

GLOBAL ARTS + HUMANITIES DISCOVERY THEME
SOCIETY OF FELLOWS:
OHIO STATE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS
2023-24 Theme: Abolition and Freedom Dreams

DEADLINE
February 15, 2023

“Without new visions, we don’t know what to build, only what to knock down. We not only end up confused, rudderless, and cynical, but we forget that making a revolution is not a series of clever maneuvers and tactics but a process that can and must transform us.”

— Robin D. G. Kelley, *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination* —

The Society of Fellows’ 2022-23 theme, **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. 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.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR OHIO STATE FACULTY

The Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme will award up to eight academic year, residential fellowships to faculty currently employed by Ohio State. These fellowships are designed to provide faculty with release time to focus on their scholarly and artistic work, as well as with opportunities to engage with other Ohio State faculty, students, and local Columbus community organizations. Fellows

will participate in a biweekly seminar throughout the academic year and co-organize a culminating public-facing event (symposium, exhibition, series of workshops, etc.). Fellows will be provided administrative support for event planning. Faculty from all disciplines, in any college, whose research foregrounds arts and humanities methods, orientations and interventions may apply. Faculty whose research and/or creative practices are interdisciplinary in orientation or whose projects would benefit from input from multi-disciplinary engagement are especially welcome.

ELIGIBILITY AND RELEASE TIME

Associate and full professors on all Ohio State campuses are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to associate professors for whom this support would facilitate promotion to full professor. Assistant professors who will have passed their fourth-year review at the start of the fellowship period are also eligible. Faculty must commit to being in attendance on the Columbus campus during the fellowship period so that they can participate fully in the biweekly seminar and contribute to the planning and implementation of the culminating public event.

During the fellowship period, and in accordance with college policy, faculty participating in the Society of Fellows will receive a two-course buyout, equivalent to 32% base salary and benefits. The GAHDT will transfer these funds to the faculty member's TIU. TIU heads will work with the faculty member to reduce service responsibilities in accordance with college guidelines and in line with unit needs. The fellowship may be taken concurrently with an Ohio State Faculty Professional Leave (subject to OAA approval). In such cases, the 32% release funds will be used to fund a special assignment with no teaching that may be combined with a one-semester FPL.

SUPPLEMENTAL MENTORING APPOINTMENT

Society of Fellows Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program

This year, we hope to appoint one of the SOF faculty fellows as a mentor to work with SOF undergraduate small grant recipients. In addition to a two-course release and \$4,000 research stipend as a SOF faculty fellow, the faculty mentor will receive an additional \$5,000 in supplemental pay. The faculty mentor will support undergraduate grant recipients in developing their own research and/or creative project, with administrative help from GAHDT staff. We expect to offer eight undergraduate small research grants. The mentoring program includes an average of seven to eight (90-minute) meetings across the year.

Society of Fellows Graduate Team Fellowship Program

The faculty mentor for the Graduate Team Fellows Program will co-mentor a cohort of eight students. The other mentor will be drawn from GAHDT's faculty leadership. This program requires students to meet with each other and the faculty mentors once a month during the academic year to advance cross-disciplinary understandings. In addition to sharing in-process research, Graduate Team Fellows are required to apply for extramural funding and/or professional development opportunities during the period of the fellowship and will be guided through this process by the faculty mentors.

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. Grant 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).

Applicants interested in a supplemental student mentoring appointment should indicate interest by checking the appropriate box on the application form.

HOW TO APPLY

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. A current curriculum vitae.
2. A list of the leaves and fellowships held in the past three years.
3. A one-page abstract describing the project (research, creative, public-facing) the applicant will pursue during the term of the fellowship (no more than 300 words).
4. A brief statement (1,000-1,500 words) describing reasons for interest in participating in the Society of Fellows, what specific contributions you would hope to bring to the cohort and ideas for a collaborative, public-facing event on the annual theme.
5. A sample of professional achievement (or scholarship or creative activity) related to the fellowship theme (one published article, book chapter, or multimedia/video documentation of artistic practice).
6. A brief supporting letter from the department chair committing to adjust the applicant's teaching and service responsibilities during the fellowship period. This letter should be submitted as part of application materials through the GAHDT website.
7. Applicants interested in a supplemental student-mentoring appointment should indicate interest by checking the appropriate box on the application form.

EVALUATION PROCESS

A committee consisting of the GAHDT faculty director and faculty from the arts and humanities will evaluate proposals in consultation with the Lead Dean.

TIMELINE

+ Call for proposals issued	November 1, 2022
+ Application deadline	February 15, 2023
+ Fellowships announced	April 1, 2023
+ Research funds released	August 1, 2023
+ Fellowship appointment begins	August 15, 2023

CONTACT

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