

November 5, 2020

Dear Colleagues and Graduate Students:

I write to encourage you to apply for a position as a Faculty or Graduate Fellow at the Center for Cultural Analysis for 2021-2022. We will devote our annual seminar to the topic: "The Commons." Please read the following pages and consider joining us for what promises to be an exciting year.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact us at 848-932-7750 or admin@cca.rutgers.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Jager", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Colin Jager

Director
Center for Cultural Analysis
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15 Seminary Place
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New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Center for Cultural Analysis

Call for Applications, 2021-2022

The Commons

Running through human history like a red utopian thread, the Commons promises a world in which there is enough for all. In the middle ages, the Commons referred to land that was held and managed in common within a particular community. In our age of the Anthropocene, the thought of the Commons has found new life in work ranging from the revived Marxism of the Midnight Notes Collective and the Occupy movement to the economic theories of Elinor Ostrom and the fugitive spaces of Harney and Moten's Undercommons. Theorists turn to the Commons to imagine a world that is prior to or outside of private property, one in which natural resources can be managed and social lives governed without regulation by the state. The Commons has also expanded to include such ideas as the "knowledge commons," the "urban commons," the "digital commons," and the "black commons." This CCA seminar aims to explore the conceptual resources of the Commons for us today: after decades of privatization, what life remains in notions of the common good, of shared property, and of the benefits of cooperation? What historical examples can we draw on and learn from? What can we glean from social-scientific and philosophical modeling of cooperation and altruism? What is the conceptual grounding of a theory of the Commons now?

The seminar, led by Meredith McGill (English) and Colin Jager (English and CCA), will meet approximately once every two weeks for three hours on Wednesday afternoons over the course of the 2021-22 academic year. We will read and discuss scholarship related to our topic, and members will circulate and present work-in-progress. In addition, distinguished guests will visit the seminar to discuss current projects and share insights and expertise.

Structure of Awards and Application Procedure

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty members may apply for a fellowship in connection with the annual theme of “The Commons.” The CCA will grant up to five faculty fellowships awarded in connection with the seminar, in the form of a course-release in either the Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 semester (course-releases are supported by funding for instructional replacement arranged through the Fellow’s department and paid by CCA, generally at the amount of \$5000). Faculty who will hold other fellowships (NEH, Guggenheim, sabbatical, etc.) are not eligible to receive funded fellowships from the CCA, but faculty who will be on fellowship or sabbatical may apply to be appointed as unfunded fellows. Applications from regular, full-time faculty members should be submitted for approval to their department chairs, who will in turn forward completed applications to the CCA. Department chairs must indicate their willingness to accept the terms of support for a course release. Chairs may support more than one application.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Five graduate student fellowships will be awarded by the CCA to students who are in the process of writing their dissertations (i.e. coursework has been completed). Graduate Fellowships grant \$23,000 and tuition remission for up to 3 research credits per semester for the year. Graduate Fellows will be expected to attend all events related to the main seminar and to participate actively in the public functions of the CCA. Graduate Fellows may not hold any other teaching positions, long-term fellowships, or administrative appointments during their CCA year. However, students who will hold other year-long fellowships may apply to be appointed as unfunded Fellows, provided their application clearly indicates the relevance of the seminar topic to their dissertation work. Graduate Fellowships will ordinarily be awarded only to students who have received 5 or fewer years of funding from Rutgers University at the time of application. Students who have already received 6 or more years of support may apply if the seminar theme is particularly suited to their dissertation projects, but they will require a waiver from SAS to take up the CCA Fellowship.

Fellows will have access to the resources of the CCA and staff support, within the limits allowable by the CCA’s budget.

PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION

Faculty and graduate students should submit application forms to department chairs/graduate directors no later than Friday December 4, 2020 (see deadlines below). The application package must include:

- 1) Letter of Application (2-3 single-spaced pages)

- 2) Information Form (see pages 4-5 below)
- 3) Brief Project Abstract (250-400 words)
- 4) Curriculum Vitae
- 5) **GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY:** 2 Letters of Recommendation

Applications for Graduate Fellowships should be forwarded first to the appropriate graduate director, then on to CCA.

Applications from regular, full-time faculty members should be submitted for approval to their department chairs, who will in turn forward completed applications to the CCA. Department chairs must indicate their willingness to accept the terms of support for a course release. Chairs may support more than one application.

All applications will be evaluated by a subcommittee of the CCA's Executive Committee that includes the faculty directors of the annual seminar.

DEADLINES

Friday, December 4, 2020: Faculty members and graduate students should submit their applications to Chairpersons or Directors (or Deans, if no departmental structure exists).

Friday, December 11, 2020: Chairs and Directors should submit all endorsed applications to the CCA.

For ease of submission, each complete, endorsed application packet must be sent as a single PDF file to admin@cca.rutgers.edu.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020: All applicants will receive email acknowledgments for received applications. If you do not receive an email acknowledgment, please contact us.

Monday, February 8, 2021: Selections will be made, and successful candidates will be informed by email. Formal letters to all applicants will follow.

If you have any questions, please call us at 848-932-7750 or send an email to admin@cca.rutgers.edu.

CCA Fellowship Information Form

Faculty or Graduate Student (please check one)

Full Name:

Email Address:

Department:

Department Address:

Department Phone:

Home Address:

Home/Cell Phone:

[GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY]

Year of Matriculation:

I have finished coursework and am working on the dissertation: YES or NO

How many years of graduate student support (fellowships or TA-ships) have you received from Rutgers University (excluding grants and fellowships from outside funding agencies)?

Administrative Endorsements

Department Chair Graduate Director

I endorse this application:

I do not endorse this application:

Please print your name here

Please print your name here

Please sign here

Please sign here

Date

In endorsing this application, department chairs are signifying not only that the candidate's application is meritorious, but also that the department is willing to accept the terms of support for course release.