

## Humanities Engage: Ph.D. Student Opportunity

### Summer Immersive Fellowships

*Humanities Engage* fosters experiential learning and immersive experiences for doctoral students across our arts and humanities programs in support of our mission to deepen and broaden all students' intellectual and professional development, and make Humanistic careers across all employment sectors visible, valued, and viable.

- **Eligibility:** DSAS Humanities Ph.D. students with no university academic appointment in summer 2021 (TA/TF/GSA/GSR/other full summer funding) or external fellowship and who expect to be enrolled in fall 2021. Preference will be given to students in earlier years of their graduate studies and those who have not previously received funding via *Humanities Engage*.
- **Stipend:** \$4,000 for ca. 200 hours of effort
- **Timeline:** Immersives can begin as early as May 3, 2021 and must be completed by August 20, 2021.
- ***Humanities Engage* expectations:** Contribute at least one blog post to the project website, no later than two weeks after the immersive begins; submit a reflective essay (or equivalent, e.g. video) on the experience for the project website by September 1, 2021. Participate in cohort activities. Help co-mentor subsequent cohort.

#### **Please note the following:**

The feasibility of any in-person components will be assessed in accordance with the University's risk posture and COVID-19 standards and guidelines and the host organization's health and safety protocols.

International Ph.D. students will need to consult with OIS and obtain their Immigration Specialist's endorsement prior to accepting a Fellowship.

Students are responsible for reporting taxable stipend payments and for remitting any tax due to their local taxing authority.

Students may submit separate applications to multiple opportunities but may only accept one immersive fellowship. Students may not accept more than one *Humanities Engage* fellowship or grant of any type over the summer.

### **OPPORTUNITY**

#### **Carnegie Museum of Natural History**

##### **Organization Description**

Mission: Carnegie Museum of Natural History's (CMNH) mission is to "find inspiration in our collections and advocate for a sustainable future."

Vision: CMNH's vision is to become "The world's most relevant natural history museum."

History: Founded by Andrew Carnegie over 120 years ago, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh (Carnegie Institute) is the region's largest and most far-reaching provider of informal educational and cultural experiences. Today, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh serves as a catalyst for growth and knowledge; offers a home to thinking and inquisitive exploration of the arts and sciences by children and adults; acts as a collector, guardian, and interactive presenter of cultural and scientific treasures and ideas; and supports the Pittsburgh region by attracting visitors and promoting economic development. Comprised of four distinct museums (CMNH, Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum), Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh touches the lives of more than 1.34 million people annually. Outside of preserving priceless collections and presenting interesting exhibitions, the museums' work is about connecting with diverse audiences by appealing to each and every person's desire to explore, to question, to learn, and to be inspired—at any age.

CMNH was founded in 1895 in an effort to establish Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as a leader in scientific research and to enhance the educational and cultural opportunities available to the region's residents. Today, the museum ranks among the top five natural history museums in the United States and promotes an understanding of the past, enhances exploration of the present, and inspires current and future generations of scientists and informed citizens. CMNH maintains, preserves, and interprets scientific collections that include more than 22 million specimens, artifacts, and associated data. These collections further the broad research efforts of the museum's scientific staff, universities and colleges, environmental organizations, and scientists around the world, and the collections inform the museum's exhibitions and educational programs.

Recognizing the inherent connections between the natural sciences, culture, history and art, CMNH seeks to explore the living world holistically through innovative and collaborative projects. A major track for this reconciliation of science and humanities is being developed under the theme of the Anthropocene. Complementing the museum's existing focus on the evolution and diversity of life on Earth, the Anthropocene provides an additional lens to examine the future of life and the interdependency and interconnectivity of humans and nature. Weaving together humanities, art, and science in research and interpretation of biology, mineral, anthropology and art collections, this cross-cutting initiative seeks to lead the evolution of natural history museum practices for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Immersive Fellowship Description**

In response to growing calls for social justice in 2020, CMNH is invested in taking a closer look at our institution and the history of natural history more broadly in order to incorporate a decolonial lens into our programs, exhibitions, and research. While some of these efforts have been underway for years, by understanding the settler colonial legacies of natural history institutions alongside systemic inequalities and global disruptions of the Anthropocene, CMNH is poised to take bold steps to challenge previously entrenched notions about the study of nature as part of our efforts to decolonize the museum. A key part of decolonizing the museum, then, is advancing alternative natural history museologies that are rooted in socio-ecological science, Indigenized science, and feminized science, among other critical lines of thought.

To aid in this work, CMNH seeks applications for a summer 2021 *Humanities Engage* Immersive Fellow. The Fellow would be working with staff at CMNH to help organize and contribute to a new public programming series, primarily for adult audiences. The programming series aims to encourage decolonizing dialogues and learning about the complex socio-scientific topics at the intersection of the Anthropocene, natural history museums, and environmental justice. Events in the programming

series may take the form of public forums, experiential learning, film screenings, panel discussions, or other programs that encourage interdisciplinarity and partnership, and participation and discourse among the community. Other tasks, to be driven primarily by the Fellow's interest and expertise, could include: a landscape analysis of the decolonial work already being done at CMNH across all departments, facilitating visitor surveys about decolonialization and the Anthropocene, and research into CMNH's institutional history.

### **Responsibilities**

- Develop and implement one event in our new public programming series
- Conduct targeted research to improve the communication and partnership strategy to help us better understand and grow our audience for this programming
- Perform evaluation and reflection on the programming
- Clearly communicate learning to CMNH to inform the museum's long-term approach for advancing alternative natural history museologies

### **Qualifications**

- Interest and experience in interdisciplinary study such as Anthropocene studies, decolonial studies, Indigenous studies, environmental humanities, and/or public humanities
- Experience or interest in planning public events and programming
- Ability to work independently

### **Application**

**Applicants should please provide the following materials in this order and in a single .pdf to [michele.krugh@pitt.edu](mailto:michele.krugh@pitt.edu) by March 26, 2021, at 5PM.**

A. *Cover Letter (2 pages max) addressing these key points:*

1. Which host organization opportunity are you applying to?
2. How does this project draw on your academic preparation and professional experience to help advance the host organization's goals?
3. How will this opportunity contribute to amplifying your research training and advance your professional goals? Explain why the timing makes sense in light of where you are in your program.

B. *Brief, current CV (2 pages max)*

C. *Brief letter of support from primary Ph.D. advisor. (Note: This letter can also be sent directly from the faculty member to [michele.krugh@pitt.edu](mailto:michele.krugh@pitt.edu).)*

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed via Zoom by representatives of the prospective host organization and of *Humanities Engage*.