DEMOCRACY: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry (FCHI) seeks applications for its President’s Humanities Fellowship program for tenured faculty. The program will host one fellow whose work advances our Center’s annual theme Democracy: Past, Present, Future. President’s Humanities Fellows will be released from their University teaching and service commitments for the academic year. The fellows will enjoy an FCHI office, participate in a weekly interdisciplinary seminar, help plan FCHI programming (a Spring conference or workshop on the annual theme), and participate in the life of the Center. Fellowships are for a period of ten months, August 1, 2024–May 31, 2025.

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How do the Humanities help us examine and understand Democracy? In a time of intensified political unrest across the globe our theme invites research projects that interrogate the shifting contours of democracy and struggles surrounding democratic values and rights in societies past, present, and future. In the U.S. 2024 marks the one-hundred-year anniversary of 1924 Indian Citizenship Act and Immigration Act, the sixty-year anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and a presidential election. Around the world debates around the future of democracy and the rise of fascism abound. How can humanistic inquiry help us critically examine these pressing questions?

Democracy is measured, on one hand, by the state of political institutions and governance practices: policies, elections, legal apparatus, and judicial mechanisms. At the same time, art, education, and public cultures provide spaces where democratic belonging and freedom are actively and creatively shaped by people through debate, dissent, representation, and dialogue.

We invite scholars whose research interests are resonant with such a panoramic view of democracy as shaped and transformed by a variety of forces. We especially welcome projects investigating the theme across international contexts and/or through interdisciplinary approaches cutting across the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

We envision that fellows may pursue research on a range of historical, contemporary, social, cultural, literary, and philosophical questions about democracy, including but not limited to:

- How are the interests of and issues faced by minority communities addressed within contemporary democratic discourses?
- What are the racialized, gendered and sexual imaginaries that govern both dominant and counter-hegemonic cultural productions that subvert democratic politics?
- What forms does political resistance take under eroding conditions of democracy?
- How do literary works reconfigure our sense of life and agency under conditions of political violence?
- How do we analyze the psycho-social imperatives of totalitarian regimes, and how is collective memory, trauma, affect and identity deployed within such political formations?
- In the age of transnational capital flows, how do the global migration crises call into question the state-centered understandings of democratic citizenship?

The Fox Center invites applications from faculty who are eager to be part of a community of scholars engaged in a broad range of conversations on Democracy in an interdisciplinary setting. The President’s Humanities Fellow is required to be in residence for the term of the fellowship. The fellow will participate in the Fox Center’s weekly Research Seminar (Wednesdays 12–1:30 pm), presenting their research at one of these meetings. The fellow will also collaborate in the planning of Fox Center programming and participate in professional development sessions.

Currently the President’s Humanities Fellow Program is limited to faculty who are already tenured at Emory. Eligibility is contingent upon leave history as well as the merits of the proposal. Previous funding or released time for a related project may be taken into consideration when the application is reviewed. Faculty are expected to return to Emory after the fellowship and be in residence for three consecutive years.

Apply at fchi.emory.edu/home/fellowships