

CIFellows 2020

Computing Innovation Fellows



CIFellows 2020 Webinar

*CCC Chair Mark D. Hill
CRA Board Chair Ellen Zegura*

- 1. Background & Set Up (Hill)*
- 2. The Program (Zegura)*
- 3. Q&A: Use Q&A (not chat) to ask questions*

Webinar, including Q&A, recorded for website

May 26th, 2020



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Motivation

COVID-19 has significantly disrupted computing's academic job market

- CRA's survey ending April 1st saw significant job loss in N. America
- Things have not gotten better since

Seeking to ameliorate the crisis and do good

Done before with great success: CI Fellows w/ cohorts in 2009, 2010, & 2011

- Kept great people in research
- Facilitated career development with mentors & cohort-building activities
- Developed computing postdoc mentoring best practices

Use past as a model, but update to COVID-19 realities



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Key Organizations

Computing Research Association (CRA)

- Non-profit organization whose members are mostly N. American academic computing units, companies, government labs and the computing societies
- Mission: *Uniting industry, academia and government to advance computing research and change the world*

Computing Community Consortium (CCC)

- CRA standing committee, largely funded by NSF
- Mission: *Catalyzing the computing research community and enabling the pursuit of innovative, high-impact research*

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- US federal agency; CISE Directorate funds much of computing research
- 1950 Charter: *to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense...*



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Key Committees

Co-Principal Investigators

- Andrew Bernat
CRA Executive Director
- Elizabeth Bradley
CCC Vice Chair & U. Colorado
- Ann Schwartz Drobniś
CCC Director
- Mark D. Hill
CCC Chair & U. Wisconsin
- Ellen Zegura, PI
CRA Board Chair & Georgia Tech

Steering Committee

- Bradley, Hill, & Zegura
- Aruna Balasubramanian
Stony Brook
- Anita Jones
U. Virginia
- Stefan Savage
UCSD
- Bernat & Drobniś, *ex officio*

Selection Committee

- Bradley, Hill, & Zegura and
- ~5 others to be determined



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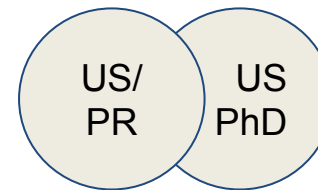


Key Eligibility Requirements

Does research in area under the umbrella NSF Computing and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate, including computing education

Applicant's PhD completes or 1st postdoc ends 7/1/2019-12/31/2020.

Applicants US Citizen/Permanent Resident
OR PhD at US institution



Proposed mentors must be tenured or tenure-track faculty employed at a US academic institution and may not be applicant's PhD advisor

Must do CI fellowship at a US institution

Applicants must coordinate with mentor to apply as a pair



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Key Application Components (near final)

Applicants may apply twice, with two different mentors. Each application should be separate. At most one **applicant-mentor pair** will be awarded.

1. Research Proposal
 - Research objectives/goals including Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
 - Research plan for achieving those objectives/goals
2. Fellowship Plan that describes the research skills and experiences the candidate plans to gain during the fellowship and how these will advance their career objectives. Please coordinate with your mentor!
3. Letter of recommendation from current research supervisor.
4. Additional letter of recommendation
5. Letter of support from proposed Mentor – this letter must indicate a lack of funding for support of the applicant and complement the Fellowship Plan
6. Academic CV, 2 pages maximum
7. Application information checklist



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Evaluation Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on their track record of research accomplishment, and on the merits of their Research Proposal.

Applicants will be evaluated on the merits of their Fellowship Plan, amplified by the mentor's letter.

Attention will be paid to diversity. Fellowships will be awarded to span the research areas of CISE. Preference will be given to US citizens and permanent residents.

No more than two fellowships will be awarded to candidates whose PhDs were/will be awarded from a single university.

No more than two fellowships will be awarded to candidates whose mentors are at a specific university.



