



Summer 2026 Fellowship – Call for Proposals

Lucy Parsons Labs (LPL) is hosting 1 or 2 early-career researchers or technologists for the summer of 2026. As an abolitionist research and organizing collective, we seek to nurture the political development and skillset of early-career researchers. We invite fellows who will design and lead a project of their own choosing with support from LPL. To that end, we expect fellows to propose project ideas that they are prepared to execute with a high degree of autonomy.

We're seeking fellows who are interested in developing a political analysis of how their project fits into broader abolitionist organizing. Additionally, we invite fellows to name any specific technical skills that they plan to practice through their project (i.e., what technical expertise within LPL are you eager to learn with/from?).

Previous successful projects have included refreshes to the Chicago Police Surveillance website, collecting data about prisons for research to support the end of pre-trial incarceration, and processing and analyzing large data/document sets using technical tools like OCR.

This fellowship is a U.S. based, remote-first position. As a non-traditional workplace and distributed collective, we work primarily asynchronously (e.g., via Slack, video calls, Signal, etc). Fellows can expect feedback at least weekly, and one or two LPL team members will serve as advisors throughout the fellowship. While collaboration is core to our work, we are seeking fellows who are self-directed and comfortable working independently and asynchronously.

About this Application

This application is designed to be completed in 45 minutes or less. Please read it carefully because we chose our words precisely for a prospective candidate. Applications must be written in your own words (**NO genAI**) but you are welcome to use an assistive technology such as speech to text or translation services.

About Your Practice

You are an *early-career* practitioner in Science and Technology Studies, emerging technologies, a history or political theory student, engineer, or in a similar field. Early-career practitioners may include those who are leaving school, changing career focus or seeking a home for new interests. We interpret the term “early-career” *expansively*, which includes people with non-traditional education backgrounds, students on summer break, working technologists seeking a refocus in their career, or community organizers seeking more technical training. (These examples depict the general spirit of the applicants we imagine for this fellowship and are not required attributes.)

Additionally, we encourage applications from underrepresented communities, such as people with lived experiences of criminalization, students at community colleges or small liberal arts colleges,

non-academics, neurodivergent and/or disabled people, people from rural and Native communities, people coming home from incarceration, and people from working-class backgrounds.

Time Commitment

To advance in our search, you must be self-directed and have ideas for a research project which you are prepared to complete, in collaboration and with assistance from LPL. We plan to be flexible with the timeframe of fellowships, but you can anticipate a timeline of **~10 weeks** with an expectation to dedicate **~30 hours a week** (4 days a week) to your project. We expect fellows to work largely autonomously to create and lead a project that can reasonably be completed in this timeframe.

Compensation

This fellowship is open to individuals with work-authorization in the U.S.

The fellowship stipend is **\$15,000**, with additional funds available for typical office expenses.

Project Proposal

These questions and prompts are not designed to be tricky or to require a lot of your time. Instead, we encourage you to imagine you are describing your work to a friend or colleague—write how you'd explain it to them. You should describe:

- Your research idea and why you find it to be interesting;
- What you know about Lucy Parsons Labs and how our work intersects with yours;
- How participating in this fellowship can both contribute to our community and further your own learning; and
- Any skills or experiences that uniquely qualify you for this fellowship.

Please do *not* write more than two pages (**~1,500 words**) for this section.

(OPTIONAL)

These questions aren't used to filter any candidates out—instead, we hope to get a better sense of who you are as a person. Are you into weird post-modernist memes? Are you a poster (compliment)? Fun things you like to collect? Obscure special interests? We want to get to know you!

- How should we address you? (name, pronouns)
- How do you identify? (open-ended)
- What hobbies or interests are you excited about?
- First language spoken at home
- Social media

How to Apply

Please submit your application **HERE** using this form.

Applications will be accepted until **11:59pm CT on Monday, April 20, 2026**.

Please reach out to info@lucyparsonslabs.com if you have questions.