IPRH–Andrew W. Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowships in Environmental Humanities, 2019–20

Application Deadline: Friday, January 11, 2019 by 5 p.m.

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, seeks to select two Pre-Doctoral Fellows in Environmental Humanities for the 2019–20 academic year.

Environmental Humanities pulls the energy of several discipline-centric humanistic and related movements—environmental philosophy, environmental history, ecocriticism, cultural geography, anthropology, and others—into one common conversation about the relationship between humans and non-human nature, past and present. Intensely interdisciplinary and methodologically diverse, practitioners of the environmental humanities are united by their desire to understand the human place in nature, as well as to examine critically the way people make meaning of it.

The IPRH-Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellows will participate in all activities of the Environmental Humanities Research Group, as led by the IPRH–Mellon Faculty Fellow in Environmental Humanities, Professor Robert Morrissey. In addition to pursuing environmental humanities-related research projects of their own, the IPRH-Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellows will participate in a seminar aimed at developing methodologies for environmental humanities research and pedagogy.

Advanced PhD students from all humanities disciplines, including the humanities-inflected social sciences, whose research and teaching interests lie in the area of environmental humanities, are encouraged to apply. Special consideration will be given to applicants whose scholarship explores themes of climate or climate change, indigenous studies, place and space, resilience, or technology.

Eligibility
Only Urbana campus PhD students are eligible to apply. Applicants must be “ABD” (i.e., have completed all requirements for their doctoral studies, save the dissertation) and should be ready to work on their dissertation projects during the span of the fellowship year.

Terms
IPRH-Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellows receive a $25,000 stipend with tuition and partial fee waiver, and a $2,500 research fund.

All IPRH-Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellows are required to maintain residency on the Illinois campus (residing within a 20-mile radius) during the award year and to participate in the activities of the research group. Applicants should make certain that their teaching and research obligations do not prevent them from participating fully in the Environmental Humanities Research Group activities, and should identify in the narrative statement any applications being made for other campus or external grants and fellowships.
Application Guidelines
In addition to completing the online application form, applicants must submit the following materials through the online application system (documents should be double-spaced, and in 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins; materials that exceed the required length will not be considered):

- A 100-word abstract with project title. [Upload under “Abstract.”]
- A current curriculum vitae, including a list of all U of I graduate courses taken, papers published, presentations made, and assistantships and fellowships held (maximum 5 pages; this need not be double-spaced, but please consider the committee and render it legible). [Upload under “Curriculum Vitae.”]
- A statement of no more than 2,000 words describing the student’s research on the proposed project, including preparation to undertake this research and all progress on the project to date. [Upload under “Research Statement.”]
- A pdf of the student’s official transcript. This should be requested through the registrar. Our preference is that you receive a paper copy and scan and upload it. (It will reveal a “copy” watermark, but that is acceptable). If you are off campus and must receive an electronic pdf for uploading, that is also okay, but not as ideal because the encryption on the pdfs provided by third-party Credentials Transcripts Plus does not interact as nicely with our application portal as we would like. Nevertheless, either will be accepted. [Upload under “Transcript.”]
- Two (2) letters of recommendation to be uploaded by the applicant’s referees, one of which must come from the faculty member supervising the student’s dissertation. Recommendation letters should speak to the applicant’s abilities and achievements, to his/her progress on the project, and to the intellectual value of the project itself.

In the narrative statement, the applicant should describe his/her research in reasonable detail, explaining its significance to the work of the Environmental Humanities Research Group and addressing the applicant’s readiness to undertake the project. The statement should also indicate the applicant’s willingness to participate in the Environmental Humanities Research Group’s activities, and should include any specific past experience or future ambitions that the applicant brings to this emerging field of humanistic study.

Selection Criteria
The applications will be reviewed by the Mellon Faculty Fellow in Environmental Humanities, the IPRH Director and Principal Investigator on the Mellon Emerging Areas in the Humanities grant, and Members of the IPRH Advisory Committee, who will make their award recommendations to IPRH. The IPRH Associate Director serves on the committee in an ex officio capacity.

Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:
- the relationship of the project to the environmental humanities,
- the scholarly promise of the project,
- the applicant’s preparation to undertake the proposed research,
- the quality of the narrative proposal, and
- the letters of support.

Application Deadline
Online applications must be complete and submitted, including all letters of support uploaded, by 5 p.m. on January 11, 2019, after which the application portal closes. The application system can be found at https://my.atlas.illinois.edu/submit/go.asp?id=1281.

Deadline extensions will not be granted. The review committee will consider only complete applications. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all documentation is complete, and that referees submit their letters before the deadline.

Notifications
All applications will be acknowledged via e-mail, and all applicants will be notified in the latter part of the spring 2019 semester, when the search has concluded. Please do not contact IPRH about the status of an application; because of the volume of applications IPRH receives, we are unable to answer questions about individual applications.

Go to https://my.atlas.illinois.edu/submit/go.asp?id=1281 view the application system, where you will be asked to create an account. The system opens October 15, 2018.

Questions about these fellowships may be addressed to Nancy Castro at ncastro@illinois.edu or 244-7913.