

Come help us advance our work on institutional corruption.

Call for Applications **2011-2012 Edmond J. Safra Lab Fellowships and Projects**

The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University invites scholars, practitioners, innovators and others committed to understanding institutional corruption to submit proposals to join our community.

Background: In 2009, the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics led by director Lawrence Lessig launched a five-year research project to study the causes and consequences of institutional corruption. We define institutional corruption to be an economy of influence that either weakens public trust of a public institution, or weakens the effectiveness of the institution in achieving its purpose. The project is being conducted by the Edmond J. Safra Research Lab.

Purpose: The aim of the Lab is to study institutional corruption with both an empirical and normative focus. The empirical research project will explore whether and when institutional corruption exists. The normative project will work to develop tools to address institutional corruption when it is found to exist.

The cross-disciplinary format of the Lab is designed to foster an innovative research environment where both research and practice-oriented fellows are encouraged to weave their ideas into a broader framework, while also being a resource for each other. The Lab fellows vary based on methodological approach and topic of focus. Some examples of projects from the 2010-11 fellows include: documenting financial ties between the pharmaceutical industry and psychiatric treatment boards; documenting financial ties between the pharmaceutical industry and psychiatric treatment boards; and understanding the interaction of policy and daily attitudes towards risk in the financial industry.

Research from the Lab is conducted with future real-world applications in mind. As the project evolves, the Lab plans to release databases, guidelines and other tools to the public that work towards solving the problem of institutional corruption in a variety of contexts.

Eligibility: A broad range of researchers are invited to submit proposals to the Lab, either to become fellows, or to propose joint or collaborative research projects. The Lab accepts a number of fellows every year who are engaged in **research** and **practice** addressing institutional corruption. Research applicants may be from the fields of law, medicine, economics, psychology, sociology, business, public policy, though those from other disciplinary homes will also be considered. Practice applicants may come from industry, government, or the nonprofit sector. The Lab would be particularly enthusiastic to receive proposals addressing issues such as conflicts of interest, public trust of institutions, and institutional discrimination.

Tenured and untenured faculty are invited to participate, so long as their work during the fellowship is primarily directed towards the Lab project. Postdoctoral applications are also eagerly encouraged, as well as proposals from researchers in industry or government seeking sabbatical time to pursue research directly relevant to the project, and others from data-driven fields such as designers, programmers, and statisticians.

Israeli Fellowship: We reserve one residential fellowship position for an Israeli-born scholar or professional. The Israeli Fellow must be from the State of Israel, residing within Israel at the time of selection, and he/she should be affiliated with an Israeli university, college, or research institute. *This fellowship position was established in 2010 and made possible by a generous donation from Mrs. Lily Safra, whose wish it is to promote and expand the study of ethics in the State of Israel.*

Deadline: The deadline date for receipt of applications for fellowships and projects beginning September 2011 is **February 15, 2011.**

Further details about the Lab and procedures for submitting an application are available on our website:
<http://www.ethics.harvard.edu/lab>