

## **STRC Graduate Research Fellowship Call and Application Guidelines**

### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

DePaul's **Social Transformation Research Collaborative** (STRC) seeks applications for its **six-month Graduate Research Fellowships**.

#### **Purpose and Objectives**

The STRC is working to demonstrate how the humanities deepen our understanding of ourselves and our society, and empower us to act, ethically and responsibly, to counter racism, dismantle violence, and build a more just and equitable society. The STRC Graduate Research Fellowship is designed to support Graduate Fellows as they conduct independent interdisciplinary research in the humanities; it also seeks to support their intellectual and professional development through close faculty mentorship and opportunities to present their work in professional settings.

#### **Fellowship Description**

In 2023, the STRC will award **four, six-month long Graduate Research Fellowships** to MA students in the College of LAS who wish to propose a humanities conference paper related to the histories, legacies and cultures of people of color, to be presented at the Annual STRC Symposium in October. The conference paper can be part of larger on-going research for an MA thesis, but this is not required. If the application pool allows, at least two of the awards will go to students in Critical Ethnic Studies.

Fellowships will begin June 15, 2023 and continue through December 15, 2023. Fellows will receive two tranches of funding: \$4000 evenly distributed in June, July and August to support initial research planning and active research and writing; and, contingent upon demonstrating adequate progress in the summer, \$2000 evenly distributed over the Autumn Quarter as they draft and revise their conference papers.

Throughout, students will be members of the Social Transformation Research Collaborative. They will receive mentorship and guidance by their chosen faculty sponsors in LAS and participate in regular workshop meetings about their projects with faculty sponsors and STRC faculty directors. Students will have access to additional funds to support research and travel as necessary for their projects.

Students will apply to the fellowship by proposing a research project that will form the basis of their conference paper. Over the first part of their fellowship summer, they will work closely with their Faculty Mentor to develop this topic into a research prospectus by the end of July. In the second half of the summer, students will complete their research activities and begin drafting their conference paper outlines (due at the end of August). In October, students will present their conference papers at the STRC Symposium. In December, students will submit final, revised conference papers that incorporate feedback from mentors and conference participants.

Fellows will produce their work according to the following timeline:

<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
6/15/23	Fellowship Start
7/30/23	Prospectus and Bibliography
8/30/23	Literature Review and Conference Paper Outline
10/1/23	Draft Conference Paper (10-12 pages)
10/19/23	Conference Presentation
12/15/23	Revised Conference Paper

### **APPLICATION TIMELINE**

The application timeline is outlined below. Interested students should review the FAQ and plan to attend the general information session on **January 31, 2023 at 4:30 PM** (registration is [here](#)). Please direct questions to the directors of the STRC, Julie Moody-Freeman and Bill Johnson González: [jmoodyfr@depaul.edu](mailto:jmoodyfr@depaul.edu) and [bjohns58@depaul.edu](mailto:bjohns58@depaul.edu).

Call for Proposal & Application Guidelines posted	January 16, 2023
Information Session	January 31, 2023
Online Application opens	February 6, 2023
Online Application closes	March 27, 2023
Award Notifications	April 10, 2023

### **ELIGIBILITY**

MA students in the College of LAS whose primary scholarly or creative field lies within the humanities, and who are pursuing a humanities writing project related to the histories, legacies and/or cultures of people of color in the United States or in diaspora, are eligible to apply.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

A complete application requires the following items, each of which is described in detail below.

1. Completed Online Application Form
2. Letter of Commitment from Faculty Mentor
3. Project Title and Short Description
4. Project Description
5. Preliminary Bibliography
6. Proposed Timeline
7. Draft Budget and Budget Narrative
8. Letter of Support from Community Partner (if applicable)
9. Unofficial Transcript
10. Resume

### **1. Completed Online Application Form**

The online application must be submitted between the application's opening date (February 6, 2023) and closing date (March 27, 2023 at 11:59 pm).

### **2. Letter of Commitment from Faculty Mentor**

*Applicants are very strongly encouraged to alert their faculty mentor early in the process of their intent to apply for the STRC Graduate Research Fellowship.*

The application must be supported by a confidential letter of commitment from the student's Faculty Mentor (the person who will mentor the fellow through Summer and AQ). Provide the name and DePaul email address of your chosen Faculty Mentor. The online application system will then invite the faculty member to upload the endorsement directly to the application file.

If the applicant is awarded, the Faculty Mentor will receive a small stipend over the period of the fellowship to support their mentoring activity. *Please note: faculty who are on academic leave or planning to be inaccessible to students during the summer are not eligible to serve.*

The letter of commitment should address the following:

- a. Please describe the value and significance of the applicant's proposal.
- b. Do you support awarding this individual? Why or why not?
- c. Faculty mentorship is essential for the student's success. Please explain how you will support the student's research and writing during their fellowship. Be precise about deadlines for work-in-progress and schedule of check-ins with the student, your availability and willingness to meet with the student and read and offer feedback on work-in-progress during the summer, and your commitment to seeing this project through to a successful conclusion.

