"The Humanities Respond to Global Challenges" 2024 Seed Program
at the Institute for Research in the Humanities
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (Released November 20, 2023)
Deadline: March 1, 2024, 5:00 pm CST

"The Humanities Respond to Global Challenges" is a seed program to support up to two teams of five (5) UW-Madison faculty to develop new humanistic and descriptive social scientific projects that take a collaborative, multiple-PI, and cross-disciplinary approach to global challenges, both enduring and emerging. Potential topics may include peace and social justice; climate change, environmental justice, and sustainability; migration, immigration, and translation; democracy and authoritarianism; and the rise of AI and its effects on human culture, society, and politics. Funded by the College of Letters & Science (L&S) – including the Collective for Research Impact and Social Partnerships (CRISP) – and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education (OVCRGE), this seed program will provide each team of researchers with support for developing their collaborative project. Awardees will be determined through an internal competition. Preference may be given to UW-Madison humanities-based projects that intersect with more than one of the above topics; include at least one researcher in the social, natural, or computer sciences or creative arts; show a concrete plan for demonstrating impact (incl. collaborating with community partners and other external stakeholders as well as producing both scholarly and public-facing publications); and identify concrete and viable sources for funding the research (esp. the NEH, NSF, NIH, Mellon Foundation, Henry Luce Foundation, and other major funding agencies).

Support through this seed program will take the form of a course release for each member of the research team to advance this project; flexible research funds for supporting the research; an office in the IRH (in the University Club) for the duration of the summer; access to various College and University research support services; and funding to support bringing scholars, community partners, and other external stakeholders to campus for workshops devoted to the project proposal and mock grant proposal reviews.*

Over the course of Summer 2024 and continuing into the Fall of the 2024-2025 academic year, the seed program will take the following form:

1. Eight (8) weekly meetings of the project's research team members during Summer 2024, facilitated by the IRH Director or another senior scholar, to discuss progress on the proposed research project, expected outputs, funding sources to be pursued, and timeline for advancing the project in the Fall and beyond (including e.g. when course releases might be taken to support the research). Meetings will occur between May 24th and July 19th. As part of the timeline, it is expected that researchers will formulate a plan for regular meetings in the Fall and beyond.

2. During the summer, researchers will have the opportunity to develop ideas and workshop writing samples related to the project, including grant proposals for submission to funding sources as well as drafts of academic writing for both scholarly and public-facing venues and other research outputs.

3. During the summer and beyond, researchers will have access to research services provided by the College of L&S and the OVCRGE.

3. During Summer 2024 and Fall 2024, each team will have the opportunity to use up to $10,000 to bring to campus scholars, community partners, and other potential external stakeholders for the purpose of strengthening the research project. Such uses might include a workshop or workshops devoted to discussing and soliciting feedback on the concept(s) and logistics of the proposed research project or a mock grant proposal review.*

4. Each researcher will receive $1500 in flexible research funds for supporting the research project. These funds will be transferred to the home departments of each researcher.*

5. Each researcher will receive a course release in the form of lecturer backfill transferred to each team member's home unit to be used in AY 24-25 in accordance with the needs of the research project.*

*Note: Only L&S faculty are eligible for the flexible research funds and the backfill for the course release. Participants are expected generally to be in residence during the summer and to attend the weekly meeting of the workshop. They will be provided with an office in the IRH (in the University Club) for the duration of the summer if they desire.

Applications for this seed program are welcome from teams composed of five researchers drawn from tenured and tenure-track faculty as well as academic staff. At least two members of each research team must be at the rank of Associate Professor or higher and up to one member of each research team may be Academic Staff. UW-Madison faculty from other schools and colleges are eligible to serve as members on the team, but not for the flexible research funds or backfill funding (unless their respective Dean is willing to provide such funding).

Workshop on "Creating Interdisciplinary Collaborations Within and Beyond the Humanities"
Hosted by CRISP, in collaboration with the L&S Humanities Division, IRH, and the OVCRGE
Organizers: Prof. John Dunne and Prof. Gloria Marí-Beffa
February 2nd, 2024, Place TBA

Those interested in exploring team-based, interdisciplinary research projects and submitting an application for this seed program are invited to attend this two-hour workshop, which will feature a panel discussion on "Humanists' Interdisciplinary Work" by three pairs of distinguished Arts and Humanities' faculty along with their research partners, guided group discussions organized in different tables around topics, and the opportunity to make new research connections and/or workshop potential ideas. Fully formed teams, small groups, and individual researchers are all welcome.

To Apply for "The Humanities Respond to Global Challenges" 2024 Seed Program:

Applications for the "The Humanities Respond to Global Challenges" 2024 seed program must include the following documents compiled into a single pdf document:

> 1. A concept paper of the research team's proposed project, not to exceed 1500 words. Successful concept papers will articulate the global challenge to be addressed by the project; how the project relates to previous research; how and why a collaborative, cross-disciplinary, and humanistic (incl. descriptive social scientific) approach will be especially fruitful for this project; what role each research team member will play in the project; what community and other partners the project will engage in the research project; what research outputs, both scholarly and public-facing, the project envisions producing; a list of potential funders (federal, public, and private) for supporting the research; the project's tentative timeline for both pursuing funding and publishing its research; and the overall impact of the research project.

> 2. For each team member, a 200-word statement explaining how this collaborative project fits into their overall research program (e.g., how it relates to previous research, or how it represents a new direction, etc.).

> 3. A curriculum vitae for each member of the research team.

> 4. A statement from each research team member's chair or director, indicating support for the course release to be taken in AY 2024-25.

Applications for the "The Humanities Respond to Global Challenges" Seed Program (HRGCSP) are due by March 1, 2024, at 5:00 pm CT, and should be submitted in electronic form to IRH Administrator Katie Apsey (apsey@wisc.edu). The four items above should be compiled in the order listed and saved as a single pdf titled "2024_ HRGCSP_ProjectName." The project title should also be the subject line of your email. Applicants will be notified of the results of the internal competition by April 1.

For questions related to the 2024 seed program, please contact IRH Director Steve Nadler (smnadler@wisc.edu) and Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities Grant Nelsestuen (nelsestuen@wisc.edu).