

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CCTSJR – Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research

Beginning in 2017, the new University of Louisville Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice (Consortium) will support the creation or expansion of transdisciplinary social justice research teams, projects, creative activities, and community-engaged scholarship for faculty and student at the University of Louisville. The Consortium was created with funding from the Provost's iRFP process and seven participating colleges and schools. These include the Brandeis School of Law, the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Education & Human Development, Kent School of Social Work, School of Nursing, School of Public Health & Informational Science, and School of Medicine. All faculty are encouraged to apply, although priority will be given to units or departments that contributed matching funds (see definitions).

In February 2017, the Consortium will award up to 27 Faculty Research Fellowships, and at least one PhD-level Graduate Student Research Assistantship for the 2017 calendar year. The Consortium will assign 8 graduate and professional Graduate Fellowships to transdisciplinary research teams, and assign a minimum of 7 Undergraduate Research Fellowships to advance social justice transdisciplinary research (TDR) activities.* Priority will be given to proposals in the four focus areas (see definitions).

Social justice TDR stretches past traditional academic multi-disciplinarity or inter-professionalism to foster collaborations across disciplines, colleges, and beyond academia to develop humanistically-infused processes for identifying new solutions to complex, intransigent social problems (see definitions).

Faculty Fellowship Grants Available:

1. Faculty Workload Fellowships: Provides a course or clinical replacement for one semester at a PTL/adjunct level to support new research and/or research project completion. Up to 13 available annually.
2. Mini-Grant Faculty Fellowships: Provides a research grant for transdisciplinary group project proposals in an amount up to \$2,500 to support new research and/or research project completion. Up to 8 mini-grant faculty fellowships awarded annually.
3. Grant Fellowships: Provides a research grant for transdisciplinary group project proposals in an amount up to \$7,500 to support new research and/or research project completion. Up to 9 large grant faculty fellowships awarded annually.
4. Grants and mini-grants are available according to the following schedule: Up to 7 one-year grants, non-renewable; up to 10 renewable grants (assuming iRFP funding is renewed), both 2-year and 3-year.

*Note: Separate CFP's will be announced for the PhD assistantship and for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Fellowships, as well as for student volunteer participation.

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Faculty Research Funding Proposal Requirements:

Each proposal should be submitted in 12-point type and must be no longer than 5 pages in length, with no more than 10 pages of additional attachments or appendices, one of which must include a 2-page bibliography. Each proposal must contain:

1. Statement of social justice purpose/application.
2. Description of transdisciplinary research team and process that includes:
 - a. Participation of faculty in at least two units/colleges, or in the case of larger units/colleges, at least 3 departments. [Multi-unit proposals are preferred.] Individual faculty already doing or planning TDR work with non-UofL partners are encouraged to expand their work to build TDR capacity at UofL by involving at least one UofL transdisciplinary partner in their research.
 - b. Plan for participation of at least one community partner throughout all phases of the research process.
 - c. Plan for inclusion of graduate student and undergraduate student fellows in the research. [Note: You may request limited assistance from our pool of available Graduate Student Assistants. Your proposal may identify an undergraduate student who would be awarded an Undergraduate Fellow scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Undergraduate Fellows may also apply independently for a limited number of \$2000 Undergraduate Fellowships through a competitive process in early 2017.]
 - d. Some discussion of methodologies to be employed. [We encourage projects that highlight arts or humanities elements and/or incorporate them into interdisciplinary, inter-professional scientific research]
3. Statement of and justification for type(s) of grant(s) requested: direct grant, mini-grant, and/or faculty workload grant; one-year or renewable. [Proposals from teams may request more than one kind of grant.]
4. Letters of commitment from all community organizations detailing their role(s) in all phases of the social justice TDR project.
5. Proposed timeline of research activities and outcomes including:
 - a. Description of how proposed project will address the Consortium's faculty research outcomes and expectations (attached). This section should address the following: A publication submission and/or a presentation in Year 2 and (if relevant for proposed time frame) Year 3 at a local, regional, national, or international forum;
 - b. Plan for seeking additional internal or external support for the proposal, as appropriate. (see attached fellowship outcomes and expectations in definitions)
6. 2-page bibliography of sources to be employed.
7. 2-page CV on each participant (not included in page limit, but may not exceed 2 pages).

Proposals should be submitted electronically from January 15-31, 2017, to transdisciplinary@louisville.edu. For more information, contact co-PI's Prof. Enid Trucios-Haynes at ethaynes@louisville.edu or Prof. Cate Fosl at cfosl@louisville.edu. Proposals will be judged by a selection committee of the Consortium's Lead Partner Working Group, and at least one info session will take place in early January for those seeking clarification on guidelines.

