

August 16, 2019

**Institute for Research in the Humanities  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
William Coleman Dissertation Fellowship in  
the History of Science  
Call for Nominations 2020-2021**

**DEADLINE: Thursday, February 13, 2020**

The Institute for Research in the Humanities is pleased to announce it will be holding a competition for the William Coleman Dissertation Fellowship in the History of Science for the 2020-2021 academic year. The William Coleman fellowship is made possible by a generous bequest from Louise Coleman in honor of her husband, William Coleman. One fellowship is usually awarded each year to an outstanding graduate student in an advanced stage of writing a dissertation supervised by a faculty member in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology degree program in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. **Application is by departmental nomination only.** The deadline for nomination submission to IRH is February 13, 2020; awards will be announced by the end of March. The History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (HSMT) Program will create its own internal deadline; check with the History Department for further information.

The Coleman Dissertation Fellowship provides a one-semester stipend (amount TBD each year, plus tuition remission and health insurance benefits). Office space, if desired, will be provided, as well as printing, scanning, and photocopying privileges. Dissertation fellows may continue their association with the Institute throughout the academic year of their fellowship regardless of semester chosen for the stipend and tuition remission. However, the fellowship cannot be deferred to a later date for any reason. Fellows are expected to participate fully in the multi-disciplinary conversation of the Institute by attending the weekly seminars (Monday, 3:30-5:00 PM) and by working from their office space. Dissertation Fellows are also encouraged to participate in the Institute's optional Tuesday follow-up lunch seminars (Noon-1:00 PM), which extend discussion of the Monday seminar; weekly afternoon teas; daily informal lunches; and various other IRH events throughout the year. Dissertators are given the option to lead a group discussion based on their dissertation project in order to garner feedback from the community.

**The HSMT Program will select a nominee and send the required materials to the Institute Director for final approval by February 13th.** The Department may nominate the same candidate for the Coleman and Dana-Allen Fellowships at the Institute, or choose a different candidate for each fellowship competition. The Dana-Allen nominee will be considered on the basis of how their research contributes to the multi-disciplinary nature of the Institute, while the Coleman candidate will be evaluated for their potential contributions to the History of Science.

Professor William Coleman (1934-1988) was a distinguished historian of science who taught at UW-Madison from 1978 to 1988. He had previously taught at Johns Hopkins (1961-1978), where he rose to the rank of Professor of History of Science and Humanistic Studies. His association with UW-Madison began in 1970-1971, when he spent the year at the Institute for Research in the Humanities while on fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. He returned to the Institute for Research in the Humanities in 1977-1978 while on a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1978 he was appointed Professor of the History of Science and History of Medicine and in 1984 was named Carol Dickson Bascom Professor in the Humanities.

Professor Coleman's original interests were in the history of zoology and evolutionary theory. He wrote two books in this area: *Georges Cuvier, Zoologist. A Study in the History of Evolutionary Theory* (1964); and *Biology in the Nineteenth Century: Problems of Form, Function and Transformation* (1971). His interests then shifted toward the connection of science with social and political thought. He also wrote two books on this subject: *Death Is a Social Disease: Public Health and Political Economy in Early Industrial France* (1982); and *Yellow Fever in the North* (1987).

Professor Coleman served as President of the History of Science Society and was elected to the American Philosophical Society. We are grateful to, Louise Coleman, for establishing the William Coleman Dissertation Fellowship in his honor.

### **Nomination Materials:**

The nomination materials should be submitted to IRH via email by the nominating department (*not* the student) and should include the following:

- Completed Coleman Nomination Form (available on the IRH Website)
- Project/Dissertation Proposal, up to 1,500 words (about 5 double-spaced pages of 12-point font). The proposal should include a description of the project and its significance, a chapter outline, a summary of work accomplished to date, and a plan of work to be undertaken during the fellowship term.
- Bibliography of scholarship relevant to the project (up to 2 pages)
- *Curriculum Vitae* (including work forthcoming and in progress)
- Letter of recommendation from the student's dissertation director or advisor, which should address the significance and feasibility of the proposed research, quality of the proposal, qualifications for the project, past work, and potential contributions to and benefits from being a fellow at the Institute.

### **Nomination Submission Directions:**

**Department chair/administrator/DGS:** Once the department has selected the candidate they would like to forward to the IRH for Coleman consideration, combine the selected nominee's application materials (5 items listed above) into a single pdf file and send to [info@irh.wisc.edu](mailto:info@irh.wisc.edu)

by **Thursday, February 13, 2020**. For the file name and email subject line, please use the following format:

*Coleman.2020-2021.NomineeLastName.NomineeFirstName*

**Deadline:**

- Nomination Form Deadline: **Determined by HMST program/History department; check with department chair/administrator for details**
- Department chair/administrator/DGS Deadline for submission to IRH: **February 13, 2020**

**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 IRH staff ([info@irh.wisc.edu](mailto:info@irh.wisc.edu); 608-262-3855)