

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

Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission, Mayor's Office of Equity

Organization Description

Created after a City [ordinance](#) was passed in December 2016, the Gender Equity Commission (GEC) is responsible for identifying how and to what extent discrimination manifests against all women and girls, including trans women and gender diverse individuals, in the City of Pittsburgh.

Especially with overwhelming evidence of how [2020 hindered already slow progress towards gender parity and exacerbated severe gender-based inequalities in the U.S.](#), it is crucial that municipalities build strong partnerships across sectors and diverse social identity groups.

Pittsburgh is home to a rich philanthropic and nonprofit ecosystem, world-renowned educational institutions, cutting edge medical and technological initiatives, and diverse creative arts and innovations. Nonetheless, as affirmed by the GEC's 2019 report [Pittsburgh's Inequality Across Gender and Race](#), quality of life for residents is highly variable. Black women face some of the most extreme barriers to opportunity of any group in the entire country.

Using a data-informed and evidence-based human rights approach, the GEC is stewarding initiatives that dismantle equity barriers through structural changes in local government policies, practices, and procedures. These include a [Workforce Equity Initiative](#) and [Appointments Project](#), both launched in November 2020.

The Gender Equity Commission works to build local collaborations to enable structural changes at the level of City government.

TARGETED UNIVERSALISM

We must establish appropriate benchmarks that **lift up all populations** while paying close attention to those often excluded.

Deeply sexist and racist systems are costly, and they depress outcomes and life chances for most people.

The goal is to increase success for all groups.

Implementation: develop goals and outcomes that will result in improvements for all groups, but strategies must be targeted **based on the needs of those most negatively impacted by histories of discrimination and exclusion.**

-Government Alliance on Race & Equity-

Immersive Fellowship Description

The Fellow would focus on research, writing, and problem-solving to help the GEC identify and implement viable systems for sustaining local coalitions for gender equity.

While our goal is targeted universalism to overcome intersectional equity barriers, the GEC does not yet have the visibility necessary to be a convener of local groups to work in the coalitions necessary to adopt gender-smart public policies. [Fragmentation challenges local governance](#): “The fragmented regional governance structure makes it far more difficult for the City to plan and collaborate with the diverse and plentiful local political entities. This fragmentation complicates planning efforts and

requires that diverse stakeholders collaborate, something that continues to challenge the city” (Resilient Pittsburgh report, 2016). And local organizations across sectors report that segregation (including work “silos”) is a major challenge to transformative change.

Responsibilities

Work with the GEC Executive Director, anupama jain, to promote gender equity in Pittsburgh, for 200 hours of commitment over ten weeks.

- Prepare public-facing communications about the work of the GEC
- Research and present recommendations for maximizing GEC outreach to diverse local communities
- Identify customizable strategies/models for building cross-sector equity coalitions
- Offer recommendations for equitable [public-private partnerships](#)

This particular opportunity is confined to supporting the mission of the GEC and local gender equity initiatives. The Fellow’s participation does not entail research toward their own research projects.

All meetings are expected to be conducted remotely.

Deliverables

- Audit/assessment of GEC’s current communications strategies, channels, and platforms
- Preparation of policy memos/infographics/other means to ‘translate’ complex policy information for the public
- Final report with recommended strategies for improved visibility, community outreach, and sustained coalition-building

Qualifications

- A commitment to gender equity, diversity and inclusion, and social justice
- Strong communication skills and adaptability to engage with diverse audiences
- Ability to work independently and as a team member
- Organized, committed to meeting project deadlines, and responsive to email
- Preferred: experience in design or visual representation of data, creation of infographics

Application

Applicants should please provide the following materials in this order and in a single .pdf to 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.)

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