



Neil Gong
Graduate Scholarship Recipient

Neil Gong entered the UCLA sociology graduate program in 2011 to study mental health care and housing solutions for homeless populations. As an intern at New York City's Bellevue Hospital, Neil was struck by the "revolving door" many patients experienced between periods of homelessness, incarceration, and psychiatric hospitalization. Following his graduation from New York University, Neil worked as a member of a mobile mental health treatment team in Harlem that helped clients navigate the bureaucracy of city jails, homeless shelters, court rooms, and mental hospitals. This intense and intimate experience with Harlem's homeless population inspired Neil to investigate ways to improve provision of housing and mental health services, which were too often inefficient, frustrating, and alienating.

During 2009-2010 academic year he received a Fulbright scholarship to study alternative approaches to mental health care in Hong Kong, and most recently worked with a UCSD project researching homeless services in his home town of San Francisco. At UCLA, Neil plans to study supportive housing programs and court-mandated outpatient mental health treatment in Los Angeles' Skid Row. The Davis Family's generous scholarship will enable him to pursue in-depth ethnographic work at homeless encampments and treatment centers, which will be essential for understanding how to provide more effective, resource-efficient, and ethical services.