

THE ELEANOR SINGER JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

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May 21, 2019

Mark Lamias



Dear Mark,

Following Eleanor Singer's death in June of 2017, there has been an outpouring of support from the ISR and survey methodology communities. Through heartfelt remembrances at the memorial service held here in Ann Arbor, and the deeply moving letters of tribute that continue to arrive from around the world, colleagues and former students have spoken eloquently about Eleanor, and all that she meant to them.

Many of these tributes have, of course, taken the form of professional accolades. They recall Eleanor as a trail-blazing scientist, a brilliant scholar of social psychology and survey methodology, an original thinker, a superb writer and editor, a creative collaborator across diverse fields, an immensely productive scholar, and a prolific author of books and articles.

Those who were mentored by Eleanor, who – not coincidentally – were disproportionately women, share recollections of a wise and trusted presence, a staunch supporter and guide, and a mild-mannered yet steely advisor. These former students and colleagues recall Eleanor as dedicated, compassionate, no-nonsense in her attitude, generous with her time and advice, and occasionally ferocious.

Perhaps most impressive and moving is the fact that every reminiscence, every note, or letter also refers to Eleanor as a cherished and unforgettable friend.

It is in a double capacity – as Eleanor's admiring colleagues and longtime friends – that we are writing to you about the opportunity to support an enduring legacy in tribute to her. Friends, family, and colleagues have established the endowed Eleanor Singer Junior Faculty Fellowship to honor Eleanor's passion for mentoring students and colleagues.

The idea for this endowed fund can be traced to 2016, when Eleanor donated the money she received from the American Statistical Association's Monroe G. Sirken Award to create an ISR research fund for junior faculty. Her gift was no surprise to those who knew her, and it is in that spirit that we would like to grow the fund.

Now, inspired by her vision, we have embarked on an effort to honor Eleanor's many contributions as a research scientist, editor, and mentor. The goal of this fund is to provide outstanding junior faculty at SRC, and visiting junior faculty from other institutions, opportunities to excel as young scholars. Awards will be used to fund pilot studies, supplement already-funded studies, and similar activities.

The total fundraising goal for this fund is \$300,000, an amount that, if achieved, will generate approximately \$13,500 in annual award support. As a further incentive to donors, SRC will match the first \$250,000 of contributions received.

The endowed fund distributions will be spent in accordance with the University of Michigan endowment distribution policy at the direction of the current Director of the Institute for Social Research, in accordance with the purposes described above.

Please take a moment to consider the impact that Eleanor Singer had on your life, both professionally and personally. Then consider making a contribution to honor her.

By joining us, the others on this letterhead, and many other friends in supporting this Fund, you will be providing grants to promising junior faculty for generations to come, while paying tribute to Eleanor's legacy. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



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