

Call for Proposals: Research Workshops

Overview:

To assist UWM faculty and academic staff with their research and creative projects, the Center for 21st Century Studies helps establish and coordinate ongoing research workshops, according to interdisciplinary and thematic proposals submitted under the guidelines below. Inspired by the format of research clusters and continuing workshops at other universities, the UWM research workshops have several aims:

- Discussing key texts or issues of common interest,
- Building intellectual communities across boundaries of department and school,
- Presenting works-in-progress to colleagues in different disciplines,
- Creating opportunities for scholarly exchange and the joint preparation of grant and fellowship proposals.

The topic of a workshop could be broad or narrow, and could involve a specific historical period or region (for example, early modern Europe; Asian studies); an intellectual movement (psychoanalysis and culture) or interdisciplinary focus (science and technology studies; urban studies). Workshops should plan to meet on a regular, scheduled basis, and to welcome new members on an ongoing basis. Specific activities can include reading pre-circulated papers by members, discussing recurring controversies or newly published work about the topic, and, eventually, sponsoring seminars by visiting scholars, among many others. Some groups might also wish to discuss the connections between research, pedagogy, and the curriculum.

Workshop members may be faculty or academic staff, either at UWM or at other institutions, or independent scholars; inclusion of graduate students would be up to each group. Each research group must include at least three members from at least two different departments or units; at least one should be a UWM faculty member. Workshops should not replicate the networks within a single department or program, since the goal is to connect individuals with shared interests who may not already have the chance to work together.

Proposals:

Interested faculty and staff should submit short (1 page) proposals for reading groups to the Center. Each proposal should outline the general topic (with some exemplary titles or specific issues to be discussed), the rationale for a crossdisciplinary reading group, and the group's likely activities. It should also list the coordinator(s), an initial roster of members if available, and their affiliation, and set an initial meeting time and place. The Center will publicize the reading groups and, if needed, make meeting space available and provide assistance with photocopying or other logistical support. At end of spring semester, coordinators will provide reports of the activities and meetings of each reading group to the Center director and advisory committee, indicating whether the group wishes to continue with a formal affiliation to the Center. Some limited funds may be made available to bring in speakers of interest to the group.

Eligibility:

Pre-existing groups are eligible for affiliation with the Center, but coordinators should append to

their proposal brief indications of the group's history and a precise accounting of any support it currently receives. The Center program will not replace current subventions but could supplement them if a group wishes to engage in new activities for which support is not currently available.