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Definitions

1. **Social Justice:** Our definition of social justice relies on scholars such as Linda Martin Alcoff and Derrick Bell who conceptualize how systems activate and reinforce inequality. The Consortium’s conception of social justice is substantive, interactional, distributive, and grounded in rights movements of the past century. The research supported here seeks to achieve some specific conditions: freedom; the advancement of anti-discrimination law and policies; the promotion of empathy as a means of disrupting the impact of exclusion on communities of color, other historically excluded groups, and the economically disadvantaged; substantive and equitable access to societal and economic resources, such as housing, education, and health care; and a balance of individual liberty with the common good, which means that systematic inequalities must be eliminated for the general welfare of society.
2. **Transdisciplinary Research:** An expanded definition of transdisciplinarity and its distinction from multi-disciplinarity or interdisciplinarity can be found at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17330451>. We use these terms in the sense noted in the article: “Multi-disciplinarity draws on knowledge from different disciplines but stays within their boundaries. Interdisciplinarity analyzes, synthesizes, and harmonizes links between disciplines into a coordinated and coherent whole. Transdisciplinarity integrates the natural, social, and health sciences in a humanities context, and transcends their traditional boundaries” to create new forms of knowledge, typically developed with community practitioners. Projects that incorporate arts or humanities elements into other kinds of research include, for example, photovoice methodologies combined with health science research; students’ personal narratives woven into social sciences research that examines educational inequities; or public policy research that includes theatrical representation of its findings.
1. **Contributing Partners:** Seven colleges and schools enabled the Consortium with iRFP matching funds. These include the Brandeis School of Law, the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Education & Human Development, Kent School of Social Work, School of Nursing, School of Public Health & Informational Science, and School of Medicine. Within some larger units, departments also contributed matching funds: these include the Departments of Early Childhood Education, Middle and Secondary Education, Anthropology, Communication, Criminal Justice, History, English, Fine Arts, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychological & Brain Sciences, Pan-African Studies, Sociology, Theatre Arts, and Women’s and Gender Studies. Other University contributors include the HSC Office of Diversity and Health Affairs, the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice within the Vice Provost’s Office for Diversity and International Affairs, and the Vice President’s Office of Community Engagement. A Lead Partner Working Group acts as a steering committee for the Consortium, consisting of the A&S Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, the Brandeis Laboratory (Law), the HSC Office of Diversity, the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice, and the Office of Public Health Practice.
3. **Social Justice Areas of Focus for Funding:**
 - a. Community Justice: emphasizes issues of housing justice and restorative justice (including school-to-prison pipeline, mass criminalization);
 - b. Environmental Justice;

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- c. Emerging Social Justice Issues - providing an opportunity to respond to current social justice issues arising locally, nationally, or globally, such as and including health equity;
 - d. Social Justice in West Louisville.
4. **Other Funding Priorities:** Priority will be given to research teams and projects that a) are part of units and departments that contributed iRFP matching funds; and b) reflect internal diversity consistent with UofL's statement on diversity in the University community: <http://louisville.edu/diversity/about-us>. We also encourage proposals that incorporate arts and humanities activities into social science and health research.
5. **Funding Periods:** Year 1=January 1-December 31, 2017
Year 2=January 1-December 31, 2018
Year 3=January 1-December 31, 2019
6. **Research Fellowship Outcomes and Expectations:**
 - a. Fellows will participate in a network of scholar-activists dedicated to identifying new solutions to intransigent problems of social inequality.
 - b. Fellows will function as the lead manager of their project and have primary responsibility to build or expand a transdisciplinary research team.
 - c. Fellows agree to develop the research project in such a way that it will lead to a publication submission and/or a presentation in Year 2 at a local, regional, national, or international forum. This work would be done with the support of CCTSJR faculty and staff, Graduate and Undergraduate Fellows, as well as a broader faculty/student research network.
 - d. Fellows agree to develop the research project in such a way that it will (if appropriate to funding schedule) lead to a new publication submission and/or another presentation in Year 3 at a local, regional, national, or international forum.
 - e. Fellows will provide semi-annual reports of:
 - Progress on funded research;
 - Progress toward Y2 & Y3 publication and/or presentation requirements;
 - An accounting of the use of fellowship support (direct grant or course buy-out time).
 - f. Before the end of each funded year, each team must submit a detailed annual report that includes evidence of community benefit, student benefits, identified opportunities for external funding, (as appropriate), and plans for sustaining or completing the project.
 - g. Fellows agree to participate in the creation and support of a social justice research community including, but not limited to:
 - Working on/participating in an annual symposium; or
 - Leading a discussion on their research project at one of the regularly organized meetings of faculty, students, and community partners engaged in social justice transdisciplinary research (e.g., periodic meetings of researchers and others interested in each topical area); or
 - Mentoring faculty, students, and community partners engaged in social justice research and community engagement experiences.