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Timeline (All Dates in 2020)

May 14: CI Fellows 2020 announced with preliminary information

May 20: Guidelines refined & webinar announced

May 26: This webinar

Late May (expected): Rules finalized & application system goes live

Middle-third June (expected): Application due

Mid-late July (expected): CI Fellows 2020 selected & informed



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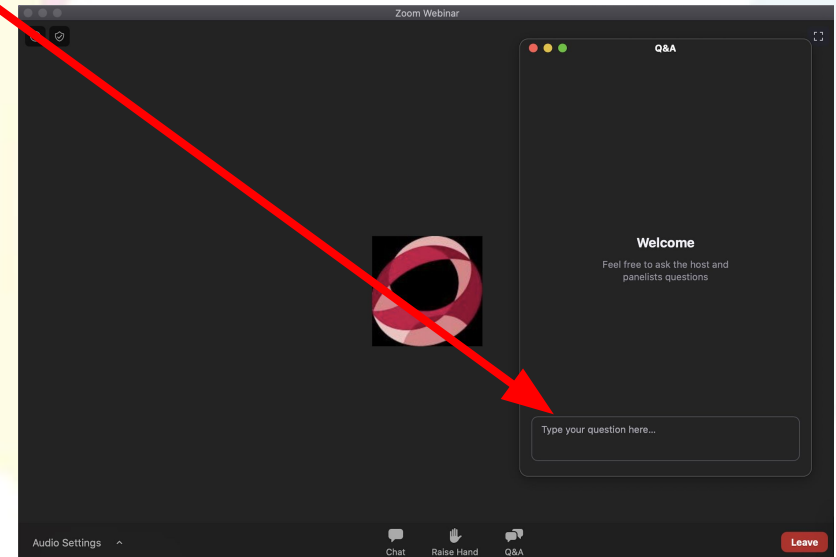
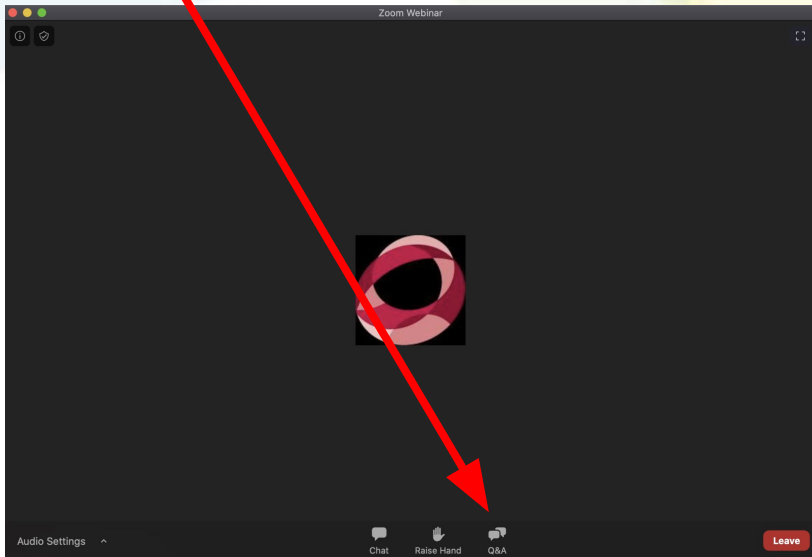


Q&A (Recorded for website)

Host will select questions to ask or paraphrase w/o giving questioner's name

Use Webinar Q&A (not chat) to send questions privately to host (see below)

(1) Click on Q&A (2) Type your question



Seen website--finalized soon--
for all definitive answers



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Website FAQs will be updated regularly

FAQs

For Applicants

For Mentors

For Host Institution

What does it mean to “complete” the PhD degree?

“Complete” for these purposes means when the applicant has met all of the PhD degree requirements, including submission of the final thesis. It is not necessary to have the diploma in hand.

May non-US citizens apply?

Yes. Preference will be given in the selection process to US citizens and permanent residents, but applicants must complete (or anticipate completing) the PhD degree or first postdoctoral fellowship during the window of July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020.

I don’t see my Research Area listed; can I still apply?

If you do not see your Research Area listed, but contend that your research falls under the CISE umbrella, please select Other and indicate how your research falls under CISE in the Optional Additional Information Section of the Application.

What guidance shall I give my letter writers?

Once you begin your application, you will input the contact information for your letter writers (3 Letters: 1 from your current Research Supervisor, 1 from an additional supporter, and 1 from your proposed mentor). The application system will then send your letter writers a link where they can login and submit their letter. Please advise them to look for an email from support@conferenceabstracts.com. If you’re applying twice with two separate mentors, please make other letter writers aware they will be receiving two separate email requests to complete.



