

October 8, 2018

**Institute for Research in the Humanities  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Open-Topic Senior Fellowship  
Call for Applications 2019-2023**

**Deadline: Thursday, October 18, 2018**

**Online applications only. Access application information and form at the Institute website after July 15th: <https://irh.wisc.edu/fellowships/senior>**

The Institute for Research in the Humanities anticipates awarding up to three Open-Topic Senior Fellowships to begin in the 2019-2020 academic year. The Institute grants an average of eight Senior Fellowships funded by the College of Letters and Science to tenured faculty members in the College who are engaged in innovative research in the humanities. Seven of these Senior Fellowships are designated for any projects in the humanities, and one Senior Fellowship is awarded for projects on race, ethnicity, and/or indigeneity. UW-Madison tenured faculty members from outside the College of Letters and Science may apply for Senior Fellowships, contingent upon agreement from their deans or department chairs to continue their salary during the duration of the fellowship. Applicants from outside the College of Letters and Science will be evaluated in the pool with applicants from Letters and Science.

Senior Fellowships are designed to encourage ambitious and far-reaching research in the humanities that can contribute to and benefit from sustained intellectual dialogue with fellows through engaging in interdisciplinary seminars and informal discussion throughout the academic year. Senior Fellows represent the intellectual core of the Institute, helping to create dynamic synergies among the fellows and on behalf of the humanities on campus. Their active and informal participation in the life of the Institute provides vital leadership and continuity.

Individual tenured faculty members are encouraged to apply. Departmental nominations are accepted but do not necessarily increase the chances of success; departments should encourage all eligible faculty to apply without consideration of the number of applicants in each unit.

**Award Description**

Senior Fellowships have a four-year term with four semesters of research leave to be taken in residence at the Institute during this period. Flexibility in how leave time is taken during the four years is allowed: e.g., 50% research leave/50% teaching each semester; one semester of research leave/one semester of teaching each year; one year of research leave/one year of full-time teaching; etc. However, the start date of the fellowship may not be deferred for any reason, so we urge fellows to arrange their fellowship in ways mutually agreeable to themselves and their departments. Senior Fellows attend Institute seminars and meetings for the full academic

year for the four-year term.

Senior Fellows are expected to participate in the Institute's weekly Monday seminars (3:30-5:00 PM) and are encouraged to join at least three of the Tuesday lunch follow-up discussions regarding the Monday seminars (Noon-1:00 PM) over the course of the academic year. Senior Fellows are also encouraged to use an office at the Institute. Classes, office hours, and other regular obligations should not be scheduled during the Monday seminar or the Tuesday follow-up lunches over the course of the Senior Fellow's appointment.

Senior Fellows also serve as an advisory board to the Institute. In this capacity, they serve on IRH Selection Committees, meet with the Director several times a year for advice and consultation on Institute policies and activities, and otherwise serve as vitally important advisors to the Director through informal exchanges.

Senior Fellows give at least one presentation of their research at an Institute seminar during their terms. Typically, toward the end of their terms, they organize or co-organize with other Senior Fellow(s) or colleagues a Burdick-Vary Symposium or initiate other significant scholarly events that foster intellectual dialogue in the humanities across campus. The symposium or event series can be related to the Senior Fellow's research or can be aimed more broadly to address vital issues in the humanities of interest to a wide audience on campus and/or in the Madison community. At the conclusion of their terms, Senior Fellows are invited, if the schedule permits, to give a Focus on the Humanities Distinguished Lecture jointly sponsored by the Institute and the Center for the Humanities.

Senior Fellows should plan to be in the Madison area for regular participation in Institute events over the duration of their terms; short trips for research, lectures, and conferences are allowed. They must be resident in the Madison area (or commute regularly to Madison) during the first two semesters of their term; any subsequent leave or residence elsewhere during the remainder of their terms must be negotiated with the Director and the Dean of the College of Letters and Science. At the time of their appointment, Senior Fellows should make a preliminary determination of how they will distribute their four full semesters of research leave over the four-year period. Changes to this distribution need to be negotiated with the Director and the departmental chair.

After the completion of their fellowship, Senior Fellows must be on the UW-Madison payroll for one academic year following their terms.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible candidates for the Senior Fellowship must be tenured faculty members at UW-Madison and must have completed at least two years on the UW-Madison payroll to be eligible to apply. They should be engaged in broad-ranging and exciting research with promise of significance for the humanities beyond their immediate specialty. They should be leaders in their fields of expertise with a national or international reputation for their contributions to the humanities. The Institute welcomes candidates at the rank of associate professor as well as full professor and looks especially for candidates with past records and proposed projects that

demonstrate impressive intellectual scope, range, ambition, and significance for the humanities.

All applicants should demonstrate their interest in and ability to contribute to an interdisciplinary humanities environment. Projects should be situated clearly within the humanities, which we define broadly to include scholarship on culture, history, literature, the arts and aesthetics, philosophy, theory, media, religion, representation, and language; and interdisciplines with a strong humanistic or cultural component, such as fields focused on gender and women, race and ethnicity, indigeneity, postcolonialism, disability, the environment, law, visual culture, the posthuman, and the digital humanities. We also recognize the importance of work in the humanities that interfaces with the social sciences, the sciences, and the creative and performing arts. Proposals in the performing and creative arts are not generally supported, but such projects with a substantive research component in the humanities will be considered.

