

Mellon Confounding Problems in the Public Humanities and the Arts Faculty Research Fellowships Proposal Guidelines (AY 2020-21)

□ **OBJECTIVE**

Andrew W. Mellon Confounding Problems Faculty Research Fellowships are intended to provide faculty in the humanities and arts with the time and resources needed to support scholarly projects into areas identified as confounding problems. Confounding (or wicked) problems are large-scale problems that resist any simple solution – and that concern us as citizens as well as scholars. Examples include (*but are not limited to*) issues of race, identity, and security; migration and borders; environmental climate change and adaptation; different meanings of health and wellbeing; rural and gentrification and urban renewal in a postindustrial age; or practices of memory and restoration.. The arts and humanities are crucial to understanding and responding to these issues in thoughtful, informed, and imaginative ways.

This grant makes two fellowships available per year. In AY 2020-21, the fellowship provides either one course release (*to be taken during spring semester 2021*), or one month of summer salary (to be taken during summer 2021). In addition, the fellowship provides a \$5,000 reimbursable account for research-related expenses during the fellowship period, which is from October 15, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

□ **ELIGIBILITY**

These fellowships are intended to enable faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences to pursue innovative research projects into areas identified as confounding problems, and thus play a crucial part in tackling such urgent problems and serving the public good. Such research may be at any stage of development, and may involve a variety of forms of dissemination. Tenured and tenure-track faculty whose research focuses on the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences are eligible for the fellowship. Fellows will be required to submit a descriptive assessment of their research project at the end of the fellowship term.

□ **APPLICATION DEADLINES & GUIDELINES**

Application deadline: **Monday, September 28, 2020**

Descriptive assessment deadline: **Monday, September 13 , 2021**

Each application must include all components described below, assembled into a single pdf file and emailed as an attachment to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu.) Faculty considering applying are encouraged to meet with the Faculty Ambassador to discuss their proposal.

1. **Completed cover sheet** (page 3).
2. **Proposal:** Limit the body of the proposal to a maximum of four single-spaced pages (12-point font, reasonable margins), although a bibliography or appendices may be included when appropriate. The proposal must include the following subsections:
 - a. **Project Description:** Describe the project in a form intelligible to the non-specialist and explain how it meets the fellowship requirements. In particular, explain the nature of the

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confounding problem in question and explain how the research project furthers our understanding and response to this problem. In addition, identify the particular outcome or outcomes (for instance, a journal article or book chapter or art exhibit) that is the goal of the research fellowship period.

- b. **Rationale:** Provide a rationale for the project, including its scholarly significance in the context of the humanistic or artistic discipline, and its contribution to furthering understanding of or response to a confounding problem. Include a statement of the value of the proposed work to the professional development of the faculty member, placing the project in the context of past and future scholarship.
- c. **Work Plan:** Describe the project plans, including a description of work to be accomplished. State clearly whether you intend to take either a course release or a month of summer salary.
- d. **Budget:** Include a budget of up to \$5,000 for research expenses and explain how the funds will be used to complete your scholarly project.

3. **Current Curriculum Vitae.**

- 4. **Chair's Letter of Endorsement:** Please ask your Department Chair/Program Director to provide a letter of endorsement directly to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu.) To be helpful to the Grant Review Committee, the letter of endorsement should explain why the proposed project is significant and provide a context in which to evaluate it. It should also include an explicit endorsement of the proposed course release, if selected as an option. Department Chairs/Program Directors who are themselves applying should ask a colleague to write this letter. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit the proposal to the chair/director (or faculty member writing this letter) at least five working days before the deadline so that they may write an informed letter of endorsement. Chairs/directors will submit the letter no later than the proposal deadline.

☐ **EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

The goal of this fellowship is to support innovative research projects undertaken by faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences into areas that may be identified as confounding problems. The proposals will be evaluated based on quality of the proposed research in connection to the theme of confounding problems, likelihood of success in completing the work plan, and the impact on the faculty member's professional and intellectual development. Potential applicants are urged to consult with the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, the Associate Dean of the Arts & Humanities division, and/or the Director of Sponsored Research, if in need of guidance in writing the proposal.

☐ **DESCRIPTIVE ASSESSMENT**

Fellowship recipients are expected to email a descriptive assessment of their research project progress to the Administrative Assistant for the grant, Kathi Venios (klv006@bucknell.edu), no later than Monday, September 13, 2021. Additional information is available at our website:

<https://www.bucknell.edu/mellongrant>.

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☐ **COVER SHEET**

Faculty information:

Name: _____

Department: _____

Email address: _____

Year of first Bucknell appointment: _____

1. Provide the title or a short description of your research project.

2. Please list any previous Bucknell scholarly/research grants for which you have applied. Indicate the year of application and whether the proposal was funded; if funded, describe the outcomes of the grant. Include any previous or upcoming sabbaticals or untenured leaves.

3. Please list other internal and/or external funding sources that you currently have available, or for which you are currently applying, for this project.

4. Please select whether you intend to take either a course release or a month of summer salary. (check one):

☐ course release ☐ a month of summer salary

5. Department Chair's or Program Director's signature.

Dept. Chair's/Program Director's Signature

Date

Please submit this cover sheet and the entire proposal, via email as a single pdf file attachment, to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu), and to your Department Chair or Program Director for their letter of endorsement.