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SRCD Members in the News: Dr. Seth Pollak

SRCD member, Seth Pollak, awarded prestigious 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship for Psychology



On April 8, SRCD member and former Governing Council Member-at-Large, Dr. Seth Pollak, was one of 184 artists, writers, scholars, and scientists awarded a 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship. Dr. Pollak is the Letters and Sciences Distinguished Professor at the Department of Psychology and the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The fellowship opportunity was awarded for his contribution to psychology in the emergence of human emotion.

Release from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation:

NEW YORK (April 8, 2021): Today, the Board of Trustees of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation approved the awarding for Guggenheim Fellowships to a diverse group of 184 artists, writers, scholars, and scientists. These exceptional candidates were chosen through a rigorous peer-review process from almost 3,000 applicants.

Created in 1925 by Senator Simon and Olga Guggenheim in memory of their son John Simon Guggenheim, the Foundation has offered fellowships to exceptional individuals in pursuit of scholarship in any field of knowledge and creation in any art form, under the freest possible conditions.

“I am thrilled to announce this new group of Guggenheim Fellows,” said Edward Hirsch, President of the Foundation, “especially since this has been a devastating year in so many ways. A Guggenheim Fellowship has always been meaningful, but this year we know it will be a lifeline for many of the new Fellows at a time of great hardship, a survival tool as well as a creative one. The work supported by the Fellowship will help us understand more deeply what we are enduring individually and collectively, and it is an honor for the Foundation to help them do what they were meant to do.”

Donations by friends, Trustees, and former Fellows are supporting the following Fellowships:

- The Fellowship in Fine Arts for the painter Peter B. Williams is underwritten by Robert De Niro in honor of his father Robert De Niro, Sr., a painter and a Guggenheim Fellow in 1968.
- Ian Frazier’s Fellowship in Creative Nonfiction is underwritten by Wendy Belzberg and Strauss Zelnick in honor of the writer Stacy Schiff, a Guggenheim Fellow in 1996;
- Art historian Marisa Anne Bass of Yale University has received the inaugural Fellowship in Early Modern Studies, underwritten through gifts by five former Fellows;
- The Fellowship in Constitutional Studies, to be held by Amalia D. Kessler of Stanford University, is underwritten by the Dorothy Tapper Goldman Foundation;
- A Fellowship in Engineering for engineer and biomedical scientist John A. Rogers of Northwestern University is underwritten by Anthony Roberts;

- The estate of Philip Roth, a Fellow in 1959, provides partial support for writers.
- Fellows in the creative arts are partially supported by the Joel Conarroe Fund, named for Joel Conarroe, a Fellow in 1977 and former President of the Foundation.

The great range of backgrounds, fields of study, and accomplishments of Guggenheim Fellows is a unique characteristic of the Fellowship program. In all, 49 scholarly disciplines and artistic fields, 73 different academic institutions, 28 states and 2 Canadian provinces are represented in this year's class of Fellows, who range in age from 31 to 85. Close to 60 Fellows have no full-time college or university affiliation.

Since its establishment in 1925, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has granted nearly $400 million in Fellowships to over 18,000 individuals, among whom are more than 125 Nobel laureates, members of all the national academies, winners of the Pulitzer Prize, Fields Medal, Turing Award, Bancroft Prize, National Book Award, and other internationally recognized honors.

For more information on the 2021 Fellows, please visit the Foundation's website at www.gf.org.

Read full list of 2021 Fellows