

## **Research-focused Assistantship: “Between the Public Good & Racialized Animus: Public Universities’ Responses to Influenza Pandemics, 1957-2022”**

Working alongside Dr. Andrés Castro Samayoa (ELHE Department) and co-investigators at RAND Corporation and Oregon State University, this assistantship supports efforts to answer two questions: How have the public university systems in New York & California responded to influenza pandemics during the era of modern virology (1957-2022)? In responding to pandemics, how do universities articulate their educational purpose, and what do these responses reveal about racialized inequality?

We will use digital data wrangling procedures to produce a novel repository of universities’ responses to COVID-19 and thematically connect these with archival materials.

The Research Assistant will support efforts to understand how public universities in California and New York responded to four influenza pandemics: “Asian Influenza” (1957-1960), the “Hong Kong Virus” (1967-1970), the H1N1 pandemic (2008-2009), and COVID-19 (2020-2022). Specific tasks for the Research Assistant will include:

- Web-scraping 43 public universities’ resource pages on COVID-19 focused on content from January 2020 through April 2022.
- Systematically identifying relevant contextual information (e.g. student newspapers’) coverage of institutional responses to COVID-19.
- Managing metadata associated with text-based output from scraped institutional information.
- Overseeing data integrity to upload database on [BC Dataverse](#)
- Supporting primary investigators’ efforts to identify historical data from [CUNY Archives](#) and [Online Archive of California](#)

**Expectations:** 10 hours/week from August 15, 2020 – May 15, 2021 & August 15, 2021 – May 15, 2022

**Compensation:** \$13,000 stipend and 15 credits in tuition remission distributed over 2 academic years (\$6,5000 and 7.5 credits each year).

### **Required Skills**

- Interest in text-based data management
- Interest in accruing research experience
- Communicative and collaborative disposition
- Adaptable self-directed approach to problem-solving

### **Preferred Skill**

- Familiarity with programming languages (e.g. *python 2* or *3*) and strong preference for prior experience with web-scraping packages (*beautifulsoup*).

Please contact Dr. Andrés Castro Samayoa ([castroar@bc.edu](mailto:castroar@bc.edu)) with a message expressing your interest before June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.