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Overview

The William Monroe Trotter Institute is a research unit in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. The Trotter Institute, which originated in 1984, sponsors research, lectures and programs on the black experience. To accomplish its aims, the Institute has five programs:

- (1) The Distinguished Lecture Series,
- (2) The Institute Forums,
- (3) The Resident Fellows Program,
- (4) The Research Associates Program, and
- (5) The Publication Program.

1. The Distinguished Lecture Series

This series of lectures are presented by well-known scholars and public figures. The series reflects the interests as well as the curriculum and research needs of the Black Studies Department and, when feasible, is designed around a theme that is selected yearly. During the 1985–86 academic year this lecture series addressed the issue of affirmative action. Each of six nationally known scholars and public figures presented a lecture on issues in affirmative action.

2. Institute Forums

A major activity of the Institute is its Forum series, which includes research presentations, public policy presentations/panels, community-oriented forums and other scholarly presentations. The Forums are a principal means by which the Institute disseminates the results of its research and by which it fosters interactions with the community on public policy and community issues.

The research seminars are one of the means by which Institute Fellows and Associates present the results of their work. In addition, area scholars who are conducting research in an area of concern to the Institute are invited to present at the Forums.

Occasionally, Institute Forums arrange individual and panel discussions on current public policy issues. Similarly, current community issues are presented or debated in the Forums by community-based individuals and officials of public agencies as well as university professors.

3. Resident Fellows Program

Each year the Institute selects one or more Fellows for one-year appointments. While pursuing their research programs these Fellows are in residence at UMass/Boston during the length of their appointment; and they participate generally in the activities of the Institute. There are two types of fellowships: (1) Research Fellows, and (2) Post-doctoral Fellows.

- (a) *Research Fellows*—More advanced scholars, or individuals established in other fields, i.e., public service

- (b) *Post-Doctoral Fellows*—Relatively new Ph.D's.

Applicants to the Fellowship Program may have the option of proposing research projects which focus on research questions announced by the Institute or proposing research in other areas. Research plans for these awards may take several forms, including collaborative research with other scholars at the Institute and individual research based on the scholar's research interest.

Ordinarily, each Resident Fellow award is made for one year. However, under special circumstances of particular research projects, awards may be made for one semester, or up to two years. When feasible, each Fellow teaches one course in Black Studies during the one-year residence.

4. The Research Associates Program

Since research is the primary function of the William Monroe Trotter Institute, the Research Associates program is an integral component. Research Associates are scholars who conduct research on Black Studies related topics at the Institute, produce research reports and other scholarly papers, and participate in Institute Forums and other programs. Scholars are first appointed as Research Associates and then provided support for their research.

Opportunities exist for scholars to conduct research, on their own, in collaboration with other scholars, or as part of some larger Institute study. One of the implicit purposes of the Trotter Institute is to provide structures that promote scholarly interaction and collaboration between and among professionals from various disciplines on matters of concern to the black community. The weekly Institute forums, in conjunction with the Research Associates program, provide a means of accomplishing these aims. The forums offer a wide range of issues and topics, many dealing with critical public issues which can benefit from multidisciplinary approaches. Research Associates at the Trotter Institute represent a variety of disciplines and address various topics related to the black experience.

Some selected topics of Institute research projects are listed below:

Economics

- Jobs, Income and Poverty
- Youth Employment and Unemployment
- Turnover and Duration of Unemployment
- Boston's Southwest Corridor Development
- Free Enterprise Zones
- Underemployment
- Race Relations in Organized Labor

History

- Antebellum Slave Narratives
- Free Blacks in Philadelphia in the Early 19th Century
- Blacks in Rhode Island in the 18th Century
- Documentary of Blacks in the Civil War
- Marcus Garvey as Sociological Critique

Community

Black Service Institutions
Demographic Trends
Political Trends
Community Development
Black Artists and Their Work: Context and Content

Housing

Housing, Neighborhood, and Development
Community-Based and Tenant-Owned Housing

Education

Desegregation and Quality Education
Student Activism in the Public Schools

Africa

Women's Rights
Prenatal Care
Colonial African Labor Policy-Making

Women

Black Women in the Labor Force
Black Women Policy Makers

Family

Black Families in Boston: Demographic Trends and Policy Implications
Changing Role of the Extended Family on the Black Elderly

Criminal Justice

Mandatory Work Versus Mandatory Sentencing
Alternative Sentencing

Communications

Black Image in Boston Media
Access to Cable Television

Psychology

Black Personality Development

5. Publications

The Institute makes the results of its research and news of its other activities available to the public in the following publications:

- Monographs
- Research Reports
- Occasional Papers
- Periodical

Institute Monographs are full scale research monographs produced on an occasional basis. The volume, *The Emerging Black Community in Boston*, a set of eight studies on blacks in Boston, is the first of these monographs.

Research Reports and *Occasional Papers* are the principal means by which Institute research findings are disseminated. Research reports are issued upon the completion of each research project. In the *Occasional Papers* series, copies of papers of general interest, i.e., short theoretical papers, papers presented at conferences, and preliminary research reports are made available.

Four times a year the *Trotter Institute Review* is produced to report on the activities of the Institute and to present articles, summaries of research reports, and essays on issues in Black Studies.

Staffing

In addition to the Director, permanent staff members of the Institute include three clerical and administrative staff and two professional staff persons. Also, in 1986-87 there are some fourteen (14) scholars attached to the Institute as Research Associates. These Research Associates, who are faculty members at area universities, as well as the University of Massachusetts at Boston, are actively engaged in research projects at the Trotter Institute.

Position Available

Caribbean Literature

The Department of Black Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Boston invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in Caribbean Literature beginning in September, 1987. Ph.D. is required; specialty in Caribbean Literature. Additional expertise in African Literature is highly desirable. Salary is competitive. Send letter of application, vita, and names and addresses of three or more references by March 24, 1987, to Robert Moore, Recruiting Chair, Department of Black Studies, University of Massachusetts at Boston, Boston, MA 02125.

THE WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER INSTITUTE
University of Massachusetts at Boston
announces

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS
1987-88 Academic Year

The William Monroe Trotter Institute at the University of Massachusetts at Boston is planning to award two post-doctoral fellowships for the 1987-88 academic year.

The Trotter Institute sponsors research and service activities related to the black community. These include research projects on social policy issues of interest to the black community, as well as research projects of an academic character designed to improve our understanding of the history, culture, and social development of the black community. The Institute also conducts and sponsors symposia, lectures, exhibits and other activities.

One fellowship will be awarded in the humanities; the other will be awarded in the social and behavioral sciences. The proposed project in the social and behavioral sciences must address a current social policy issue concerning the black community.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must have completed all doctoral work by April 15, 1987.

TERMS: The stipend is \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the academic year, based upon the number of post-PhD years of experience. There is also a \$2,000 cost of research allowance. Fellows will be in full-time residence during the entire academic year, during which time they will be expected to complete a project. Each fellow will teach one course in the Black Studies Department during the academic year, and participate in the activities of the Institute. Opportunities will exist for collaborative interactions with other scholars.

APPLICATION: Application materials, which must be submitted and postmarked by March 30, 1987, may be obtained from the address below:

Fellowship Program
William Monroe Trotter Institute
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Harbor Campus
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

NOTIFICATION: Candidates will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision by May 1, 1987.

William Monroe Trotter Institute
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393

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