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The [Cline Center for Democracy](#) is pleased to announce the 2015-2016 [David F. Linowes Faculty Fellows](#). These exceptional scholars are committed to research and teaching in areas of core interest to the Cline Center. The Linowes Fellowship recognizes their achievements and supports efforts to utilize and improve Cline Center data and software.

- Prof. [Avital Livny](#) (Political Science) works on identity politics and the comparative politics of the Middle East and Turkey. As a Linowes Fellow, she aims to build on the [Composition of Religious and Ethnic Groups](#) (CREG) demographic data by cross-validating it with archived national censuses in order to distinguish real demographic shifts from ‘noise.’ Her work also aims to make CREG compatible with a variety of survey-based datasets and existing datasets of country-level ethnic diversity used in Economics, Sociology and Political Science. Linking CREG to survey data would facilitate the production of new data on sub-national ethnic demographic geography, as well as inequalities in health, wealth and education.
- Prof. [Dan Roth](#) (Computer Science and Beckman Institute) works on machine learning and inference methods that enable natural language understanding. In his second year as a Linowes Fellow, he aims to expand the long-term partnership between the Cline Center and the [Cognitive Computation Group](#). He plans to pursue novel research on machine-learning tools for transforming the raw, natural language of news text into structured data about events and the “frames” used to explain them. This effort will build on and enhance the capabilities of the Cline Center’s [Social, Political and Economic Event Database \(SPEED\)](#) and the Center-supported [Phoenix Open Event Dataset](#).

These projects reflect the values, goals and standards set by David F. Linowes during his long and distinguished service to the University of Illinois and the American people. A University of Illinois alumnus, he served as a US Army Officer during WWII, as the Boeschstein Professor of Political Economy and Public Policy at Illinois, and was a distinguished public servant. He worked tirelessly to enhance the welfare of his fellow citizens and countless others overseas by increasing the accountability and efficiency of businesses and governance.

Generous gifts from Professor Linowes and his family enable the Cline Center to support these Faculty Fellows, as well as the annual Linowes Lecture on Public Policy. The 2016 lecture — describing novel models of state failure, democratic governance and tyranny — was given by award-winning University of Chicago economist James A. Robinson and can be viewed [on our website](#). These programs demonstrate Professor Linowes’ and the Cline Center’s commitment to applying cutting-edge academic knowledge to the most challenging policy issues and political problems facing democratic governance today.



Professor Linowes with Presidents Reagan (top) and Carter (bottom)  
Photos: Associated Press, [The University of Illinois Archives Linowes Papers collection](#)

