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## **Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) Selects 16 Scholars of Color for its Doctoral Fellowship**

**ATLANTA (April 19, 2021)** — The Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) has selected 16 scholars of color to receive support for their PhD or ThD program in religion, theological studies, or biblical studies.

Students will either receive the Fellowship for Doctoral Students of African Descent or the Fellowship for Latino/a, Asian and First Nations Doctoral Students. Each Fellow will be awarded a living stipend up to \$25,000 to help further their studies beyond the coursework stage.

"The 2021 class of Fellows is comprised of changemakers, healers, and theological educators who are creating space for future generations to thrive in the academy," said Dr. Patrick B. Reyes, FTE's senior director of learning design. "With the changing landscape of theological education now coupled with the aftermath of 2020, we believe each of these scholars is well-positioned to lead the field through this moment of transformation."

As part of the fellowship award, Fellows will have the opportunity to attend FTE's 2021 Virtual Forum for Theological Educators. The Forum will provide opportunities for networking, professional development, vocational exploration, and mentoring.

FTE welcomes the following recipients into the 2021 class of Doctoral Fellows:

### **Fellowship for Doctoral Students of African Descent:**

- **Julian Armand Cook**, Drew University
- **Myron Krys Florence**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- **Kamilah Hall Sharp**, Brite Divinity School
- **Eddie L. Journey**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- **Leah L. Nakon**, Vanderbilt University
- **Gina A.S. Robinson**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- **Denson Staples**, Harvard University
- **Jessie Washington**, Emory University
- **Christopher D. Williams**, Boston College
- **Shatavia L. Wynn**, Vanderbilt University

### **Fellowship for Latino/a, Asian and First Nations Doctoral Students:**

- **Arelis Benítez**, Vanderbilt University
- **Francisco J. García, Jr.**, Vanderbilt University
- **Hyun Woo Kim**, Emory University
- **Alexandra Rosado-Román**, Vanderbilt University
- **José L. Santana**, Southern Methodist University
- **Michelle Eugenie Yu**, University of Toronto, Toronto School of Theology, Wycliffe College

In addition to its fellowships for dissertation stage doctoral students, FTE provides professional development opportunities for PhD and ThD students in the first two years of their studies. FTE developed these doctoral initiatives to help accelerate the completion of doctoral degrees among students of color and to foster diversity in the academy across North America.

Since 1999, FTE has awarded more than 570 fellowships to students of color and has maintained a 98 percent retention rate among its Doctoral Fellows.

For more information about FTE, visit [fteleaders.org](http://fteleaders.org).

**About Forum for Theological Exploration**

The Forum for Theological Exploration is committed to cultivating diverse young adults to be faithful, wise, and courageous leaders for the church and the academy. FTE provides resources and a forum for young adults and students to explore their purpose and call to pastoral ministry and teaching. For more information, visit [fteleaders.org](http://fteleaders.org).

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