CALL FOR FELLOWS, 2013–14
Center for 21st Century Studies

Application Deadline: Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Background
The Center for 21st Century Studies (C21), one of the oldest humanities institutes in the United States, 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 C21 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 its mission to imagine, define, and create the emergent field of 21st century studies.

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—and calls for new methodologies to study these powerful interactions.

In focusing C21’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 invite proposals 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, entrenched racism and sexism, and established power relations
- seek to represent the material effects of seemingly imperceptible changes or of ostensibly abstract concepts like climate, the environment, risk, futurity, and crisis
- 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 cut across natural, cultural, social, or technical domains
- 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**
Fellows of the Center receive a reduction in their teaching responsibilities sufficient to bring their course load down to one course each semester, as well as being relieved from committee work. The Center provides each fellow with access to office space on the ninth floor of Curtin Hall and with research assistance (library assistance, duplication, etc.) as resources permit. Each fellow is expected to participate in the Center fellows’ seminar 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.

**Eligibility of Faculty for Fellowships**
UWM faculty in all departments who hold the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor may apply. No one may hold a Center fellowship more than twice in a five-year period. Faculty involved in substantive projects outside of teaching, such as organizing conferences, which will require substantial time away from their research in 2013–14 are eligible to apply, but must disclose such commitments on the application form.

**ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY: Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) Fellowship**
An additional fellowship may be awarded to a member of the UWM graduate faculty who would offer a seminar related to the Center research theme within the MLS program. This seminar would be scheduled in the spring semester as part of the fellow’s customary reduced teaching load. In addition to the standard Center fellowship application, interested faculty are asked to submit a one-page description of the proposed seminar. Submission of an MLS course proposal is not required as part of the standard application and will not necessarily increase a candidate’s chances of being selected as a fellow. Award of this fellowship is contingent upon acceptance by both the Center and the Master of Liberal Studies program.
Procedures
Submit a pdf including the following components as an email attachment to c21@uwm.edu:

- an application cover sheet (available online at http://www4.uwm.edu/c21/pages/opportunities/forFaculty.html
- 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
- two hard copies (or a single electronic one) of a recent offprint, manuscript (article length), or example of artwork

You are responsible for informing the chair of your department that you are applying for a Center fellowship to ensure that your reduced teaching load and release from service will be supported by your department.