

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP**

**Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
Wednesday, June 8 to Sunday, June 12, 2016**

SPRING 2016 WORKSHOP AGENDA

This agenda is for the first of two workshops that have been designed to help you and other students prepare cogent and fundable dissertation research proposals. The goal of the spring workshop is to help clarify your research project's questions and scope as well as to better prepare you for a productive summer predissertation research experience.

Your participation at both workshops will primarily take place in the *core* and *methods* groups to which you have been assigned. Your core group is your primary group and will address your dissertation proposal overall while your methods group will focus on your approach to conducting the research that you will undertake this summer and will propose for your longer-term dissertation research.

The fall workshop will enable you to build on your spring workshop and summer experiences to prepare dissertation research proposals.

ASSIGNMENTS (IN ORDER OF DEADLINE)

1. **Deadline, May 29th: Complete the DPDF Workbook**
Complete the DPDF Workbook in its entirety and upload it to the documents area within *both* your core *and* methods group sections on the DPDF Workspace. Instructions on how to complete the workbook are located within the document itself.

2. **Deadline, June 8th: Prepare Detailed Comments on One Core Group Member's Workbook Responses to Present in a Workshop Session**
You are asked to review one of your core group member's completed workbook and write up constructive comments about how the workbook responses could be clarified or strengthened as they work toward developing a draft proposal. By May 29th, your core group faculty facilitator will post to the Workspace which group member you will be assigned to review and present.

In developing your comments, please pay particular attention to any issues on which your colleague has requested assistance. During the workshop (in Core Group Sessions 2 or 3), you will be asked to present a summary of your comments and explain the logic behind your suggestions to begin a group discussion of your colleague's work. Please write up your comments and post them to your core group's discussion forum after the presentation.

3. **Deadline, June 8th: Critically Read All Other Core Group Members' Workbook Responses**
Read the workbooks of all of your other core group members and prepare at least two suggestions that you think can clarify or strengthen each member's dissertation project, as described in their responses to the workbook prompts. Pay particular attention to any issues on which your colleagues have requested assistance. Be prepared to discuss your comments during the workshop discussions of your colleagues' workbook responses in Core Group Sessions 2 and 3. Please post this feedback to your core group's Workspace forum before the end of the spring workshop, preferably as a reply to the assigned presenter's original post for your colleagues.

4. **Deadline, June 8th: Prepare Comments on One Methods Group Member's Methodological Approaches**

You are asked to review and prepare constructive comments about one of your methods group member's research plans as outlined in their workbook responses. By May 29th, your methods group faculty facilitator will post to the Workspace which group member you will be assigned to review and present.

While it will be helpful to review your colleague's entire Workbook for context, we ask you to direct your focus to Workbook Sections 3, 4, and 5. Pay particular attention to any issues on which your colleague has requested assistance. You will present your comments to your methods group during the workshop (Methods Group Sessions 1 and 2, below.)

5. **Deadline, June 8th: Evaluate All Other Methods Group Members' Methodological Approaches**

Read and be prepared to discuss the methodological choices of your other methods group members' research plans as outlined in their respective workbooks. While it will be helpful to review your colleagues' entire workbooks for context, we ask you to direct your focus to Workbook Sections 3, 4, and 5. Pay particular attention to any issues on which your colleagues have requested assistance.

6. **Deadline, June 8th: Talk with Your Advisor about Your Project's Disciplinary Roots**

Discuss with your advisor the disciplinary expectations and intended contributions of your proposed dissertation project. In what ways does your department expect your dissertation to conform to disciplinary standards and traditions? How important does your advisor believe your dissertation's contributions to your discipline will be in shaping your future career options? What does your advisor hope (or fear) you might get from the workshops' interdisciplinary perspectives? Please prepare notes summarizing this conversation, as we may ask you about this conversation in your post-workshop evaluation.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Note: Please refer to the workshop's Schedule of Events for a list of all event and session locations.

