

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## Forsythe Dissertation Award for Social Studies of Science, Technology & Health

The Diana Forsythe Memorial Fund announces plans to award the Forsythe Dissertation Award in June 2015. **Applications are due by 5pm on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.**

### Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from doctoral students in any social science field at the University of California, San Francisco or Stanford University\*. Students must be actively in the dissertation research or writing phase, but not ready to submit the completed dissertation until at least three months after the date of the award which is expected to be in mid-June 2015.

*The dissertation may address any question in the broad area of social studies of science, technology and medicine or health. Preference will be given to projects using qualitative and/or ethnographic methods.*

*\* Students formally enrolled in the Joint Medical Anthropology Program at either the University of California Berkeley or San Francisco campuses are eligible for the award. Students in other programs at the Department of Anthropology at the University of California Berkeley are not eligible for the award.*

Each award will be at least \$2,000, which may be used for any reasonable dissertation research expenses that are approved by the Award Committee's Chair. Award recipients are expected to present their dissertation research at a scholarly seminar at UCSF within 12 months of receipt of the Award. Exact date and location of talk will be determined later.

### Application Procedures

The application consists of three items:

1. A brief cover letter (approximately one page) including:
  - The title and a description of the current state of progress of the dissertation and the use to which you would put the funds.
  - A summary of other dissertation funding you have received, have applied for or expect to receive.
  - A statement of your ABD status, including the month and year of completion of *all* formal requirements to reach this status.
  - The name and contact email and/or telephone number for your dissertation chairperson.
2. A copy of your current *curriculum vitae*.
3. A summary (5 page double spaced **maximum**) of the current state of **the dissertation**. If you are in the very early stages of research, a summary (5 page double spaced **maximum**) of the dissertation research proposal as approved by your departmental dissertation committee is acceptable.

Applications should be submitted **ELECTRONICALLY AS ONE PDF** to Kathy Jackson at [Kathryn.jackson@ucsf.edu](mailto:Kathryn.jackson@ucsf.edu) by **5pm, Monday, June 1st, 2015.**

For questions about logistics, please contact Kathy Jackson at (415) 476-7223; or via e-mail at [Kathryn.Jackson@ucsf.edu](mailto:Kathryn.Jackson@ucsf.edu). For questions about basic eligibility or topic/content area, please contact Dr. Judith C. Barker at (415) 476-7241 or, preferably, by e-mail at [Judith.Barker@ucsf.edu](mailto:Judith.Barker@ucsf.edu).

The Award announcement is expected to be made by mid-June 2015. The Award Committee reserves the right to **not make an award or to make more than one award in any year** if in its opinion circumstances warrant this.

## What is the Diana Forsythe Memorial Fund?



Diana Elizabeth Forsythe, Ph.D. died August 14, 1997 at age 49, while hiking in Alaska. Diana attended Swarthmore College and received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Social Demography from Cornell University in 1974. She did postdoctoral study in Artificial Intelligence at Stanford University in 1987-88 and was a Visiting Scholar at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics and the Program in Science, Technology and Society in 1995-6. She was Associate Adjunct Professor in the Medical Anthropology Program at UCSF at the time of her death.

For the ten years prior to her death, Dr. Forsythe worked at the boundaries of cultural anthropology, medicine, and artificial intelligence, contributing to the interdisciplinary area that has come to be known as medical informatics, as well as to anthropology, medicine and computer science.

She was among the very first anthropologists or sociologists to collaborate with computer scientists, and to study the work practices of computing in detail. Her ethnographic work on software development in medical informatics revealed that cultural and disciplinary assumptions are routinely (but unintentionally) designed into such software. Such hidden biases affect the way the software works, sometimes to the detriment of a system's intended beneficiaries (e.g., patients). From the perspective of computer science, her work applied ethnographic techniques to help improve the design process by grounding it in a better understanding of conditions, such as migraine headaches, as both experience and medical condition. Her research provided insight into the information needs of providers and patients, and into the extent to which specific biomedical technologies help to meet these information needs. It also suggested ways in which such technologies could and should be improved.

Diana Forsythe was a forward-thinking scholar who was passionately interested in encouraging others to approach questions of technology with anthropological methods and theory. This fund was established in Diana's memory to encourage social science dissertation work on any topic related to the broad field of science, technology and medicine or health studies at either the University of California, San Francisco\* or Stanford University.

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