Humanities Engage

IMMERSIVE SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS (remote, summer 2020)
Sponsored by Humanities Engage, a project generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, immersive summer fellowships provide Ph.D. students with the opportunity to gain experiences in local organizations in collaborative, mission-focused project work drawing on their high-level skills as researchers and writers.

- **Eligibility**: DSAS Humanities Ph.D. students from their second summer onward with no university academic appointment in summer 2020 (TA/TF/GSA/GSR/other full summer funding) or external fellowship and who expect to be enrolled in fall 2020
- **Stipend**: $4,000
- **Humanities Engage expectations**: contribute at least one blog post to the project website by July 1, 2020; submit reflective essay on the experience for the project website by September 1, 2020

Please note the following guidance: Students are responsible for reporting taxable stipend payments and for remitting any tax due to their local taxing authority. International Ph.D. students would need to obtain the prior approval of their Immigration Specialist to accept the position; Humanities Engage would work with the student’s Ph.D. program and OIS but cannot guarantee that approval would be granted.

OPPORTUNITY
Women and Girls Foundation – GirlGov
Documenting Experience and Critical Civic Narratives
Immersive Summer Fellowship: provisional start date no later than June 1, 2020

**Organization Description**
The WOMEN AND GIRLS FOUNDATION (WGF) is a non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The mission of WGF is to achieve equality for women and girls, now and for generations to come. In pursuit of this mission, WGF advocates for city, county, and state-wide policies that improve the quality of life for women and runs educational programs to prepare young women to do this work now and in the future.

GirlGov is WGF’s successful, flagship civic engagement program for high-school aged young women* interested in developing as our next generation of leaders, advocates, and change-makers. This year-long program includes an innovative civics and social justice curriculum, hands on experience in advocacy, and multiple opportunities to partner with and learn directly from community leaders and elected officials. We want these young women to understand the intersection of civic engagement and social movement building, policy and activism. As a part of the program, the teens select an issue of injustice in their community and develop an advocacy campaign. For example, this year the Racial Justice Committee is addressing the school to prison pipeline by advocating for the Pittsburgh Public Schools to change their MOU with the Pittsburgh Police and the Freedom From Violence Committee is working with a state-wide coalition to shut down Berks Detention Center.

Each year, we recruit a diverse group of teens from across the region. This year, for example, we are serving 130 teens from over 60 high schools in SouthWest PA as well as 25 teens in our recently launched Philadelphia chapter. GirlGov is offered entirely free of charge!

*GirlGov is open to and inclusive of trans and non-binary students
Position Description

Since GirlGov first launched in 2008, we’ve had an estimated 750 teens participate in our program. Each year, we survey the participants at the beginning and end of the program. From these surveys, we are quite confident in the immediate effects our program on participating teens’ confidence, civic knowledge, and civic engagement. But we do not know the longitudinal effects our program has had on participating teens. We want to know what their civic engagement, feminist identity, and constructions of justice looks like years after they have participated in our program. We also think that our alumni provide an opportunity to explore what critical civic identity can look like in this generation at this specific time in history.

Recently our interns gathered the contact information for all of our alumni. In addition, we partnered with the Non-Profit Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh’s GSPIA program to develop a logic model and draft a survey for our participants. We plan to administer this survey this spring.

We are interested in working with a humanities fellow to create thoughtful methodology to select a smaller sample of the alumni and to conduct a more robust and qualitative exploration of 1) their critical civic identity and engagement, 2) their personal narratives that led them to where they are, and 3) their reflections on the time spent with GirlGov.

**Deliverable:** The first step of this project will focus on collecting qualitative interviews, ideally in narrative form, from our alumni. The fellow will then partner with WGF staff to represent these findings in a creative and aesthetically pleasing way to share with our staff, board, funders, alumni, and current teen participants.

This particular opportunity is confined to the evaluative effort to provide information directly to the WGF staff, board, and other organizational stakeholders about the impact of this program. The Fellow’s participation does not entail research toward their own research projects.

Given the circumstances of this particular moment, all meetings with the Director of Education as well as interviews with participants are expected to be conducted remotely.

**Responsibilities:**
- Work with the Director of Education, Beth Sondel, to chart a course for qualitative documentation of GirlGov alumni
- Conduct and analyze qualitative interviews with a select group of our alumni and situate within relevant literature
- Document findings in creative and innovative display
- 200 Hours of commitment over at least ten weeks

**Qualifications:**
- A commitment to and understanding of civic engagement, feminism, and intersectional justice
- Experience conducting and analyzing qualitative interviews
- Ability to work independently and as a team member of the Women and Girls Foundation
- Organized with an ability to meet project deadlines
- Preferred but not required: experience in design or visual representation of qualitative data
Applicants should please provide the following materials in a single .pdf to michele.krugh@pitt.edu by May 15, 2020:

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

1. How does this project draw on your academic preparation and professional experience to help advance the host organization’s goals?
2. 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.

Current CV

Brief letter of support from primary Ph.D. advisor

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