

GLOBAL ARTS + HUMANITIES DISCOVERY THEME
**SOCIETY OF FELLOWS: GRADUATE
TEAM DISCOVERY FELLOWSHIPS**
2023-24 Theme: Abolition and Freedom Dreams

DEADLINE
February 15, 2023

The Graduate Team Discovery Fellowship is a financial award given by the Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme to recognize the cross-disciplinary aspirations and academic accomplishments of graduate students in the Division of Arts and Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences. This program brings together a cohort of graduate students whose projects match with our Society of Fellows' annual theme: **Abolition and Freedom Dreams**, and it awards each student a year-long fellowship. The fellowship is open to students whose projects engage cross-disciplinary critical and/or creative practices and students who seek to foster the development of participatory networks with local Columbus communities. Fellows may be at any phase of their dissertation research or terminal degree project.

The Society of Fellows 2023-2024 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, 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.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GRADUATE TEAM FELLOW?

In addition to focusing on their own research (as mentored by their department faculty advisor), Graduate Team Fellows convene as a cohort in order to support each other's evolving research, to develop cross-disciplinary methodologies and to generate a collective, public-facing project (like a podcast, website

or conference presentation). In this work, Graduate Team Fellows will be mentored by a GAHDT Faculty Fellow with expertise in cross-disciplinary arts and humanities methods and practices.

AWARD CONDITIONS

The GAHDT Graduate Team Discovery Fellowship offers three consecutive semesters (autumn, spring, summer) of tuition and fees and a monthly stipend of \$2,535. The award includes travel and research support up to \$500. Support also includes payment of general/instructional fees, tuition and any learning/technology fee. Special fees, such as COTA, recreational facility, Student Union and study activity fees are not included. Graduate Team Fellows may not hold any other type of employment or appointment during the time of the fellowship.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be a doctoral student or student in a three-year terminal degree program (e.g., MFA) in the Division of Arts and Humanities of the College of Arts and Sciences.
2. Must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.6 for all Ohio State graduate courses.

FELLOWSHIP OBLIGATIONS

The Graduate Team Discovery Fellowship Program requires Graduate Team Fellows to meet with each other and an assigned faculty mentor once per month during the semester to help advance cross-disciplinary understandings and to contribute to GAHDT. Fellows will be able to identify their own individual contribution to the team in consultation with the GAHDT-assigned faculty mentor. This contribution may include (but is not limited to) research presentations in a format of their choosing or the organization of related campus events or the creation of public-facing projects. Graduate Team Fellows are required to apply for extramural (non-Ohio State) funding during the fellowship period and will be guided through this process by a faculty mentor.

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 complete curriculum vitae.
2. A brief statement (two single-spaced pages) that:
 - a. Describes the student's creative or scholarly project.
 - b. Specifies how much of the project the student has already completed.
 - c. Describes how the project engages in cross-disciplinary dialogue relevant our Society of Fellows' annual theme: **Abolition and Freedom Dreams**.
 - d. Describes the work that the fellowship will allow the student to complete.
3. A letter of support from the student's advisor that conveys the advisor's appraisal of the project's progress and cross-disciplinary significance, relevance of the project to the field of study, student's unique contribution and value of the fellowship to the student's overall graduate pursuits.
4. If the student's project involves a community partnership, it is highly recommended that the student provide an additional letter of support from the community partner.
5. A current transcript and/or academic advising report.

NOTE: No ancillary materials, such as DVDs or CDs, will be accepted. Web addresses linking to ancillary materials may be included as appropriate in the research statement.

EVALUATION PROCESS + CRITERIA

1. Applications will be evaluated by a sub-committee of the GAHDT Advisory Committee, which is comprised of senior members of the graduate faculty.
2. The advisory committee will consider all the required information presented in support of the application. Evaluation will focus on the cross-disciplinary reach and quality of the research or creative project proposed; the project's potential to link with the Society of Fellows annual theme, **Abolition and Freedom Dreams**, and the student's ability to undertake the dissertation or degree project within the fellowship tenure as evaluated primarily by scholars outside the nominee's area of study.

TIMELINE

+ Fellowship call issued	November 1, 2022
+ Application deadline	February 15, 2023
+ Fellowships announced	April 1, 2023
+ Fellowship award period	Begins autumn 2023

CONTACT

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