

Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, University of Florida

Call for Proposals:

Intersections Research-into-Teaching Grant

Deadline: April 2, 2018

The Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere invites proposals from groups of faculty members who have an interest in participating in grand-challenge working groups as part of the project *Intersections: Animating Conversations with the Humanities* funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The *Intersections Research-into-Teaching Grants* will support groups of faculty with a shared research interest in developing and identifying general education and advanced courses that address [grand-challenge questions](#). Four *Intersections Groups*, to be notified in May 2018, will receive support and discretionary funding to explore research, organize events, and pursue interdisciplinary projects on grand-challenge questions. Each group will develop one proposal for a general-education undergraduate course to be submitted to [UF Quest 1](#) and will define a cluster of existing courses related to their research focus.

This grant will allow participants from across the campus to explore complex issues in the form of grand-challenge questions at a moment when cross-disciplinary collaboration is crucial to address shifting domains of knowledge and a rapidly changing world. Example questions may include: How do we judge the reliability of information? How can we adapt to climate change? How can we ensure a just society after Jim Crow? Put simply, a grand-challenge question is a complex puzzle that requires multiple disciplinary perspectives to understand and solve.

GUIDELINES

A. Grant Description

A \$30,000 award will be made to each of four *Intersections Groups* to be used over a two-year grant period from May 1, 2018 to August 31, 2020.

These funds can be used in various ways that support and advance the *Intersections Group's* specific inquiry. Funds may be used for purchasing supplies and materials, digitization of primary resources, group research expenses, related travel expenses for group members and speakers, space rental or reservation fees, refreshments, or for course release time to pursue *Intersections* activities, among other uses. The grant may not be charged overhead fees by UF units. Any item purchased using grant funds that is not disposable during the grant period – e.g. computing technology – will remain property of the University of Florida. All group members must agree to the proposed expenditure of funds.

Intersections Groups will have the opportunity to apply for additional funds for teaching projects and graduate student research for 2019-2020.

B. Eligibility and Composition of *Intersections* Groups

All proposed group participants must be full-time University of Florida employees. Groups will consist of five to seven faculty members, including a convener and a co-convener. The convener must be a tenured faculty member in a humanities department, school, or center. Co-conveners may reside in any unit, including libraries and museums. The groups should strive for diversity in terms of rank, discipline, and department/unit. Each group must include at least three tenured faculty members, as well as members from at least three different departments/units (each member will count for one unit only). We encourage groups to include librarians, archivists, and/or curators. Lecturers and other non-tenure-accruing faculty are eligible to participate provided that they will be employed by UF through April 2020. Strong groups will consist of members with a diversity of skills and expertise; however, the majority of group participants must work in the humanities.

In the unexpected event of the departure of a group member – *e.g.* medical leave, other employment – the *Intersections Group* must replace the member if the group falls below five participants. Otherwise, the group may decide to replace the group member or to proceed with a minimum of five members. When a group invites a replacement, the group must submit a short (250 word) justification and two-page C.V. for consideration by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere.

C. Deadline

Applications are due no later than 5:00pm on April 2, 2018.

REQUIREMENTS

A. Activities

1. Groups will meet regularly throughout the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years to engage in collaborative inquiry on a grand-challenge question. Planned group activities can occur during summer months. Professional facilitation support will be available.
2. Group conveners and co-conveners must participate in a face-to-face convener training at the beginning of the fall semester 2018.
3. Groups will provide annual reports on their activities by May 2019 and May 2020, and give a presentation on their work in the April 2020 *Intersections* Symposium.
4. Each group member with Graduate Faculty Status may bring one graduate student working on the topic to participate in *Intersections Group* activities; these graduate students will be eligible to compete for research mini-grants for the 2019-2020 year.

B. Deliverables

Each *Intersections Group* will be charged with producing two deliverables related to the group's grand-challenge question:

1. A list of existing courses that enables students to study topics related to the grand-challenge question, along with possible shared class project(s) (by April 2019); and
2. One general-education undergraduate course proposal (not a syllabus) to introduce students to the grand-challenge question, to be submitted to the Quest 1 Curriculum Committee (deadline anticipated in spring 2019).

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted online at <http://intersections.humanities.ufl.edu>. Applicants will provide the following information in the online submission form:

- Name of Convener, Department and Rank, Email and Phone
- Name of Co-Convener, Department and Rank, Email and Phone
- Other Participants and their Departments, Ranks, and Emails (Graduate Students should not be named in the proposal)
- Proposed *Intersections Group* Grand-Challenge Question
- Abstract (max. 250 words)

The following materials should be uploaded to the online submission form as one single PDF in the order listed below:

1. NARRATIVE (max. 1200 words)
The narrative should describe the group topic, concisely explaining its significance and the group's objectives. In the narrative, please address the following:
 - A. What is the grand-challenge question that the group will be addressing, and why is that question important?
 - B. How does the group's question, and group's intended collaboration, advance interdisciplinarity in the humanities and humanistic inquiry long term?
 - C. What evidence exists to support the value of the topic for undergraduate education?
 - D. What are the group's short-term goals and planned activities beginning May 2018 and ending August 2020?
 - E. How does the composition of the group reflect relevant expertise to engage each other and enhance members' scholarship and teaching?
 - F. Given the expectation of substantive, collaborative, and regular meetings (estimation of 30-40 hours per year), what is the group's planned meeting schedule? (Options include: weekly, biweekly, or monthly meetings, or fewer retreat-style meetings.)

2. PROPOSED BUDGET to expend \$30,000 between May 1, 2018 and August 31, 2020. Please use the budget form provided, and include a short budget narrative.
3. ABBREVIATED CVs (no more than two pages for each member of the group)
4. STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT Each member of the group must submit an email statement of commitment for participation during the two-year grant period. In addition, the chair or director of each untenured tenure-track faculty member must submit a brief email in support of the faculty member's participation. Similarly, if any faculty members are proposing to use grant funds as salary replacement or course release, an email of endorsement by their chair(s) or director(s) must be submitted to confirm this arrangement.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A review committee dedicated to evaluating proposals for the *Intersections Research-into-Teaching Grant* will select the awardees. This review committee will be composed of tenured humanities faculty members, one tenured non-humanities faculty member, and *ex officio* members Prof. Barbara Mennel and Dr. Sophia Acord. Members of the review committee will be excluded from applying for an *Intersections Research-into-Teaching Grant*.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- A. The quality of the group's topic and grand-challenge question.
- B. The degree to which the group's grand-challenge question and collaborative efforts will impact interdisciplinarity in the humanities and humanistic inquiry long term.
- C. The degree to which the value of the topic will enhance undergraduate education in the humanities, and the topic's potential viability as a Quest course and course cluster (including its capacity to attract interested undergraduate students).
- D. The feasibility of short-term goals and planned activities.
- E. The capacity of proposed group members to complement each other over a two-year period and create opportunities to enhance shared scholarship and teaching.
- F. The anticipated effectiveness of the meeting schedule.

For more information or to discuss a draft proposal, please email us at humanities-center@ufl.edu and/or refer to our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).