

FASPE

FELLOWSHIPS AT
AUSCHWITZ
FOR THE STUDY OF
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

FASPE operates under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

FASPE JOURNALISM: A SUMMER FELLOWSHIP ON JOURNALISM ETHICS

This program reminded me that ethics is not a list of rules you can memorize but rather a matter for continual thought and evaluation.

(Megan Camm, 2012 Journalism Fellow)

The trip was reinvigorating and was everything that I was looking for. I so needed this community of interesting journalists striving to answer tough questions, and I feel like I can turn to them any time. (Lindsey Anderson, 2015 Journalism Fellow)

The Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) offers a unique historical lens to engage journalism, medical, seminary, and law students in an intensive course of study focused on contemporary ethics in their professions. FASPE Fellows are granted an all-expenses paid 12-day trip to Germany and Poland to learn about the role of their chosen profession in Nazi Germany and to use that historic framework to explore the ethical issues facing their field today.

Pre-World War II professionals in Germany were known and respected internationally. Yet, leaders (and practitioners) in each of the professions, and often the institutions they represented, played a fundamental role in designing, enabling and/or executing the crimes of Nazi Germany.

FASPE Journalism examines the roles played by journalists and editors in Nazi Germany and underscores the reality that moral codes governing the profession can break down or be distorted with devastating consequences. Having learned the power of their profession, the Journalism Fellows are better positioned (and more willing) to address various contemporary ethical issues facing their profession and individual reporters. The program integrates historical, cultural, philosophical, and literary sources; survivor testimony; and on-site workshops in Berlin, Auschwitz, and Krakow.

The journalism program was initially developed with the assistance of Professor Ari Goldman, of the Columbia Journalism School, and the staff of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Since piloting the program in 2011, 63 Fellows have participated from journalism schools including Carleton University, Columbia, the City University of New York, New York University, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Southern California. The summer 2016 program will include a new class of 10-12 Fellows chosen through a national application process.

The Fellowships include all costs associated with the 12-day program, including international and European travel, lodging, and food. The Fellows are provided with reading materials prior to meeting in New York; and the academic component of the program is intensive and interactive. Daily Seminars are led by faculty and local experts who engage the Fellows in journalism issues associated with the locations visited.

FASPE Journalism Fellows examine such topics as:

- The relationship between state authority and journalism (including censorship and propaganda)
- How do you balance the costs and benefits of access?
- When should a journalist intervene?
- The challenges in reporting fairly and objectively when faced with atrocities
- How can you fact-check a Holocaust survivor or the victim of an atrocity?
- The ethical challenges in reporting human rights abuses
- Media's role in creating and remembering the historical narrative

FASPE Journalism Program Outline:

- Orientation is held at the Museum of Jewish Heritage and includes touring exhibits, meeting with Holocaust survivors, and working with FASPE staff and guest scholars.
- Fellows travel to Berlin to visit and study the city's historical and cultural sites. Educational workshops take place at such locations as the House of the Wannsee Conference, where in 1942, representatives of State and Nazi Party agencies convened to discuss and coordinate plans for the "Final Solution."
- Fellows travel to Oświęcim, Poland, the town the Germans called Auschwitz, where they tour Auschwitz-Birkenau and work with the distinguished staff at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. They also travel to Krakow where they explore the city's rich Jewish, Catholic, and Polish history. Sessions devoted to contemporary journalism ethics take place in seminar rooms at Auschwitz and at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities.
- Each Fellow submits a final feature product focused on a contemporary ethical issue chosen by the Fellow. These are included in an annual journal of essays from Fellows from all disciplines.
- An Alumni Reunion & Symposium is held each year for current and past Fellows. Fellows from the most recent Program present their papers; and all gather and discuss the impact of the Fellowships.

FASPE seeks to instill a sense of professional responsibility for the ethical and moral choices that the Fellows will make in their careers and in their professional relationships. Understanding that their voice and actions can positively influence their profession, they will be part of a growing cohort of journalists who are invested in improving the practice of all those in the profession.

FASPE is committed to a long-term relationship with the Fellows in order to sustain the ideas raised during the Fellowships and to provide a forum for continuing dialogue among the Fellows as they move forward in their careers. Testimonials from the Fellows have confirmed the value of FASPE as they have entered their profession – as journalists, editors, free-lance writers, and academics. FASPE succeeds through the long term impact on its Fellows.

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