



RACIAL DEMOCRACY CRIME AND JUSTICE NETWORK

Crime & Justice Summer Research Institute: Broadening Participation & Perspectives

July 13th to 31st 2026
The University of Maryland-College Park

The Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network's Summer Research Institute (SRI) is designed to promote scholarly success and career advancement among untenured faculty from underrepresented groups working in areas of crime and criminal justice. Faculty pursuing tenure in research-intensive institutions, academics transitioning from teaching to research institutions, and faculty members carrying out research in teaching contexts are encouraged to apply for the three-week intensive Institute. **Given our funding sources, we are especially interested in receiving applications to conduct research on programs, policies, and practices that reduce grave disparities, especially for youth (ages 5 to 25).** The first week will follow a virtual program format and the next two weeks will be in-person at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park. Transportation, lodging, meals, and workspace will be provided to each fellow. ***During the Institute, each Fellow will complete the project proposed in this application (either a research paper, grant, or book proposal) in preparation for submission for publication or agency funding review.*** The SRI will provide support to complete the project including senior faculty mentorship, networking opportunities, professional development workshops, and a culminating, two-day symposium.

The SRI is a three-week intensive program aimed to provide Fellows a unique opportunity to devote their time and effort toward their project and professionalization activities including building cohort cohesion. As such, SRI fellows are expected to prioritize their time to meet the demands of the SRI including being **in person** for the entire last two weeks of the SRI program, attending all meetings and activities for the duration of the Institute including the introductory in-person session on the evening of Sunday July 19th, as contributing members of the Summer Research Institute's intellectual community. The Summer Research Institute is organized by Professors Rod K. Brunson (UMD-College Park) and María B. Vélez (UMD-College Park).

Applications are due at 5 p.m. on Friday February 20th, 2026.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This application form (a Google form) is linked [here \(2026 SRI application\)](#)

Full applications must include:

1. Complete questions on [the Google form](#).
2. Statement of interest (double-spaced, 250-500 words); be sure to describe why participation in the SRI is important for your development as a scholar, a member of your department and the broader field.
3. An abstract that briefly describes (100-150 words) the project to be carried out during the Summer Research Institute.
4. Draft of complete research paper/proposal/book chapter(s) with full references and (if relevant) tables. *Please do not send a set of unedited chapters from your dissertation or excerpts from an underdeveloped paper.*
5. Curriculum Vitae (CV).

Please upload the above materials in one single PDF to [the Google form](#) by February 20th, 2026.

Eligibility: Applicants must hold or be starting regular tenure-track appointments in U.S. institutions and demonstrate how their involvement broadens participation of underrepresented groups in crime and justice research.

Specific Instructions:

1. *Completed Application Form.* Fill in all personal information on the Google form. The “Proposed Project Title” refers to the research paper/proposal/book chapter you plan to complete during the SRI.
2. *Statement of Interest (double-spaced, 250-500 words).* In this short essay, please:
 - a) introduce and briefly describe your research project and its intended contribution(s);
 - b) thinking about your current tenure timeline and the next few years, detail how and why you would benefit from participation in the Summer Research Institute and how this involvement broadens participation of underrepresented groups;
 - c) explain what types of SRI activities will facilitate achievement of your career goals; and
 - d) suggest up to three senior scholars who would be ideal reviewers for your work.
3. *Abstract* that describes in brief (100-150 words) the project to be carried out during the SRI.
4. *Project Draft.* This project may be a draft of a completed paper that needs additional work before sending out for publication review, a paper that was submitted for publication but has not yet been successful in the review process, or an extended proposal for a grant application or book project (with at least one accompanying sample chapter). This project must be the one that the applicant intends to complete during the SRI.
5. *Curriculum Vitae.*