

RRBM Dare to Care Dissertation Scholarship 2026



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Welcome and Introduction

- RRBM – A vision for **credible** business research in **service** of society
- The changing context – a world in need of solutions to wicked or existential problems
- This award – supports “justice-oriented” dissertation research as articulated in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- This overview – clarification of requirements

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- GOAL 1: No Poverty
- GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
- GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
- GOAL 4: Quality Education
- GOAL 5: Gender Equality
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world



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About the Scholarship

Purpose

Recognize and support emerging business and management scholars who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to responsible research that matters to society. (See <https://www.rrbm.network/position-paper/principles-of-responsible-science/>)

The Scholarship includes

- Financial support in the form of a scholarship of \$10,000
- Intellectual support from among the community of RRBM scholars, according to need
- Membership in the college of active Dare to Care Dissertation Scholars who continue to learn with and from one another

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Eligible Research Topics

Will generate knowledge or ideas to reduce inequality or promote social justice, especially focusing on the role of business organizations. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Income inequality;
- Disparities affecting marginalized populations;
- Barriers to access and opportunity;
- Stakeholder well-being; etc.

Actionable ideas (Independent Variables) to achieve any of the above goals (Direct Variables)

See last year's winners at <https://www.rrbm.network/2025-winners/>

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Most Suitable Topics

- Proposals that focus on any of the following outcomes (dependent variables):
 - Economic justice, i.e., less income inequality, living wages for lower-level employees.
 - Social justice, i.e., less inequality related to race, gender, socioeconomics, as well as disability-related inequalities within organizations.
 - Societal or community justice, i.e., how MNCs contribute to justice in host countries such as reducing poverty and inequality, improving employment opportunity, community development, and climate justice.
- Proposals that provide actionable knowledge or ideas that firms or managers can use to develop policies or practices (i.e., the independent variables)
- Topic fit must be evident for both the independent and dependent variables.

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Least Suitable Topics

- Direct Variables (DVs):
 - Proposals that have no direct relationship to any injustice outcomes.
 - Proposals on primarily economic outcomes or innovation to improve economic performance of firms.
- Independent Variables (IVs):
 - Proposals that focus on independent variables that are not amenable to managerial actions or not usable for informing policies to reduce injustice or improve justice.
 - Examples at micro levels: Employees' actions, behaviors, or personality attributes that allow them to cope with injustice or to alleviate the injustice experience of others, but not ideas for any organizational or managerial actions.
 - Examples at macro level: Exogeneous conditions or institutional factors outside the control of management (e.g., societal culture or government policies as explanations of inequality in different regions).

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Expectations for Research Methods

We expect a well-developed and rigorous methodology to address a clearly stated research question.

We encourage the use of multiple methods, including:

- qualitative (case studies, observations, text analysis),
- quantitative (surveys, archival empirical), and
- experimentation (lab and field).

And especially, research that:

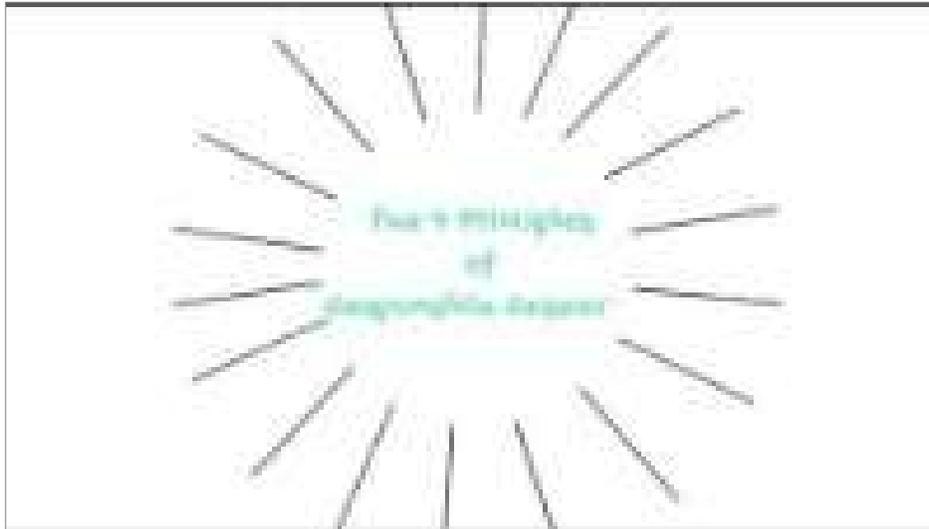
- Is inter-disciplinary (P3) and/or involves stakeholders in the research process (P5)
- Incorporates intervention field studies, using randomized controlled trials (RCT) that robustly test theory-informed ideas/treatments (actions, policies, programs)

Also see <https://www.rrbm.network/position-paper/principles-of-responsible-science/>

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Principles of Responsible Research to Guide Research Design



<https://youtu.be/psKepLFbJgY>

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A great example: 2019 Nobel Prize Winners



Michael Kremer Esther Duflo Abhijit Banerjee

The new Nobel laureates helped to **bring scientific rigor and real-world impact** to development economics.