Departments need to be aware that faculty members appointed to Senior Fellowships are unlikely to be replaced in their home departments, though departments may apply to their appropriate deans for replacement funding. Senior Fellows should not be assigned duties (teaching or other) that would interfere with participation in regularly scheduled Institute seminars on Mondays, 3:30-5:00 PM and Tuesdays, Noon-1:00 PM. Senior Fellows should also be relieved of departmental and university service while on research leave at the Institute.

Department chairs of all applicants need to provide in the application packet a letter attesting to the department's willingness to allow the applicant to hold a Senior Fellowship at the Institute.

### **Additional Information for Applicants outside the College of Letters and Science**

The Institute welcomes applicants whose budget lines are outside the College of Letters and Science; their applications will be evaluated in the pool with applicants from Letters and Science. Awards to non-Letters and Science faculty are contingent upon a guarantee that their home college or school will continue their salary and benefits during the tenure of the fellowship.

### **Criteria for Selection**

The Institute looks for exciting proposals demonstrating coherence and compelling intellectual scope, innovative ambition, and significance for the humanities. We aim to open the Senior Fellowships to a wide array of research in the humanities, and we are committed to diversities of all kinds. Criteria for selection include: (1) Quality of the research proposal; (2) "Track record" of prior research and professional standing appropriate to rank; (3) Breadth of knowledge in the humanities; (4) Evidence of contributions to and benefits from interdisciplinary exchange in the humanities; (5) "Fit" at the Institute. Selection of Senior Fellows will take into account the balance of departments, fields, disciplines, perspectives, methodologies, historical periods, geographical regions, and interdisciplinary experience.

## Application Materials

- **Application Form** (available only online via Interfolio; includes project title and 100-word abstract of project. Link will be live July 15, 2018).
- **Proposal**, up to 2,500 words. Proposals should make a strong case for the originality and significance of the project; how the research will be undertaken; what specific product(s) will result; and what the specific plan is for completion of the research. A chapter outline should be included for book projects within the 2,500-word limit. Proposals should also indicate how the candidate will contribute to and benefit from interdisciplinary exchange at the Institute and what the project will contribute to the humanities. Proposals should focus on a single research project, although candidates may indicate where the project fits into their past and future research program. Proposals should include reference to the Burdick-Vary symposium or series of related events that the candidate would organize at the end of the fellowship term.
- **Bibliography** of scholarship (not your own) relevant to the project, up to 2 single-spaced pages.
- **Curriculum Vitae**: CV should clearly delineate work in press, submitted, under contract, and in progress. Indicate status of work in progress. Include page numbers of publications and forthcoming work.
- **Four letters of recommendation** that address the applicant's past contributions to the humanities and the quality and significance of the proposed research. (Must be submitted online via Interfolio. See below for more details.)
- Brief **letter from the department chair** attesting to the department's willingness to release the candidate from teaching and service during the 4-year term (however the award is taken).
- **Three significant publications** (1 copy each) by the applicant (e.g., books; articles), including some recent work, delivered to the Institute, c/o Ann Harris, Room 221, 432 E. Campus Mall. Copies will be returned.

## Application Submission

- Applicants must access the application digitally. See the Institute website: <https://irh.wisc.edu/fellowships/senior>. This page provides an overview of the fellowship, this call, and a link to the application form hosted on Interfolio. The application process will be open by July 15, 2018.
- You *may* submit your application while letters of recommendation are still pending.
- You must complete your online application and upload all required materials to Interfolio by 11:59 PM ET on the deadline: **Thursday, October 18, 2018**.
- You do not need to complete your application in a single session. You may start it, save changes, log out, and return to it later. (To see your saved applications, go to the Interfolio dashboard and click the "Deliveries" button; un-submitted applications will appear as "in-progress.")
- Even after submission, you may return to an application to make edits and changes until the October 18<sup>th</sup> application deadline. (To see an application you have already submitted, go to the Interfolio dashboard and click the "Deliveries" button; submitted applications

will appear as "sent deliveries." Note: The selection committee will not view submitted applications until after the deadline.)

### **Letters of Recommendation**

- To identify your recommenders and request letters of recommendation from them within the Interfolio application: Open the application page. Find the category “Confidential Letter of Recommendation or Evaluation,” click the “Add File” button on the far right. At the next screen, select the tab labeled “Request a Recommendation,” then click the “Request” button. On the following screen, enter the first and last name of the recommenders along with their email addresses. Click the “Send Request” button to complete the process.
- **Interfolio will contact the four recommenders directly. Letters must be submitted through Interfolio; letters emailed directly to the Institute will not be accepted.**
- The deadline for letter writers to submit letters is also 11:59 PM ET on **Thursday, October 18, 2018.**

### **Deadlines**

- Application Materials Submitted through Interfolio: **Thursday, October 18, 2018**
- Letters of recommendation uploaded to Interfolio: **Thursday, October 18, 2018**
- Notification from IRH: **January**

### **Inquiries**

- For substantive questions about projects and proposals, contact Steven Nadler, IRH Director ([smnadler@wisc.edu](mailto:smnadler@wisc.edu); 608-262-8151)
- For all other questions about this fellowship, contact Ann Harris, Assistant to the Director ([awharris2@wisc.edu](mailto:awharris2@wisc.edu); 608-262-3855)
- For help using Interfolio, please contact Interfolio’s help desk ([help@interfolio.com](mailto:help@interfolio.com); 877-997-8807)