



## BREAKTHROUGH GENERATION: TRAINING INNOVATIVE POLICY RESEARCHERS

Most progressive organizations use young people to raise money.  
The Breakthrough Institute empowers them to solve today's greatest challenges.



PAID SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS: APPLY BY FEBRUARY 16, 2016  
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MORE INFO AT: <http://thebreakthrough.org/generation>

## The Mission

Breakthrough Generation is the young leaders initiative of the Breakthrough Institute, a paradigm-shifting think tank committed to ensuring a future where all the world's inhabitants can enjoy secure, free, and prosperous lives on an ecologically-vibrant planet. The world faces many great challenges – from managing climate change and ensuring clean and affordable energy access for all to restoring a proactive role for government and securing our nation's economic future. The Breakthrough Institute is dedicated to building the Ecomodernist movement around the world, and Breakthrough Generation is designed to give that movement wisdom, analytical tools, and vision. Breakthrough believes that young intellectuals are crucial to addressing these challenges. Each year, Breakthrough Institute offers paid and highly competitive fellowships and scholarships to analysts, writers, and thought leaders from around the world.

## The Program

Breakthrough Generation offers an intensive multidisciplinary curriculum in the following key areas: Energy and Climate, Conservation and Development, and Economic Growth and Innovation. Our programmatic staff facilitates engaging discussions, close interaction with policy experts, and high-level research projects to prepare young leaders for successful careers in public policy and related fields.

Fellows spend ten weeks at Breakthrough's office in Oakland, CA, where they participate in an intensive policy training bootcamp, and produce policy white papers, memos, and reports that are widely disseminated to federal policymakers and the media.

Scholars will conduct independent research, remotely or at Breakthrough's offices, that advances an ecomodernist understanding of energy, technology, and the environment. Both fellows and scholars are invited to attend Breakthrough's annual Dialogue in California.

Breakthrough Generation projects have been featured in major publications including the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Financial Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, as well as in Congressional Testimony.

## Bootcamp

The first two weeks of Breakthrough Generation consist of an intensive intellectual crash course called Breakthrough Bootcamp. Over the course of Bootcamp, fellows acquire a strong foundation in the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of Breakthrough's outlook and work, plus the skills required to successfully undertake an independent research project. Bootcamp not only involves lengthy readings and vigorous discussions, but also guest lectures from Senior Fellows and other experts, field trips to cutting-edge institutions, and ample socializing and networking opportunities with other young public policy professionals.

Every day of Bootcamp, fellows have a set of readings covering themes such as pragmatism, risk and the precautionary principle, modernization and economic development, energy systems and transitions, conservation in the Anthropocene, natural resources, and futurism. Highlights from the syllabus have included excerpts from *Rambunctious Garden* by Emma Marris, *Doing Capitalism in the Innovation Economy* by William Janeway, *Development as Freedom* by Amartya Sen, and *The Entrepreneurial State* by Mariana Mazzucato. These readings form the basis for a variety of group discussions, presentations, and workshops designed to enhance learning and hone participants' skills in analysis, presentation, and debating.

## Life-Changing Experiences

Breakthrough Generation fellows routinely characterize their experience in the program as life changing and credit the program for both jumpstarting their careers and fueling their passions. Program alumni have gone on to become policy leaders at federal agencies, innovative policy organizations, and some of the world's top graduate schools:



### DINA ABDULHADI (2013 FELLOW)

**HOMETOWN:** Athens, GA

**SCHOOL:** B.S., Ecology, Anthropology, University of Georgia

*"This fellowship challenged me to become more critical of my own beliefs and those of my peers, making me a stronger person and thinker going forward. The fellows in my year, both through their intellectual chops and their compassion, all gave me hope for the future of environmentalism, and I'm grateful that we were able to work together this early in our careers."*



### MATT STEPP (2010 FELLOW)

**HOMETOWN:** Philadelphia, PA

**SCHOOL:** M.A., Science, Technology, and Public Policy from Rochester Institute of Technology

**NOW:** Director of Policy at PennFuture

*"The entire program was truly a capstone experience for me as I worked my way into the science and technology policy world and an experience that I will never forget both personally and professionally."*



