

February 21, 2022

Diego Ayala  
7013 Frist Center  
Princeton, NJ 08544

Dear Diego,

On behalf of the faculty of the Northwestern University Sociology Department, we are very pleased to offer you admission to our intellectual community.

You should already have received a letter from Dean Kelly Mayo of The Graduate School notifying you of admittance. We are writing to extend our own congratulations and provide additional details about the offer and what you can look forward to at Northwestern.

Among top-tier sociology departments, Northwestern Sociology enjoys a reputation for balancing intense scholarly rigor with an extraordinarily open and collegial atmosphere among its professors and students. Structural elements – a weekly colloquium series, numerous workshops, an open-door faculty, a supportive staff – combine with a tradition that places a high value on community to perpetuate this distinctive departmental culture.

The Sociology Department takes pride in its placement record: Nearly all of our students who complete the Ph.D. move into academic or research positions. In the past five years, our students have been chosen for [tenure-track assistant professorships at many institutions](#) including: **Yale University, Rutgers University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Tufts University, Loyola University, Tulane, Cass Business School, Marquette University, University of Notre Dame, Bowdoin College, Georgia State University, Washington University, Purdue University, George Washington University, Emory, McGill University, Emlyon Business School, and International University of Grand-Bassam.** They have taken research positions at **IBM, Child Trends, the Institute for Nonviolence- Chicago and the National Center for Youth Law**, and they have won post-doctoral fellowships at **Cornell University, Harvard University, Yale University, University of California Los Angeles, DePaul University, University of California Irvine, New School, Brock School (Ontario), Tufts, University of California Santa Cruz, University of Washington-Seattle, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Graduate Institute Geneva, Oxford Business School, University of Ghana, Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, Columbia, Rice University, Dartmouth, U. Penn, and Notre Dame.** This extraordinary placement record underscores the quality of our graduate students and the effectiveness of our Ph.D. program.

You have been awarded a Mellon Cluster Fellowship in the **Comparative and Historical Social Science Cluster**, which carries a one-time \$2,500 fellowship supplement that will be distributed as an additional stipend in your first paycheck. As a Mellon Cluster Fellow, you will

have the opportunity to participate in the interdisciplinary activities organized by your cluster and to work with faculty associated with the cluster.

Our program will connect you with a range of resources and support networks to help you thrive intellectually, professionally, and personally in graduate school. Northwestern offers substantial programming and funding opportunities to support [professional development](#) and [career placement](#). Campus programs, events, and intellectual and social groups lend exposure to the wider Northwestern community, Evanston and Chicago resources, as well as the specific research culture that you will enter. We foster an [inclusive community](#) that values diversity and [enhances well-being](#).

The Graduate School at Northwestern is committed to supporting each doctoral student through five years of study (including summer). In conjunction with your admission, you are offered a University Fellowship funded by The Graduate School in your first year. The amount of the 2022-23 stipend will be greater than or equal to the 2021-22 level of \$34,176. You will receive a comparable level of funding in years 2-5, made up of teaching assistantships, research assistantships and/or university fellowships. As a full-time registered funded graduate student at Northwestern, you will be eligible to receive a full health insurance subsidy for single coverage if enrolled in the [Northwestern Student Health plan](#). TGS also offers additional sources of funding including internal [fellowship and grants](#).

In total you will receive 20 quarters of support during your first five years including funding for five years and five summers. While funding beyond the fifth year is not guaranteed, additional quarters of funding through the sixth year may be available through interdisciplinary graduate assistantships, other internal awards, or the receipt of external funding in your first five years which may allow your funding to extend up to four quarters into your sixth year. The funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress toward the PhD, according to the program's handbook and policies, The Graduate School policy, and [Regulations Governing Recipients of University Assistance](#).

Many Northwestern students are successful in winning external support, and we are very proud of our record in this regard. The Graduate School encourages you to seek external and internal competitive fellowships that will support your scholarly endeavors, develop skills crucial for your career, and enhance the [flexibility, extent, and/or duration](#) of your funding. We will aim to inform you of [fellowship opportunities](#) and will mentor you to be a strong competitor.

So that you can make the most informed decision possible, we strongly encourage you to visit the campus and attend our Open House, which will take place on **Thursday, March 31, 2022**. During the Open House you will have an opportunity to learn more about our program, meet the Sociology Department faculty and current graduate students, and meet the other prospective students who attend. In past years our prospective students have found the Open House experience extremely helpful in making a decision about their graduate program future.

