**Project: Elections in a Pandemic**

**Supervisor:** Alexandra Cooper; **Faculty Leads:** Gunther Peck and Don Taylor

**Role Description:** Duke’s Social Science Research Institute will coordinate a group of 3-4 vertically integrated summer research teams focusing on U.S. electoral institutions in the pandemic. The RA for this project will have the opportunity to participate fully in defining and conducting research relevant to his or her interests. He or she will take primary responsibility for coordinating the teams’ efforts and working with the project’s leadership – Gunther Peck, Don Taylor, and Alexandra Cooper – to ensure that the teams have access to appropriate guidance, resources (for example, data and software), and training to conduct their work and that they receive appropriate mentoring and feedback. The research projects within this initiative will examine the ways in which considerations around health, safety, and distancing may affect the operation and adaptation of activities including voter registration and polling. Likely topics include students as voters and the ways in which U.S. electoral institutions pose particular barriers to young, geographically mobile citizens, but may also organize to examine other topics depending on student interests (including those of this RA). This work has the potential to continue into and even beyond fall, and we anticipate working with the RA and other interested students to identify resources that will make that possible.

**Desired Background:** This project will be a good fit for a political science doctoral student with an interest in campaigns, elections, and electoral institutions in the U.S. context. This RA should be able to work well as part of a collaborative team and, with support from Dr. Peck, Dr. Taylor, and Dr. Cooper, to provide mentoring and leadership to undergraduates.