### JACQUELINE HO (2014 FELLOW)

**HOMETOWN:** Singapore

**SCHOOL:** B.A., Environmental Studies, Brown University

**NOW:** Research Assistant at Resources for the Future

*"Breakthrough Generation sensitized me to the organization's fundamental belief that discourses and paradigms influence how we take action on any given environmental issue, encouraging me to look for the assumptions in prescribed solutions and giving me the opportunity to explore debates about alternative energy options, environmental activism and conservation philosophy."*



### BRIAN SERGI (2012 FELLOW)

**HOMETOWN:** Wyomissing, PA

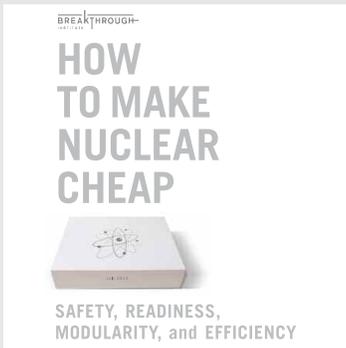
**SCHOOL:** B.S., Science, Technology and International Affairs, Georgetown University

**NOW:** Baccalaureate Fellow, Science and Technology Policy Institute at the Institute for Defense Analyses

*"More than just an excellent research opportunity, the summer program was a great personal experience, offering a chance to connect and bond with new people from around the world who care about current issues."*

## High-Impact Research

The intellect, creativity, and dedicated research of Breakthrough Generation has been instrumental in refining Breakthrough's policy agenda and has had a major impact on national policy debates. Breakthrough Generation fellows have written and produced a number of widely read and highly regarded papers on energy and economic policy:



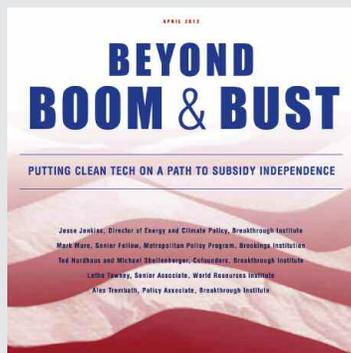
### HOW TO MAKE NUCLEAR CHEAP:

#### Safety, Readiness, Modularity, and Efficiency

(July 2013)

Breakthrough Institute's latest report, "How to Make Nuclear Cheap," details a number of new advanced reactor designs that bring substantial benefits over the existing light-water fleet, such as inherent safety mechanisms and the ability to reuse spent fuel. Yet not all features will result in lower costs. Breakthrough's assessment of nine advanced designs, from high-temperature gas reactors to fusion, finds four factors that will most likely prove determinative in achieving any significant cost declines: safety, readiness, modularity and efficiency. Articles in the *Washington Post*, *Scientific American*, and *Time* cited this landmark report.

[http://bit.ly/Make\\_Nuclear\\_Cheap](http://bit.ly/Make_Nuclear_Cheap)



### BEYOND BOOM AND BUST:

#### Putting Clean Tech on a Path to Subsidy Independence

(April 2012)

"Beyond Boom and Bust" documents the federal spending cliff faced by clean energy markets over 2009-2014, and offers a set of recommendations to strengthen American clean energy policy, improve the national energy innovation system, and reorient clean tech deployment incentives to prioritize cost reductions and performance improvements. The widely acclaimed report, which was endorsed by the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, was the product of 2011 Breakthrough Generation research cataloguing the programs and expenditure levels targeting clean tech in the United States and several European nations.

[http://bit.ly/Beyond\\_Boom\\_and\\_Bust](http://bit.ly/Beyond_Boom_and_Bust)



### WHERE GOOD TECHNOLOGIES COME FROM:

#### Case Studies in American Innovation

(December 2010)

"Where Good Technologies Come From" illuminates the stories behind the invention and diffusion of fifteen technologies that are everyday facets of our modern lives, and offers a new look at government involvement in technological development. The report shows that public investment and active government support has been one of the greatest forces behind the nation's technology development and economic growth. The *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Atlantic Magazine* each featured the report, and President Obama cited a number of its case studies in his 2011 State of the Union Address.

<http://bit.ly/AmericanInnovation>