

July 17, 2023

Solmsen Fellowship

Call for Applications for 2024-2025 Deadline: Thursday, October 26, 2023

Access application information and link to digital application on the IRH fellowships webpage: <https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/> (scroll down to “external fellowships”).

The Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is pleased to offer four Solmsen Fellowships for the academic year 2024-2025, to be awarded to scholars from outside the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Through a generous bequest from Friedrich and Lieselotte Solmsen, the Solmsen Fellowships sponsors humanities scholars working on European history, literature, philosophy, politics, religion, art, music, and culture in the classical, medieval, and/or early modern periods before 1700. Projects on the relationship of pre-1700 Europe to other parts of the world are also welcome. The Solmsen Fellowship does not typically support editions, anthologies, or translations.

Solmsen Fellows are expected to be in residence at the IRH throughout the academic year (except for short research trips, lectures, conferences, etc.) and may extend this residency through the following summer on a non-stipendiary basis. However, the fellowship may not be deferred for any reason. The award provides a stipend of \$60,000, plus health benefits, office space, some support services, and access to university facilities (libraries). The fellow is expected to participate in the intellectual life of the IRH by attending the weekly Monday seminar (3:30 – 5:00 pm), utilizing their campus office, and giving a seminar presentation at the IRH. Fellows are also encouraged to join the weekly afternoon teas, and other IRH events as time and interest permit. Please consult the IRH’s website (irh.wisc.edu) for more information about other fellowships and activities.

Eligibility

- The IRH encourages applications from senior scholars as well as junior scholars with research projects that are well advanced.
- Faculty members of the University of Wisconsin–Madison are *not* eligible for the fellowship.
- Independent scholars are eligible to apply.
- **Applicants must be in possession of their doctorate at the time of application (latest conferral date accepted: 10/26/23). We will not accept applications from**

graduate students who merely anticipate having a doctorate by the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year. Projects to revise doctoral dissertations should

involve substantial expansion, new research, and/or new conceptual frameworks; and the proposal should clearly explain how the project relates to the dissertation.

- Scholars who have previously held a Solmsen or Kingdon Fellowship are eligible to apply after ten years from the end date of their prior IRH fellowship.
- Applicants whose projects are in religious studies are also eligible to apply to the IRH Kingdon Fellowship program. If you would like to be considered for both the Solmsen and Kingdon Fellowship competitions, please complete the Solmsen Interfolio application **first** and indicate within the application form that you would like your project to be included in the Kingdon competition as well.

Application Materials to Prepare

- Project Proposal. Up to 1,500 words (about 5 double-spaced pages of 12-point font). The proposal should address the significance of the project. Clearly state the intended product of your research, whether it is a book or an article (or series of articles). For book projects, an outline of chapters is highly recommended. For revisions of dissertations, substantive change is expected; explain how the book will differ from the dissertation. The proposal should also state how the project will be accomplished, and the specific work plan for the period of the grant.
- Project Bibliography. Publications (not your own) relevant to the project, up to 2 pages.
- Curriculum Vitae. Including work forthcoming and in progress.
- Two letters of recommendation. Each must address the significance and feasibility of the proposed research, quality of the proposal, qualifications for the project, and past work. (Must be submitted online via Interfolio. See below for more details.).
- Completed Solmsen Interfolio Application. Note: required entries in the Interfolio application form will include a reduced 100-word project abstract (separate from your uploaded project proposal); please prepare this shortened abstract before beginning the Interfolio application.

Application Submission

- Applicants must access the online application through Interfolio. The Interfolio application link is found in the Solmsen Fellowship section of the IRH fellowships webpage: <https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/> (scroll down to the expandable “external fellowships” menu).
- You must complete your online application and upload all required materials to Interfolio by **11:59 pm Eastern Time on Thursday, October 26, 2023** (recommendation letters must also be uploaded by your recommenders by 11:59 ET pm 10/26/23). Note that Interfolio operates out of Washington, D.C. and deadlines are set at Eastern Time, **NOT** Central Time of Madison. Deadline is **10:59 pm** in 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 *can* submit your application early while letters of recommendation are still pending (in fact, we encourage you to do so). Letters of recommendation can be submitted even after you submit your portion, but your recommenders must upload their letters to Interfolio by the deadline (11:59 pm ET) or they will not be attached to your application packet.
- Please press the “**submit**” button on your portion of the application as soon as possible. Even after submission, you may return to an application repeatedly to make edits and changes until 11:59 pm ET on October 26th. (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 submitted materials until October 27th.**

Letters of Recommendation

- Applications require **two** 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*” and click the “*Add File*” button on the far right. On the next screen, select the tab labeled “**Request a Recommendation**,” then click the “**Request**” button. On the following screen, enter the first and last names of the recommenders along with their email addresses. Click the “**Send Request**” button to complete the process.
- Interfolio will then contact the two 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 directly to the IRH will not be accepted.**
- The deadline for letter writers to submit letters is also 11:59 pm ET on **Thursday, October 26, 2023**. Letters submitted after midnight will not be attached to your application.

Deadlines

- Application materials submitted through Interfolio (by applicant): **Thursday, October 26, 2023.**
- Letters of recommendation uploaded to Interfolio (by recommenders): **Thursday, October 26, 2023.**
- Notifications from IRH: **Late February or Early March 2024.***

*Every application will get full consideration. However, due to the exceptionally large number of applications received each year, the review is completed in multiple stages (preliminary review, semi-finalist group review, and finalist group review). The selection committee makes every effort to notify individuals no longer being considered at each stage of the competition. Applying for both the Kingdon

and Solmsen Fellowship competitions at the same time may affect this notification timeline.

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 and the application process, contact Katie Apsey, IRH Administrator/Associate Director (apsey@wisc.edu; 608-262-3855).
- For help using Interfolio, please contact Interfolio's help desk (help@interfolio.com; 877-997-8807).