**NOTE:**

Mentors will have one week after applications close to submit their letters. The letter of commitment must be uploaded by the Faculty Mentor directly **by 11:59 pm on April 3, 2023**. All letters are confidential and will not be shared with applicants.

**3. Project Title and Short Description**

Please provide a short statement (250 words or less) that describes your research topic as specifically as possible, in non-technical terms understandable to the general public. This statement should be a condensed version of the description you will provide in step #4 (below). If funded, this summary will be used to announce your project and will appear in other public-facing online spaces of the STRC.

**4. Project Description**

Your project description should be no longer than 750 words (double-spaced, 12-point font) and address the following:

- a. Provide a description of your research topic and the specific research you plan to undertake: What questions or ideas do you hope to explore? Will your research address a lack in existing scholarship? Does your research address a question of racial or social justice?
- b. How do you plan to undertake this research? Describe the methods and/or approaches you will use in the project and explain how any prior research or activities connect to, or prepare you to undertake, this work. Be sure to explain the specific texts and sources you plan to use and how these relate to your overall research questions
- c. Explain the significance of your project for your academic development. Why are you interested in this project, and what do you hope to learn?
- d. If your project involves community-engaged research, describe the existing relationship between you and the community partner organization, the origins of the project, and how it will benefit the partner organization and/or the public they serve.
- e. Does your project include human research subjects for which IRB approval is required? Note: *The Institutional Review Board (IRB) must first review projects that involve human research subjects before a STRC Fellowship can be disbursed.* Your faculty sponsor may be of assistance in this matter. Please consult the [guidance](#) of the [Institutional Review Board](#) for the Protection of Human Subjects to determine your project's status.

**5. Preliminary Bibliography**

Using the bibliography format most appropriate for your field of study, list the key texts and other sources related to your project as you understand it at this stage. Not to exceed one page, single-spaced. This preliminary bibliography will be the seed for creating a longer, more detailed bibliography for the prospectus due at the end of July,

and ultimately for the conference paper you plan to generate at the end of the fellowship.

#### **6. Proposed Timeline**

Using this [template](#), provide a project timeline that outlines the schedule of progress you expect to make during the fellowship period, including the dates of meetings you will have with your faculty mentor throughout the summer and any research activities necessary to your project's success (such as visits to archives, interviews, and the like). Not to exceed 750 words.

#### **7. Draft Budget and Budget Narrative**

Each graduate fellow may request a modest budget to support research and travel expenses. Using the [template](#) provided, please list anticipated expenses associated with your research project, not to exceed \$750. We understand that this may evolve over the course of the project, but do your best.

#### **8. Letter of Support from Community Partner (if applicable)**

This letter should describe the existing relationship between you and the community partner organization, the origins of the project, and how it will benefit the partner organization and/or the public they serve.

#### **9. Unofficial Transcript**

Submit an updated unofficial transcript (the kind you can download from Campus Connect).

#### **10. Resume**

Submit a recent resume.

### **CRITERIA BY WHICH PROPOSALS WILL BE EVALUATED**

In order to be considered complete, applications must include all required documents by the posted deadline.

All applications will be reviewed by the STRC Steering Committee according to the following criteria:

1. **QUALITY:** Is the proposal clear and coherent, avoiding unexplained references and disciplinary nomenclature that may limit understanding by non-experts? Is the proposal organized well, with clear objectives, expected outcomes, and limited jargon?
2. **FEASIBILITY:** Does the proposal describe a plan or work and timeline toward completion that seems reasonable, given the student's experience and preparation? Does the student appear to have an engaged and willing faculty mentor who is well-positioned to

support the student as they pursue their project? If the project involves community-engaged research, does it clearly describe the relationship between the applicant and the partner organization, the origins of the project, and how it will benefit the partner organization and/or the public they serve?

3. **RELEVANCE:** Does the proposed project align with the goals of the STRC to employ the humanities to advance interdisciplinary humanities as tools for addressing the histories and contemporary structures of racism through healing, restoration, and social transformation?
4. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Does the project have the potential to advance the scholarly and/or creative development of the student?

### **POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

As a condition of accepting the award, Fellows commit to the following:

1. In June, July, and August, 2023, Fellows and their Mentors will participate in monthly meetings (virtually or in-person) with the Co-Directors of the STRC, at which they will share with one another key pieces of their work in progress (such as prospectus drafts, conference paper outlines, draft introductions, and the like).
2. Fellows will be encouraged to attend STRC events and activities during the course of the academic year. This includes delivering a presentation on their work at the STRC Symposium in October 2023.
3. Fellows will submit a revised conference paper to their Faculty Mentors and the STRC co-directors by December 15, 2023. Also due at this time is a 2-page report in which the student describes their research process during the fellowship. Fellows will also submit a list of additional academic conferences where they will seek to present their conference papers. Final conference papers and reports will be placed in the STRC's online archive in Via Sapientiae and may appear on the public-facing STRC website, with author permission.

### Proposed Timeline

Please use the template below to outline the internal deadlines for your project, including key activities of research and writing and regular meetings with your mentor.

<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>Activities and Deliverables</b>
6/15/23	Fellowship Start
7/30/23	Prospectus and Bibliography
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