thematic exhibition per year, drawn from the APS holdings
 - Over 100,000 visitors a year
 - Educational programs for families and adults
- Leading Research Library
 - 13 million pages of manuscripts
 - 200,000 books
 - 25 Fellows per year
- Publications
 - Longest continuously running scholarly imprint
- APS Lectures
 - 10 free public events (lectures, panel discussions, concerts, plays) per year

For Further Information on APS Library and Museum Collections:

<http://amphilsoc.org/library> and <http://amphilsoc.pastperfectonline.com/>

**The Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship application deadline is November 26, 2018.
Notification is in February 2019**