Reduce Poverty in the Developing World

Research

- **Absenteeism among teachers and nurses**; immunization programs; the management of **public infrastructure**; and the use of productivity boosting technologies such as **fertilizers**.
- Broke the complex issue of poverty into “smaller, more manageable questions”.
- They **replicated** the studies to gain greater confidence in their results.
- Over 20 years of work using RCT

Impact

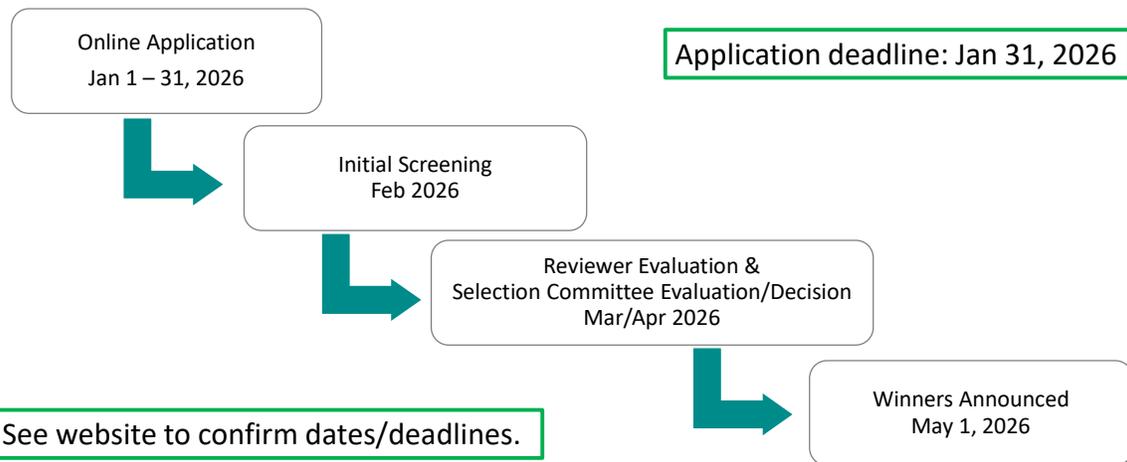
- Five million Indian children benefiting from remedial teaching, and a number of countries increased their spending on preventative health care.

10/24/2025

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Timeline & Selection Process 2026



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Eligible Applicants

- Doctoral students enrolled in business schools
- At the beginning stage of the dissertation research
 - Clear research question
 - Well-developed methodology
 - Has passed any qualifying exams applicable to their program
 - Expects to complete research within 12 to 24 months from the award date
- Demonstrate a commitment to the RRBM Principles of Responsible Research

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Application Requirements

- 1. Proposal**
- 2. Two written recommendations (via online form)**
 - *(Required)* Thesis Advisor
 - *(Choose one)* Business school dean or equivalent, PhD program director or thesis committee members
- 3. Curriculum vita (CV)**

Submit online at www.rrbm.network/daretocare (Online Form + Document Upload)

Open January 1 – 31, 2026

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The Proposal: Content

Maximum 10 double-spaced pages (12-point font size, approximately 3000 words) exclusive of references, tables, figures, and appendices.

Specific Guidelines will be available via the website. In general, be prepared to address:

1. Research Question & Explanation, Literature
2. Method & Anticipated Obstacles
3. Alignment with Responsible Research principles
4. Potential Impact: What can a manager or a business do with your research to make changes?
5. Areas of Need: Intellectual & Financial
6. Research Plan: Timeline & Budget

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Helpful Resources

- www.rrbm.network/daretocare:
 - Application Guidelines PDF (detailed information about requirements)
 - Frequently Asked Questions about the scholarship
 - Philosophical Foundations of Responsible Research course syllabus and recommended reading
- www.rrbm.network:
 - Position Paper
 - Awards, Events, and more (Check out upcoming webinars)
 - Join the community to stay informed of upcoming initiatives
 - Endorse the position paper

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Reminder: FAQs at

<https://www.rrbm.network/daretocare/#FAQ>

We look forward to your application!

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