

## **Proposal for the Faculty Grants for International Connections Program**

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8-5319; mas608

I am proposing a visit to the Institute of Sociology at the Université de Neuchâtel (Switzerland), sponsored by Professor Christian Suter, Professor of Sociology at the Université de Neuchâtel and President of the World Society Foundation at the Universität Zürich (Switzerland). This visit would enable me to develop professional networks at four prestigious research institutions in Switzerland: the Université de Neuchâtel, the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, the Universität Zürich, and the World Society Foundation. All of these organizations are currently conducting research related to my work. Moreover, these institutions have ongoing relationships with several more research institutions across Europe, which would further expand my international research network. These international linkages would also increase the visibility of Lehigh University.

At the Université de Neuchâtel, I would explore areas of mutual interests with Professor Suter and establish a relationship with the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, which is housed at the Université de Neuchâtel. Both of these opportunities could serve as the basis for future research collaborations. Professor Suter has published work on several areas important to my own research, including inequality, poverty, international political economy, globalization, and longitudinal-comparative research methods. The Swiss Forum on Migration and Population Studies is the leading research institute on migration in Switzerland and is the center for several international research collaborations. The Forum is currently involved specifically in three research collaborations with a consortium of universities that includes Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), the Universiteit van Amsterdam (Netherlands), the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Brussels, Belgium), the University of Bath (United Kingdom), the University of Manchester (United Kingdom), and the Universität Wien (Vienna, Austria). More broadly, the Forum serves as the Swiss partner of the European Commission-supported IMISCOE project, a research network involving researchers from 23 universities across Europe working on the themes of international migration, integration, and social cohesion. Professor Suter has invited me to give a public lecture at the Université de Neuchâtel and a colloquium talk at the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies. These activities would provide significant visibility for my own research and the opportunity to develop future research collaborations.

As President of the World Society Foundation, Professor Suter has invited me to present my research at the Universität Zürich, which houses the World Society Foundation. The World Society Foundation would sponsor my public lecture as part of its efforts to encourage scholarship on how global processes affect contemporary societies. The Foundation provides financial support for research projects and articles, holds international conferences, and publishes a book series ("World Society Studies"). The World Society Foundation is a natural fit for my

research. It would increase the visibility of my research and it could provide future funding opportunities.

My visit would also provide the opportunity to explore possible student exchanges, study abroad programs, and other teaching-related opportunities. Situated at the crossroads of Europe, Switzerland provides a fascinating classroom context for learning about a variety of pressing social issues, particularly international migration, globalization and racial and ethnic diversity in contemporary multicultural societies. The most recent data indicate that 21.8% of the population is foreign-born, among the highest percentage in Europe. Recent immigrant and refugee inflows from North Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia have generated increasing racial and ethnic tensions. The Université de Neuchâtel is well-situated to investigate these issues. In addition to its research activities, the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies directs a specialized master's degree program in Migration Studies. Professor Suter has invited me to participate in a class as part of this program. This experience would allow me to incorporate a unique international dimension to the courses I teach on globalization and international migration at Lehigh. Professor Suter has also explicitly expressed interest in exploring possibilities for establishing student exchanges. I believe that our students would benefit significantly from exposure to this context and from study at the Université de Neuchâtel. German, French, and Italian are official languages, and English is spoken widely, making it a suitable location for a wide range of Lehigh students.

In the short-term, I expect that my visit will increase the visibility of my research, build a foundation for future collaborative research relationships, open up the possibility of future funding opportunities for my research, and lay the groundwork for future student exchanges and study abroad opportunities. Over a longer-term horizon, the relationships I develop might serve as a platform for deepening Lehigh's relationship with the United Nations and expanding our reach into other important international organizations based in Geneva, which is 1 ½ hours away by rail. Geneva is the site of the second-largest UN office in the world (behind New York), which holds the offices of the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, and it is also the site of the World Trade Organization and the headquarters for the World Economic Forum.

I have been in contact with Professor Suter to make preliminary arrangements for my visit. His letter of invitation is enclosed. Professor Suter has provided estimates for the proposed budget (included below) and we have agreed that September 6-20, 2010 would be the most appropriate time for my visit. This time period would allow me to achieve the goals I have identified above and to participate in the World Society Foundation's conference in Zurich on September 10-11. Upon return, I will provide a summary report and provide a presentation that details my experiences.

**Matthew R. Sanderson**  
Proposed Budget for Trip to Switzerland  
09/06/10 – 09/20/10

Airfare (roundtrip)		\$1,400.00
Lodging (\$200*14 nights)		\$2,800.00
Meals (\$80 /day * 14 days)		\$1,120.00
Breakfast (included in accommodations)	\$0.00	
Lunch (\$30 /day * 14 days)	\$420.00	
Dinner (\$50 /day * 14 days)	\$700.00	
Transportation (2-week Swiss pass [rail & bus])		\$700.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,020.00</b>

*Note: Proposed budget in U.S. dollars (1.00 USD = 1.07 CHF)*

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Prof. Christian Suter  
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■ CH-2000 Neuchâtel

Professor Matthew R. Sanderson  
Lehigh University  
681 Taylor Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
USA

Neuchâtel, March 9, 2010

Dear Professor Sanderson,

We are pleased to invite you to spend two weeks at the Department of Sociology and at the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies of the University of Neuchâtel. We would provide the necessary office, computer, and library facilities during your visit. We propose the following activities during your visit:

1. We would like you to give a lecture at the University of Neuchâtel and a colloquium talk at the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies. We would also like you to present your work at the University of Zurich. This lecture could be sponsored by the World Society Foundation (located at the University of Zurich).
2. During your visit we would like to discuss potential opportunities for research collaboration with you and between our two departments and universities. Several of our faculty members are engaged in research projects in the field of migration and population studies (particularly in sociology, human geography and cultural anthropology). We also suggest a meeting with interested researchers at other Swiss universities. This could be organized within the framework of the Swiss network for mobility studies.
3. We suggest that you participate in a Master and/or Bachelor class on Migration and population studies at the University of Neuchâtel and exchange ideas with bachelor (undergraduate) and master students. (Particularly within the framework of our specialized Master's program in migration studies at the University of Neuchâtel).
4. There is also a possibility that you present your work in the framework of our doctoral program in sociology of French-speaking Switzerland (depending upon the doctoral studies program).

5. During your visit we would like to explore the potential opportunities for some type of exchange program between our two departments and/or universities, both for studying and teaching opportunities.

We are delighted at the possibility of you visiting us. I'm confident that you would find the Department of Sociology and the Swiss Forum of Migration and Population Studies a stimulating environment for your research interests.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Christian Suter*

Christian Suter  
Professor of Sociology, University of Neuchâtel and  
President of the World Society Foundation, University of Zurich