

Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute

Request for Proposals for Annual Fellows Seminar, 2018-2019

Deadline March 2, 2018

The Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute is now soliciting proposals from faculty for an Annual Fellows Seminar for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. DCII Fellows Seminars are communities of inquiry that bring faculty, students, and, if appropriate, community participants with different interests and expertise together to explore a topic in a collaborative and interdisciplinary setting. Proposals must come from two faculty members from different disciplines/schools who will serve as the organizing fellows and co-chairs of the year-long seminar. Topics proposed should be of potential interest to faculty across the university.

The proposal should be in the form of a letter of intent (maximum 3 single-spaced pages) outlining the general theme that will be the focus of the seminar, its interdisciplinary dimensions, some of the key questions that will be posed, some of the analytical frameworks that might be included, a potential list of participants who might be invited to join the seminar, as well as potential outcomes (publications, collaborative projects, new academic programs or courses, a conference, an NEH summer institute, public impacts, etc.). The theme and key questions should be broad, provocative and open to exploration from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. However they should also be focused enough to support sustained and systematic investigation over the course of an academic year. The organizing fellows should attach brief bios and contact information to their proposal.

Once a proposal is selected invitations and/or an open call will go out for other participants (up to 6) who will be selected by the organizing fellows and will be appointed as participatory fellows for the duration of the seminar. Potential seminar participants will submit a one page statement outlining their interest in and potential contributions to the topic, as well as what they hope to accomplish as a participant in the seminar and how the theme relates to their future teaching and research agenda. Those who are selected as participants in a fellow's seminar are expected to attend meetings and special events of the seminar. Where appropriate, graduate students and undergraduate students, as well as individuals from the broader DFW community, might also apply or be encouraged to apply to become a participant in the seminar. Selection of seminar participants will be made by the co-organizers, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, and on a competitive basis.

The annual fellows seminar will meet 8-10 times each semester to a) develop its plan for the year including the responsibilities of each participant; b) discuss a set of common readings; c) host outside speakers/consultants; d) present participant work in a format that is open to the university community at a regular time and place. If speakers are brought in to consult with the participants they should deliver a broader public presentation open to the university community and the broader Dallas community. Organizing fellows, with the approval of relevant Department Chairs and Deans, will receive a one-course **reduction during the academic** year of their fellowship. **Organizing fellows should therefore discuss their intent to apply with the relevant administrator.** Each seminar participant will have access to a \$1250 research fund which can be used to supplement their work as a participant in the seminar. The seminar as a group will have access to \$10,000 that can be used as the group sees fit: to bring in speakers, to develop and host a conference, to hold a series of workshops, to subvent a publication. A small contribution of \$2500 is also made back to the department for each co-organizer.

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Proposals should be submitted electronically to Caroline B. Brettell, Director, Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (cbrettel@smu.edu). Questions may also be addressed to Caroline Brettell. Information on current and past Fellows Seminars is available on the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute website (www.smu.edu/dedman/dcii).