Wednesday, June 8th

6 to 9 p.m.: **Welcome Reception and Dinner**

Thursday, June 9th

9 to 10:30 a.m.: **Plenary Session:
Interdisciplinarity in the Humanities and Social Sciences**

To help clarify the implications of the interdisciplinary approach of this workshop, this introductory plenary session will explore differences in disciplinary orientations and the constraints and possibilities they pose for research at the dissertation stage and beyond. To do so, we have asked some of the faculty facilitators to participate in a roundtable and reflect on contemporary questions concerning challenges and benefits of researching, writing, and teaching across disciplines. We will reserve time for a question and answer period.

10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **Core Group Session #1:
Introductions and Disciplinary Orientations**

In this first session within your core group, you will introduce yourselves and your proposed dissertation projects. In doing so, we ask that you draw upon the earlier plenary session, your own graduate education, and the assigned conversation with your advisor to describe how you came to choose both

your discipline and your dissertation topic. How do you hope that the perspectives of other disciplines might help you further develop your chosen topic?

**2 to 5 p.m.: Core Group Session #2:
Workbook Response Critique Sessions**

Your core group members will start discussing one another's workbook responses during this session. Your faculty facilitator will determine the order for discussion. Four of your peers' dissertation projects will be discussed in this session and the remaining four will be discussed in the following session.

Each fellow's workbook responses will be discussed for 40 minutes:

- The assigned commentator will have 10 minutes to present a summary and suggestions on the colleague's responses.
- The floor will be opened for 20 minutes of group discussion.
- The workbook's author will have 5 minutes to ask any clarifying questions or briefly respond to any comments.
- The faculty facilitator will use the last 5 minutes to provide a summary of the discussion and concluding remarks.

Friday, June 10th

**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Core Group Session #3:
Workbook Response Critique Sessions, Continued**

The remaining four fellows' workbook responses will be discussed in the same manner as in the previous session.

2 to 4 p.m.: Plenary Session on Digital Approaches to Data Curation

This session will include a presentation by Trevor Muñoz, Associate Director of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities and Assistant Dean for Digital Humanities Research at the University of Maryland Libraries. Muñoz will discuss strategies for data management and curation, a timely topic as you prepare for your summer research.

Following this session, we will end the day early with some refreshments.

Saturday, June 11th

**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Methods Group Session #1:
Discussion of Challenges and Strategies**

In this first session within your methods group, briefly introduce yourselves and your proposed dissertation projects. Your methods group members will then discuss one another's methodological choices and dissertation research plans, both summer and long term, as outlined in their workbooks. Your faculty facilitator will determine the order for discussion. Four of your groups' workbooks will be discussed in this session and the remaining four will be discussed in the following session.

Each fellow's workbook responses will be discussed for roughly 30 minutes:

- The assigned commentator will have 5 to 10 minutes to present a summary and suggestions on the colleague's responses.
- The floor will be opened for 10-15 minutes of group discussion.
- The workbook's author will have up to 5 minutes to ask any clarifying questions or briefly respond to any comments.

- The faculty facilitator will have up to 5 minutes to provide a summary of the discussion and concluding remarks.

Facilitators will use additional time during the session to discuss common challenges and issues as they relate to their group's research approaches.

**2 to 5 p.m.: Methods Group Session #2:
Discussion of Challenges and Strategies, Continued**

The remaining four fellows' methodological approaches will be discussed in the same manner as in the previous session. As in the first session, facilitators will use additional time during the session to discuss common challenges and issues as they relate to their group's research approaches.

Sunday, June 12th

**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Core Group Session #4:
Expectations and Goals for the Summer and Fall**

In this session, you will reconvene with your core group and reflect on what you have learned from the suggestions and perhaps the challenges raised in your core and methods group discussions. Did you find any common threads of critique on your project from your peers? What are your next steps in addressing the feedback you received? Also, how might you modify your summer research plans based on this feedback to better obtain information needed to develop your draft dissertation proposal later this summer?

Faculty facilitators will outline expectations for communication and written summer updates among fellows, and will work with fellows to determine groupings for exchanging written updates during the summer research period. Facilitators will also discuss protocol for fellows as they write and comment on draft proposals in the online peer review platform prior to the fall workshop, as well as the nature of discussions that will take place during the fall workshop.