



**1. Name:** [Swati Patel](#)

**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** American Fellowship

**Institution:** University of California, Davis

**Location:** Davis, California

**Discipline:** Mathematics

**Degree and Specialization:** Ph.D., Applied mathematics

**Project Name:** Coexistence and Stability in Ecological Communities with Evolution

Swati Patel likes to think about how evolution shaped the remarkable and diverse organisms that we see today and how math can be developed to study this. Her work is on modeling the feedbacks between ecological processes and evolutionary processes to understand how these feedbacks affect species coexistence in communities. She is inspired by many women, including Jane Goodall, Maryam Mirzakhani, Sunita Williams, and her mom.

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**2. Name:** [Michelle Ty](#)

**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** American Fellowship

**Institution:** University of California, Berkeley

**Location:** Berkeley, California

**Discipline:** Language and literature

**Degree and Specialization:** Ph.D., Literature, philosophy

**Project Name:** On Self-Forgetting: Modernism, Receptivity, and Desubjectivation

Michelle Ty's research considers how receptivity plays a central part in literary, philosophical, and psychoanalytic accounts of how subjects are formed and de-constituted as human. She studies the cultural politics of waste, paying particular attention to the relation between uneven economic development and the differential distribution of trash.

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**3. Name:** [Fay Chang](#)

**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** Career Development Grant

**Institution:** California College of the Arts

**Location:** San Francisco, California

**Discipline:** Arts

**Degree and Specialization:** B.F.A., Graphic design

Fay Chang is pursuing a bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design at the California College of the Arts. Her first degree was in cognitive science. She was in the public health research field for more than eight years, working on adolescent health interventions. Now she is focusing on switching careers and making an impact through visual communication.

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**4. Name:** [Unique Laylor](#)



**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** Career Development Grant

**Institution:** Samuel Merritt University

**Location:** Oakland, California

**Discipline:** Health and medical sciences

**Degree and Specialization:** M.S., Nurse anesthesia

Unique Laylor is pursuing a master's degree in nurse anesthesia with the goal of contributing to the advancement of her profession through innovation to the practice. Her goals include various aspects of paying forward with tutelage of high school students in underserved areas in the nurse anesthesia profession and teaching in higher education. She is currently challenged with balancing school and family life.

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**5. Name:** [Helen Rocha](#)

**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** Career Development Grant

**Institution:** California State University, Sacramento

**Location:** Sacramento, California

**Discipline:** Engineering - civil

**Degree and Specialization:** M.S., Civil engineering

Rocha is pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering with a concentration engineering management. She is a licensed civil engineer and is passionate about planning and strategizing on solutions that will improve local communities with their existing water supplies and infrastructure. Rocha also volunteers as a professional mentor to engineering students at California State University, Sacramento.

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**6. Name:** [May Elmofty](#)

**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** International Fellowship

**Institution:** San Francisco State University

**Citizenship:** Egypt

**Location:** San Francisco, California

**Discipline:** Biology

**Degree and Specialization:** M.S., Cell and molecular biology

May Elmofty graduated from Alexandria Medical School, Egypt, in 2012. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in cell and molecular biology at San Francisco State University. Elmofty is a member of the Health Equity Research Lab, which focuses on breast cancer health disparities. Her research investigates how social and ecological variables, such as discrimination, get under the skin to affect breast cancer outcomes in minority women.



**7. Name:** [Elisa Romero](#)

**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** Career Development Grant

**Institution:** University of San Francisco

**Location:** San Francisco, California

**Discipline:** Education

**Degree and Specialization:** M.A., Higher education

Elisa Romero is pursuing her master's degree in higher education and student affairs from the University of San Francisco. For the past seven years, Romero has worked in her hometown of East Palo Alto as a college and academic counselor, supporting low-income, first-generation students on their path to college. After years of sending students off to college, she recognized the need for support systems for her students at the postsecondary level.

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**8. Name:** [Natalie Koski-Karell](#)

**Award Year:** 2015-16

**Award:** Career Development Grant

**Institution:** University of California, Hastings

**Location:** San Francisco, California

**Discipline:** Law

**Degree and Specialization:** J.D., Land use

Natalie Koski-Karell is pursuing a law degree at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, with a focus on environmental and sustainable urban development policy. In the fall, she will be attending Vermont Law School as a visiting student to complete their land use certificate program.