

GLOBAL ARTS + HUMANITIES DISCOVERY THEME
SOCIETY OF FELLOWS:
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
APPRENTICESHIPS
2023-24 Theme: Abolition and Freedom Dreams

DEADLINE
February 15, 2023

The Global Arts + Humanities' Society of Fellows Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship is a competitive research program that provides 6-8 upper-level undergraduates the opportunity to be mentored through multidisciplinary approaches to the study of an annual theme, build an intellectual cohort and produce research/creative responses to inquiries impelled by these engagements.

ANNUAL THEME | ABOLITION AND FREEDOM DREAMS

Abolition and Freedom Dreams focuses on past and present struggles to eradicate oppressive systems and envision more life-affirming and equitable futures. This theme turns to “abolition” and “freedom” as expansive concepts and practices — as social imaginaries, as modes of political thought, as collective moments of engagement and social movements.

The Society of Fellows invites approaches to understanding abolition and freedom in aesthetic, cultural, educational, historical, legal, literary, philosophical, political, rhetorical, sociological, theological and infrastructural terms. Abolitionists have documented oppression/unfreedom and imagined freedom/emancipation using periodicals, newspapers, sermons, speeches, songs, dance, children's publications, broadsides, memoirs, sculpture, painting, screenplays, poetry, photography, film and, more recently, social media, podcasts, blogs and digital projects, and we encourage proposals that engage a similarly wide range of contexts, genres, forms of expression and historical traditions.

The Society of Fellows welcomes proposals for research and creative projects that focus on the transformative role of arts and humanities in imagining alternatives to oppressive systems that criminalize, displace, dehumanize, exploit, and incarcerate certain peoples and populations and not others. While rooted in the movement to abolish slavery and more recently to abolish prisons, **Abolition and Freedom Dreams** is not limited to projects that focus on formal criminal justice institutions. Also welcome are projects that explore the impact of carceral geographies (plantations, reservations, ghettos, detention centers, Indian boarding schools, psychiatric asylums, prisons, militarized public schools, checkpoints, borders and walls) and the regulation of bodies, citizenship, identities and communities based on gender, race, ethnicity, caste, nation, sexuality, age and ability.

The Society of Fellows will foreground abolition as both a site of radical imagination and liberation and as a site of social anxiety, public backlash, and appropriation. Thus, the Society of Fellows also welcomes proposals that expose appropriations of abolitionist tropes and insurgent histories that impinge upon — rather than advance — democratic processes, transformative healing and justice, infrastructures of care and community. We are also interested in projects that consider whether abolition as a concept and practice is sufficient to transform oppression into freedom.

We invite current Ohio State undergraduate students (juniors and seniors with a minimum GPA of 3.0) from all majors/campuses with an interest in this area to apply. Note that priority will be given to students in the arts and humanities or those bringing a humanistic perspective to their research. Students must be able to articulate a strong interest in any dimension of this subject area as well as a research/creative project they would like to develop when applying for the grant. The program carries with it a total stipend of \$2,500. Funds will be disbursed in October, 2023. This program does not carry formal academic credit.

GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Grant recipients will develop their own research and creative project and be mentored through the fellowship year by a GAHDT Faculty Fellow. Fellows are obligated to attend several group mentoring sessions during the academic year (NOTE: Given the uncertain future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings may be modified to a hybrid or remote format, consistent with university mandates and guidelines and will practice all social distancing and other safe campus protocols).
2. In addition to attending 7 (90-minute) group mentoring sessions grant recipients must attend 3 of the Society of Fellows Digital Dialogues during the academic year. Recipients must share a final public project that showcases their fellowship-related work in the form of a web-based deliverable for GAHDT website (in coordination with Communications Coordinator, Breanne LeJeune and the Faculty Mentor). A tentative timeline of research obligations: Initial research proposal due in October 2023 research outline due in early December 2023; midterm research progress report due in February 2024; and final research project due in April 2024.

HOW TO APPLY

To be eligible, applicants must hold either junior or senior status with a minimum GPA of 3.0. All applications must be **submitted online**, where applicants will be guided through the application process for their proposal type. For more information, visit the Funding Opportunities webpage: go.osu.edu/gahdt-funding.

Submit electronic copies of the following materials:

1. An online application.
2. A two-page statement of purpose (750-1,000 words, 12 PT Times New Roman, single spaced) indicating why you are interested in the annual theme of **Abolition and Freedom Dreams** and how participation in the Society of Fellows would benefit you. This statement should not restate information found in your resume. Answer the following questions when writing:
 - a. Tell us about yourself and the evolution of your interest in this subject area, including any specific academic courses or experiences that have contributed to your interest.
 - b. What dimensions of this theme interest you the most and why?
 - c. Describe what specific research or creative project you imagine working on.
3. A 1-page resume.
4. An advising report (a minimum of a 3.0 GPA is required). Official transcripts are not needed.

TIMELINE

+ Fellowship call issued	November 1, 2022
+ Application deadline	February 15, 2023
+ Fellowships announced	April 1, 2023
+ Fellowship award period	Autumn 2023
+ Stipends released	October 2023

CONTACT

Applicants may email questions to GAHDT Program Manager, Puja Batra-Wells (batra-wells.1@osu.edu).