CALL FOR UW SYSTEM FELLOWS
Center for 21st Century Studies

Application Deadline: Friday, February 22, 2013 at 4:30 pm

Background: The Center for 21st Century Studies, (C21), one of the oldest humanities institutes in the US, leads the way in imagining, defining, and creating the multidisciplinary field of 21st century studies. A UW System Center of Excellence, C21 focuses on the intersection of the humanities, arts, and sciences (social and natural) with issues of compelling concern, organizing its research and public programs around themes that change periodically. Nationally and internationally known scholars are brought to campus to address the topic of the year’s research in seminars, lectures, and conferences. Each year the Center constitutes a group of six to eight UWM faculty fellows, as well as two or three external fellows, whose research interests relate to the theme and contribute to C21’s mission to imagine, define, and create the emergent field of 21st century studies.

Eligibility: This call is directed to UW System faculty in all departments who hold the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor. Applicants must inform the chairs of their departments and seek approval from their home institutions. UW System faculty may be appointed fellows of the Center no more than twice in a five-year period.

Research Topic for 2013-14: Changing Climates
Climate change (or global warming) is arguably the most pressing challenge of the 21st century. Increasing surface temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels are only some of the indicators of global climate change. If current patterns of climate change continue, ecological consequences will include coastal flooding, the shrinking and disappearance of glaciers, and the acidification of the oceans. Human consequences resulting from climate change include severe droughts, food insecurity, health risks, flooding, and intensified geopolitical conflicts resulting from changed migratory patterns.

In the 21st century scientists and humanists alike have come to a broad consensus that climate change is anthropogenic, i.e., has been caused by humans. Indeed the term “anthropocene” was first used in print in the year 2000 by Paul Cruzen, a Nobel Prize-winning atmospheric chemist, to name the current geological epoch in which human activity is seen to mark the decisive impact on the global ecosystem. What this powerful term most clearly offers is the recognition that we can no longer separate human from nonhuman actors in thinking about climate, the environment, or nature. Anthropogenic climate change marks an end to the conceptual divide between nature and culture, human and nonhuman, arts and sciences.
In focusing the Center’s research for 2013-14 on the theme of Changing Climates, we seek thereby not only to focus our inquiries on climate change proper but also to consider the many other climates that are undergoing dramatic changes in the 21st century—including cultural, political, academic, religious, economic, and so forth. We are especially interested in projects that employ different critical, historical, and aesthetic methodologies to study, represent, and productively address our changing climates. We welcome projects that:

- Consider how to broaden the geographic and temporal scales of scholarly research to understand climates that move across political and cultural boundaries, and changes that extend beyond traditional historical periods
- Study how to change climates in ways that address ecological and academic crises, growing inequality, entrenched racism, and established power relations
- Seek to represent the material effects of seemingly imperceptible changes or of ostensibly abstract concepts
- Examine the political and social effects of climate change—how it intensifies global inequalities, raises questions of national security, and introduces new legal problems.
- Investigate the ways in which climates can no longer be classified solely as natural, cultural, social, or technical but by their very definition now include a variety of diverse factors and produce effects and consequences across multiple realms of human and nonhuman endeavor.

Terms of the Fellowship: C21 offers one matching grant of $3,000 for fellows to receive a one-course or two-course reduction in their teaching responsibilities each semester. This includes relief from committee work, bringing a fellow’s course load down to one course each semester. C21 provides each fellow with work space on the ninth floor of Curtin Hall and with research and library assistance as resources permit. Each fellow, whatever the terms of his or her teaching release, is expected to participate in the Center fellows seminars and public programs throughout the year, and to give a public presentation on his or her research no later than the academic year following the fellowship.

Procedures: Submit a pdf including the following components as an email attachment to c21@uwm.edu

- an application cover sheet (available online at www.c21.uwm.edu)
- a three- to four-page statement (maximum 1000 words) describing your research project and its relation to the Center’s current theme. Explain how it fits into your past research (if applicable) and future plans for research.
- a curriculum vitae
- a recent offprint, manuscript (article length), or example of artwork

For more information, contact Mary Mullen, Deputy Director, Center for 21st Century Studies, at 414.229.4141 or mullenml@uwm.edu. Please address questions on related UW System policy, funding or logistical issues to Carmen Faymonville at cfaymonville@uwsa.edu