

Call for Applications
2015-2016 FISHER CENTER PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
Gender, Climate, and the Anthropocene

In keeping with the Fisher Center's mission of supporting research and dialogue about gender through curricular, programmatic, and scholarly projects, the Fisher Center Steering Committee announces a call for applications for our 2015-2016 Fisher Center Pre-doctoral Fellowship. We seek dissertation scholars and advanced candidates for the MFA whose work critically engages the terms of our theme, Gender, Climate, and the Anthropocene. We are especially interested in candidates who would contribute to the diversity of the campus.

Theme:

Since atmospheric chemist Paul Crutzen popularized the term in 2000, the "anthropocene" has become a political marker, designating the epoch in which human actions began to have geologic impact. Climate change, with its potentially catastrophic consequences for earthly life, is posing the question of the anthropocene with increasing urgency. For many scholars and activists, the idea of the "anthropocene" necessarily explodes disciplinary boundaries, demonstrating the ways these boundaries themselves may be implicated in the production and maintenance of systems with devastating planetary impact. Colonization, urbanization, and industrialization effect changes in the chemical composition of the atmosphere, oceans, and soils. They result in habitat loss, mass extinctions, and species invasions. Geological, political, and economic histories are intertwined and thus require practices of knowledge attuned to complexity.

For 2015-2016, the Fisher Center for the Study of Women and Men will investigate the gendered dimensions of the anthropocene. With its direct announcement of "anthro," is the concept of the "anthropocene" a vehicle for gender analysis? In what ways does patriarchy continue to function in the interior of the anthropocene? Does the concept challenge or reinforce metaphors of a feminine earth penetrated and abuse by masculine technologies, sciences, and ideologies? How do gendered inequalities support the systems driving climate change and how could attending to these and other inequalities be part of a climate politics?

Does the anthropocene provide a productive way for approaching our planetary future? What bodies, capacities, and subjectivities are associated with what visions of the future? In artistic and literary engagements with the anthropocene (such as speculative fiction, afro-futurism, young adult dystopias), how do stabilizations and destabilization of gender inflect visions of embodiment, capacity, futurity, and limits? What dark ecologies and sacrifice zones shape inequality in the anthropocene? What specific patterns of raced, gendered, and disqualified life are already being inscribed through the geopolitics of the anthropocene to naturalize extinction, demarcate permissible violence, and authorize expropriation? How do waste, depletion, and mass extinction reconfigure conceptions and experiences of gender tied to the reproduction of the species? How do contemporary survivalism, neo-primitivism, and neo-feudalism mirror or repeat the practices of abandonment, enclosure, and fortification characteristic of the elite responses to the climate crisis?

Over the course of the year, we will consider where we are geologically as a species. How are our surroundings, our environments, our living spaces, adapting to us or even fighting back? What is the world that the species is creating? What visions of habitation, mobility, adaptation, and resilience does the anthropocene incite and how are these being imagined in art, architecture, universal design, environmental aesthetics, and urban planning under the conditions of a changing climate?

We also want to raise up the movements and creative responses crucial to politics in the anthropocene. What forms of feminist materialism, political economy, and political ecology are necessary for struggles in the anthropocene? How do culturally and historically specific understandings of gender enable forms of opposition to extractivism, settler colonialism, and land expropriation? How are international connections being forged in the infrastructure battles associated with fracking and fossil fuels? More specifically, how are victories in one location (France has banned fracking) accompanied by intensified exploitation elsewhere (Algeria is a new site of shale gas extraction and anti-fracking activism)? Hobart and William Smith Colleges' location on Seneca Lake gives us a unique perspective: Fractivists have achieved a fracking ban in New York State, while the lake itself continues to be the site of an intense struggle against LPG and methane storage. Consequently, the Fisher Center is interested in highlighting local activism as well as mapping the global terrain of the current struggle for climate justice.

Fellowship:

The fellowship offers an opportunity to gain experience teaching in a private liberal arts college while completing thesis work. It carries a stipend of \$35,000.00. Fellows teach one course per semester related to their research and the theme, attend Fisher Center lectures and meetings, make a public presentation, and assist with administration of Fisher Center programming. The pre-doctoral fellow participates in the Faculty Fellows Research Group. This group is comprised of interdisciplinary scholars who meet twice a month to discuss their research as related to the year's theme.

Eligibility

Pre-doctoral candidates nearing completion of the dissertation and MFA candidates who have completed their coursework and are beginning work on their thesis are encouraged to apply.

Application

To apply, submit a one-page description of scholarship, a short statement on teaching interests, up-to-date curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and a writing sample (such as a chapter from the dissertation). MFA candidates should submit a supplemental video or portfolio if relevant. Screening of applications will begin on March 30, 2015 and will continue until the position is filled. Completed applications should be sent to: Jodi Dean, Director, The Fisher Center for the Study of Women and Men, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456. Applications and inquiries may also be sent to jdean@hws.edu. Information about the Fisher Center can be found on our web site: http://www.hws.edu/academics/fisher_center.

HWS Colleges

Hobart and William Smith Colleges are committed to attracting and supporting faculty and staff that fully represent the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the nation and actively seek applications from under-represented groups. The Colleges do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or any other protected status. HWS Colleges are a highly selective residential liberal arts institution located in a small, diverse city in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. With an enrollment of approximately 2,200, the Colleges offer 62 majors and minors from which students choose two areas of concentration, one of which must be an interdisciplinary program. Creative and extensive programs of international study and public service are also at the core of the Colleges' mission.