If you attend the Open House, Northwestern will cover your travel costs (up to \$350), arrange lodging, and provide meals during your visit. The email that included this offer letter contains a survey asking you to confirm whether you will attend the Open House. Once you confirm your attendance, we will send you additional information about making your travel arrangements, including contact information for the travel agent who will book your ticket (your ticket will be billed directly to Northwestern).

In accordance with the regulations of the [Council of Graduate Schools](#), you have until **April 15, 2022** to accept or decline this offer – or any received from other institutions. Of course, we would welcome an earlier response if you feel ready to notify us of your decision before the April deadline. This offer remains in effect until midnight April 15, 2022; if we have not heard from you by then, the offer will be withdrawn.

To accept your offer, please follow these instructions:

1. Go to the [Online Application website](#).
  - ◆ Log in using the same credentials used to create your application.
  - ◆ Go to your Activity Page.
  - ◆ Click on the “Complete Your Decision Form” link.

By accepting the offer of admission online, you will also be accepting this funding offer.

2. Send an email regarding your decision to our Graduate Program Coordinator, Tom Winters, at [thomas.winters@northwestern.edu](mailto:thomas.winters@northwestern.edu). This enables us to verify that your online decision is fully activated.
3. Enrollment and financial aid are contingent upon submission of official transcripts listing all prior undergraduate and graduate coursework and degrees conferred. Please arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to The Graduate School, [Office of Graduate Admission](#), 633 Clark Street, Evanston, IL 60208-1113. All official transcripts must be received by the end of your first term.

Again, we extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for your continuing academic success. We believe that graduate study at Northwestern would allow you to develop your considerable potential as a scholar, researcher, teacher, and intellectual. Please contact [Robert Nelson](#) or [Bruce Carruthers](#) with any academic questions you have about our program and contact [Tom Winters](#) with any administrative ones. We look forward to welcoming you in March for Sociology Open House and in September when you join our community.

Sincerely,



Robert Nelson  
Co-Chair of Admissions  
[r-nelson@northwestern.edu](mailto:r-nelson@northwestern.edu)



Bruce G. Carruthers  
Co-Chair of Admissions  
[b-carruthers@northwestern.edu](mailto:b-carruthers@northwestern.edu)



Laura Beth Nielsen  
Chair of Sociology  
[l-nielsen@northwestern.edu](mailto:l-nielsen@northwestern.edu)

Cc: Department of Sociology  
Office of Admissions, The Graduate School  
Office of Graduate Studies, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

Shortly after accepting Northwestern University's offer, you will receive information from The Graduate School pertinent to [Newly Admitted Students](#), including a helpful checklist that will guide you through the timeline from now through Orientation.

It is important to familiarize yourself with the following policies and services pertinent to graduate students at Northwestern:

[The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures](#)

[Financial Aid Policies](#)

[External award policy](#)

[Regulations Governing University Assistance](#)

[Guidelines for Continuing Support for Multiyear Awards](#)

[Information for International Students](#)

Note that according to US tax law, your stipend may be subject to taxation. International students should consult with their own tax authority or, if applicable, with Northwestern's [Payroll Office](#) to verify their tax status once they have completed the Federal National Information System (FNIS) process. Additional information regarding taxes may be found on the [The Graduate School website](#).

For additional information, feel free to browse the links below:

TGS Professional Development: <https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/services-support/professional-development/index.html>

Northwestern University Career Advancement: <https://www.northwestern.edu/careers/>

TGS Community: <https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/diversity/inclusion-anti-bias/index.html>

Northwestern University Counseling and Psychological Services:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/counseling/>

TGS Fellowships and Grants: <https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/funding/fellowships-and-grants/index.html>

TGS Health and Wellness: <https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/services-support/health-wellness-services/index.html>

TGS Financial Aid Policies: <https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academic-policies-procedures/policies/student-funding-policies.html>

Applying for a student visa: <https://www.northwestern.edu/international/student-visas/index.html>

TGS Academic Policies and Procedures: <https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academic-policies-procedures/policies/index.html#gsc.tab=0>

TGS Guidelines for Continuing Support:

[https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/documents/funding/guidelines\\_multiyear\\_awards.pdf](https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/documents/funding/guidelines_multiyear_awards.pdf)

Student Health Insurance: <https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/services-support/health-wellness-services/health-insurance/index.html>

Northwestern University Office of Equity: <https://www.northwestern.edu/equity/>

Northwestern University AccessibleNU: <https://www.northwestern.edu/accessiblenu/students/student-information/index.html>

CGS Resolution: <https://cgsnet.org/resources/for-current-prospective-graduate-students/april-15-resolution/>.