1. Description of grant-supported activity

When I originally submitted my proposal for the Faculty Research Grant, I was hoping to spend the summer of 2009 revising my dissertation into a publishable book manuscript. I had sent out my book prospectus to several publishers and the University of Minnesota Press expressed interest in my project and requested the entire manuscript in September of 2008.

My dissertation focused rather narrowly on the immigration reform discourse in the mid-1990s and Richard Morrison, the editor at the University of Minnesota Press, had already indicated that he would like me to make explicit connections to the current immigration reform discourse. I thus needed to familiarize myself with current immigration law and collect the necessary data from Congressional debates, committee reports and newspapers. I had also planned to use the Faculty Research Grant to write a new chapter that analyzes the current political debates and media representations of immigration reform.

The new research that I conducted in the summer of 2009 focused on the time period from the introduction of the “Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005” (H.R. 4437) until today. I successfully completed my data collection and started the content analysis of the mainstream media sources and political debates that I collected.

2. Were you able to complete the project? Describe any difficulty you had.

The major difficulty that I encountered was the fact that the external reviewers did not submit their reader reports until September 2009. The University of Minnesota Press had sent out my manuscript to two external reviewers in September of 2008 and the editor was optimistic that I would get their reports by May 2009. I had thus anticipated that I could include their suggestions into my revisions. Unfortunately, their reports were delayed by several months.

Since I was unable to work on their specific suggestions, I used the Faculty Research Grant to accomplish two major objectives:

a) I researched recent developments in immigration law and collected the necessary data that I will need to revise and update my manuscript. I have also started to analyze the data.

b) I turned this research into a 30-page article that will be included in a forthcoming encyclopedia on the history of immigration.

3. Did, or will, the project result in a specific product -- a manuscript, composition, syllabus, etc? If so, please describe and indicate state of development.

When I received the reader reports from the external reviewers in September 2009, both reports recommended my project for publication. After writing a response to their reports and negotiating the
details, I signed a book contract with the University of Minnesota Press in January 2010. Final revisions are due in August 2010.

Thanks to the work that the Faculty Research Grant enabled me to do, I am on schedule to finish these revisions on time. Both reviewers agreed that I would need to update the manuscript and make explicit connections between the immigration reform discourse in the 1990s and more recent developments. This is exactly the data that I collected last summer and I am currently working on revising the manuscript.

In addition, I was able to turn this research into a second publication: a 10,000-word article on U.S. Immigration Policies: 1986-2008. This article will be included into an encyclopedia on the history of immigration. The encyclopedia, which is edited by Elliott Barkan, will hopefully be published by the end of this year.

I also had the opportunity to present this new research at two international conferences:

a) The 9th International Conference on “Migration, Politics, and Work” in Trier, Germany and Dudelange, Luxembourg in June 2009.


The Faculty Research Grant thus resulted in a book contract, in an encyclopedia article that has already been accepted for publication and two presentations at international conferences.