CALL FOR FELLOWS
“INDIGENEITIES”
Center for 21st Century Studies

Application Deadline: Thursday, December 11 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 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.

Research Topic for 2015-16: Indigeneities
For 2015-16, scholars from the humanities, arts and sciences will join the Center for 21st Century Studies (C21) in addressing the theme, Indigeneities.

The concept of indigeneity in the contemporary world is a crucial, still evolving legacy of colonialism and nation-state formation across the globe in the preceding centuries. Today, global flows of goods, people, information, resources, and risks cut across national borders with unprecedented intensity, investing actors at both sub-national and super-national scales with new roles, power, and perils. The ascription of indigeneity, which once derived mainly from a people’s history of belonging to a territory and culture that were subjugated through conquest by colonial empires and marginalized in successor post-colonial nations, now is being thoroughly mediated by human and nonhuman actors and forces that transcend the national form. The transnational dynamics mobilized around the question of indigeneity have helped extend the concept to new reaches of the globe, new communities of people, and new issues to which earlier definitions of indigeneity are not immediately applicable. Although indigeneity has historically been defined against the background of territorial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural dominance within nation-states, it also has wider implications in the 21st century, pertaining to questions of nonhuman as well as human belonging.

Indigeneity is of paramount importance for the local environment of UWM, Milwaukee, and Wisconsin, including the sovereign status as domestic dependent nations of eleven federally recognized and numerous historic communities now part of the state of Wisconsin. UWM has more
American Indian faculty members than any other school in the University of Wisconsin System. The Milwaukee region is the American Indian population center of Wisconsin, the territory of which, like all current holdings of the United States, was originally American Indian land. American Indian students present distinctive challenges and opportunities for higher education in the state. And questions of tribal sovereignty are regularly in the news in regard to hunting and fishing rights, casinos, and more recently mining rights in the Bad River region. Finally questions of indigenous and invasive species play a crucial role in studying and maintaining the health of Lake Michigan in particular and the Great Lakes’ watershed more generally.

In choosing “Indigeneities” as our theme for 2015-16, the Center for 21st Century Studies invites scholars from the humanities, arts, and sciences to take up the concept of indigeneity from a variety of different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. This theme was chosen to complement UWM’s and C21’s participation in the Mellon-funded program in Integrative Graduate Humanities Education Research and Training (IGHERT), which takes up the topic “Indigeneity in an Expanded Field.”

We are especially interested in proposals that integrate local and global perspectives in order to:

- pursue how artifacts and narratives (histories, legends, literary fictions, testimony) work together to construct indigenous memories, and how memorial processes spur culturally creative production or reinterpretation of objects and inherited narratives;
- consider dynamics of place and displacement in indigeneity, with special attention to how traditional conceptions of territory interact with more abstract notions of space and with highly contested, often transnationally scaled conceptions of environment;
- concentrate on major forces redefining indigeneity, such as geographical/cultural displacement in migration and the diversifying range of domains in which claims to indigeneity may be made (legal, political, cultural, linguistic, genomic, etc.); and
- expand the defining frame of indigeneity to include human and non-human actors (e.g. climate, animal and plant species, topographical aspects of land, technical instruments) and their complex interactions.

Terms/Eligibility of Faculty for Fellowships: UWM faculty in all departments who hold the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor may apply. Faculty Fellows 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 major 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. 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 2015-2016 are eligible to apply, but must disclose such commitments on the application form.

Terms/Eligibility of Academic Staff for Fellowships: UWM academic staff in all departments may apply. C21 will work with academic staff on a case-by-case basis to provide compensation for participating in the seminar. 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. No one may hold a Center fellowship more than twice in a five-year period.

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. Applicants for the MLS Fellowship should submit a one-page description of a proposed seminar.

Procedures: Submit a single 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
- a recent offprint, manuscript (article length), or example of artwork

You are responsible for informing the chair of your department (or appropriate supervisor) that you are applying for a 2015-16 Center fellowship to insure that your full participation as a C21 Fellow will be supported by your department.