



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2025

Position Title	Narrative and Opinion Researcher
Organization	ReThink Media
Location	Remote (based in the US)
Stipend	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
Benefits	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds provided by ACLS.
Start Date	September 2025

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[ReThink Media](#) is a nonprofit organization committed to advancing equity, justice, and inclusion by transforming how critical social justice issues are communicated to the public. Since its founding nearly 20 years ago, ReThink Media has supported advocacy movements in building strategic media and messaging capacity to amplify their work and drive policy change.

We currently focus on three core issue areas: voting rights and inclusive democracy, rights and inclusion (supporting Black, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian communities in the US), and peace and security (with an emphasis on reducing U.S. militarism and the threat of nuclear weapons). By conducting rigorous media analysis, strategic messaging, and building coalitions, we help underrepresented voices and organizations gain visibility and influence. Through hands-on training, tailored communications tools, and partnerships with advocacy groups, we work to build stronger, more collaborative movements.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Narrative and Opinion Researcher will serve as a key member of ReThink Media's Research & Analysis team, applying their humanistic expertise to analyze media narratives and public opinion trends. This role will directly contribute to ReThink's mission of advancing peace and justice by ensuring that advocacy campaigns are informed by in-depth, actionable research. The fellow will be directly supervised by the Associate Director of Research & Analysis. Weekly one-on-one meetings will provide consistent opportunities for guidance, feedback, and professional development.

Additionally, the fellow will collaborate closely with other staff through weekly team meetings, biweekly cross-team project check-ins, and regular virtual social events to foster connection. To support integration into ReThink Media's fully remote workplace, the fellow will participate in a comprehensive onboarding process, receive access to robust collaboration tools, and participate in the internal professional development trainings provided to all staff. They will also travel 2-3 times a year to attend periodic in-person retreats and conferences, offering additional opportunities for connection and professional growth. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

The fellow will contribute to key projects and create tangible deliverables that directly impact ReThink Media's advocacy efforts. These include:

- **Media content analysis:** Produce analyses of media coverage on topics such as U.S. nuclear weapons policy, voter suppression, and human rights advocacy. Deliverables may include:
 - Detailed reports highlighting narrative trends, framing biases, and representation of underrepresented voices.
 - Recommendations for strategic messaging and media outreach based on research findings.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

- **Opinion research:** Design and implement qualitative and quantitative research projects, such as:
 - Survey research to measure public attitudes toward ReThink’s core issues, including trust in democracy or perspectives on militarism.
 - Focus group studies that explore audience reactions to messaging strategies.
- **Narrative development:** Collaborate with program teams to craft messaging guides, including:
 - Frameworks that amplify the voices of marginalized communities and propose equitable narrative alternatives.
 - Case studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of reframing efforts in public discourse.
- **Advocacy materials:** Support campaigns by producing polished communication outputs such as:
 - Research briefs tailored for advocacy partners and stakeholders.
 - Blog posts or opinion pieces that translate findings into compelling public narratives and/or communications strategy recommendations.
- **Spokesperson training:** Assist in developing training materials and feedback tools to strengthen advocates’ storytelling and public messaging skills.

ReThink Media’s research work supports the larger mission of the organization and usually involves one or more additional team; it is collaborative by nature, offering exposure to many political/social issues and the opportunity to work with nearly everyone on staff. The fellow will meet with colleagues from other teams to discuss project scopes, status updates, findings, and deliverables. At key project junctures, the fellow will be expected to present or co-present findings or ideas to colleagues in a casual but professional environment. The fellow will also be expected to give and solicit constructive feedback.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Strong qualitative research skills, including content and/or discourse analysis and synthesis of complex ideas.
- Excellent written and oral communication abilities.
- Capacity for collaboration across diverse teams and issue areas.
- Commitment to social justice and equity in research and advocacy.
- Interest in learning qualitative coding, survey research methods, and data visualization. Training will be provided.

Preferred:

- Experience in public communications, storytelling, or advocacy work, whether professionally or on a volunteer basis.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9 PM EDT, March 12, 2025.

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