



28 July 2020

**Institute for Research in the Humanities
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**Open-Topic Senior Fellowship
Call for Applications (selecting for 2021-2025 term)**

Deadline: Thursday, October 1, 2020

Online applications only. Access application information and link to digital application by going here: <https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/> (scroll down to "internal fellowships")

Each year, the Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH) maintains an average of eight senior fellowships funded by the College of Letters & Science. These are for 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 a project on race, ethnicity, and/or indigeneity.

This year, the IRH will be holding a competition for three senior fellowships with four-year terms beginning in 2021-2022 (term: 2021-2025). There will be two open-topic senior fellowships and one Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity (REI) Senior Fellowship.

Senior fellowships are designed to encourage ambitious and far-reaching research in the humanities that can contribute to and benefit from sustained intellectual conversation with fellows through engaging in interdisciplinary seminars and informal discussion throughout the academic year. Senior fellows represent the intellectual core of the IRH, helping to create dynamic synergies among the fellows and on behalf of the humanities on campus. Their active participation in the life of the IRH 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 IRH 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 IRH seminars and meetings for the full academic year for the four-year term.

Senior fellows are expected to participate in the intellectual life of the IRH by attending the weekly Monday seminars (3:30-5:00 PM) during their research leave semesters. Monday seminars are followed by informal Tuesday lunch discussions (Noon-1:00 PM) for those who are interested in further discussion of the Monday presentation. Senior Fellows are encouraged to join at least three of the Tuesday lunch follow-up discussions over the course of each academic year. They are also encouraged to use an office at the IRH. 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 fellowship appointment.

Senior fellows also serve as an advisory board to the IRH. In this capacity, they serve on IRH Selection Committees, meet with the director several times a year for advice and consultation on IRH 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 IRH seminar during their terms. Typically, toward the end of their terms, they are invited to organize 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 IRH and the Center for the Humanities.

Senior fellows should plan to be in the Madison area for regular participation in IRH 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 & 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 IRH 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 IRH 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 IRH.

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 IRH.

NOTE: senior fellowships at the IRH are open only to faculty in the College of Letters & Science.

Criteria for Selection

The IRH 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 IRH. 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

- [Senior fellow Application Form](#). Available online via Interfolio. Required entries in the form include a Project Title and *short* 100-word Project abstract.
- [Project/Book 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 IRH 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. (Submit online via Interfolio upload.)
- [Project Bibliography](#). Publications (not your own) relevant to the project, up to 2 single-spaced pages. (Submit online via Interfolio upload.)
- [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. (Submit online via Interfolio upload.)
- [Digital copy of 1 recent representative publication](#). Article or book chapter. Must be uploaded in Interfolio. Do not upload a whole book or journal volume. Make sure to include front matter for scanned books.
- [Three letters of recommendation](#). Each must address your past contributions to the humanities and the quality and significance of the proposed research. Please note that *all* letters of recommendation should come from colleagues *outside* of UW-Madison. (Must be submitted online via Interfolio uploads. See below for more details.)
- [Brief letter from the department chair](#). Must attest to the department's willingness to release you from teaching and service during the 4-year term (however the award is taken). (Submit online via Interfolio upload.)

Application Submission

- Applicants must access the online application through Interfolio: <https://apply.interfolio.com/76597>.
- You must complete your online application and upload all required materials to Interfolio by 11:59 PM ET on **Thursday, October 1, 2020** (recommendation letters must also be uploaded by your recommenders by 11:59 ET pm 10/01/20). Note that Interfolio operates out of DC and deadlines are set at Eastern Time, **not** Central Time. Deadline is **10:59 PM** within Madison.
- 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.")
- You *may* submit your application early while letters of recommendation are still pending (in fact, we encourage you do so); letters of recommendation can be submitted even after you submit your portion, but they must be uploaded to Interfolio by the 11:59 PM ET/10:59 CT deadline.
- Please press the "submit" button on your portion of the application as soon as possible. Even after submission, you may return to an application to make edits and changes until 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT on October 1st. (Again, 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.") **The selection committee will not review or read any of your submitted materials until October 2nd.**

Letters of Recommendation

- Applications require **three** letters of recommendation from colleagues outside UW-Madison.
- 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 then contact the three recommenders directly with instructions on how to submit your letters. Please do this early so that Interfolio has time to contact your recommenders and they have time to review Interfolio's submission instructions. **Letters must be submitted through Interfolio; letters emailed or mailed directly to the IRH will not be accepted.**
- The deadline for letter writers to submit letters is also 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT on **Thursday, October 1, 2020.**

Deadlines

- Application Materials Submitted through Interfolio: **Thursday, October 1, 2020**
- Letters of recommendation uploaded to Interfolio: **Thursday, October 1, 2020**
- Notification from IRH: **January 2021**

Inquiries

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