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Common Questions

- 1) **May non-US citizen apply?** Yes. Preference will be given in the selection process to US citizens and permanent residents, but applicants must complete (or anticipate completing) the PhD degree or first postdoctoral position during the window of July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020 and their PhD must be from a US institution. We will not be helping with VISAs.
- 2) **What does it mean to “complete” the PhD degree?** “Complete” for these purposes means when the applicant has met all of the PhD degree requirements, including submission of the final thesis. It is not necessary to have the diploma in hand.
- 3) **I don’t see my Research Area listed; can I still apply?** If you do not see your Research Area listed, but contend that your research falls under the CISE umbrella, please select Other and indicate how your research falls under CISE in the Optional Additional Information Section of the Application.
- 4) **Will there be a CI Fellows 2021 deadline a year from now?** NSF, CRA, and CCC all recognize the importance of early-career research pathways. Subject to availability of resources, we will continue to prioritize programs like CI Fellows as long as research hiring impacts from COVID-related economic uncertainties continue. The presence of and/or scale of any future years will depend on availability of resources and community need.
- 5) **For the CI Fellows program almost a decade ago, there was an explicit mechanism for matching applicants and mentors. Is there a similar mechanism now?** No, we decided again an explicit matching mechanism for CIFellows 2020, because only a small percentage of the previous CI Fellows matches used the matching mechanism.



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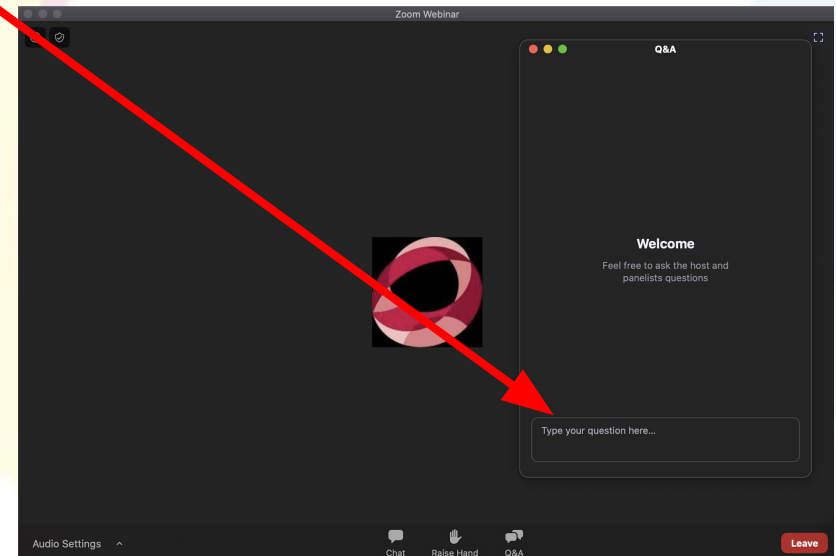
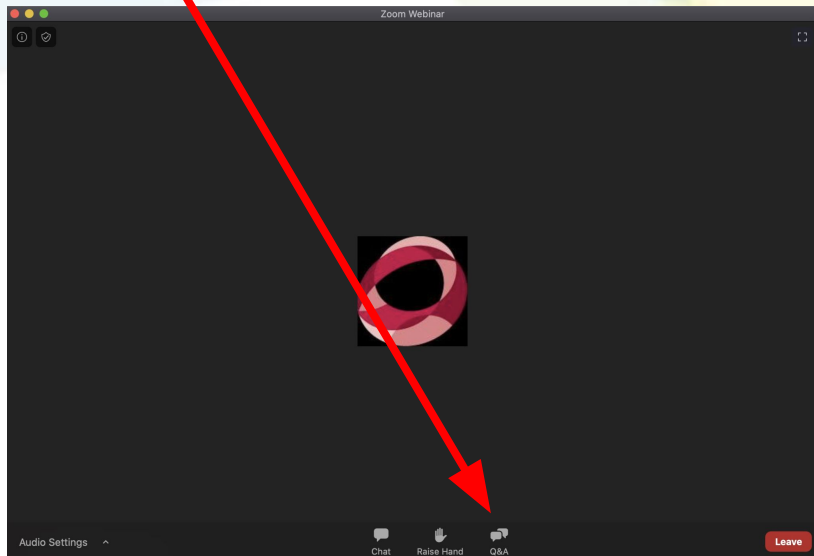


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