



ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) invites nominations of new and recent PhDs to a new program supporting early career scholars in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. At a time of economic downturn and uncertainty in academe, this program seeks to identify and assist a vanguard of scholars whose voices, perspectives, and broad visions will strengthen institutions of higher education and humanistic disciplines in the years to come.

The Emerging Voices Fellowship will allow new and recent PhDs in the humanities and related social sciences to take up 1-year positions at participating institutions in ACLS's Research University Consortium beginning in August/September 2020. The program will provide a \$60,000 stipend plus benefits as well as \$5,000 in research/professional development funding, childcare or elder care costs, and access to ACLS professional development resources. Up to 40 fellowships will be available for a fall semester 2020 start date. We anticipate running a second competition this coming academic year for placements that will begin in fall 2021.

This program is unusual in its commitment to moving very quickly to support emerging scholars during a time when much is unknown. Because potential host institutions are still working on plans for the academic year 2020-21, we must open the call for nominations in advance of identifying specific posts. While institutions select nominees, we will work with host institutions to finalize the list of posts and related details. We expect to offer finalist candidates the opportunity to express preference for posts and possibly to supplement their applications with post-specific material at a later stage in the process. We also expect to offer host institutions the opportunity to interview finalists.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of everyone involved – candidates, faculty, and administrators – as we design in consultation a new competition that is fair, easy to navigate, and responsive to evolving conditions. We will share information with nominees, nominating institutions, and host institutions as it becomes available. We will post information related to this program on our website and update it regularly.

ACLS invites all institutions in the U.S. that grant the PhD in disciplines in the humanities and related social sciences to nominate up to four candidates each.* Candidates will not be permitted to hold Emerging Voices Fellowships at their PhD-granting institution. Given the uncertainty of travel and campus plans, we anticipate that work will be remote for the academic year 2020-21.



Eligibility criteria:

Applicants must

- Have a PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences conferred between January 1, 2018 and August 1, 2020;
- Have authorization to work in the United States for the duration of the position; neither ACLS nor the host university is able to sponsor visas in this short time frame;
- Be nominated for this fellowship by the university where they received the PhD

Nominators should know that priority in the review process will be given to nominated applicants

- Who show promise of making the humanities meaningful to non-specialist audiences
- Who come from diverse backgrounds including historically underrepresented groups such as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian or Alaskan Native communities, and people with disabilities
- Who have experience or show promise of leadership in institutional contexts or within their disciplines or interdisciplinary area of study

Nominating deans will be invited to submit a list of up to four nominees. ACLS will notify candidates and request them to submit application materials.

Nominators should take into account that this program seeks to sustain emerging scholars who are “both-and”: who are both outstanding scholars and effective communicators to diverse audiences inside and/or outside the classroom. We will ask nominated candidates to describe their potential contribution to programmatic needs in their disciplinary or interdisciplinary field or area: specifically, how they use the classroom as a vehicle to attract students to humanistic study and research, and how they approach inclusive online teaching. We will also ask nominated candidates to choose from a list of programs and initiatives and explain their relevant experience and potential contribution. This list, which we are currently developing in dialogue with potential host institutions, includes but is not limited to programs and initiatives such as race and ethnicity studies, premodern studies, digital humanities, public humanities, medical humanities, environmental humanities, and community-engaged research.

To submit a nomination, please send names, PhD field, PhD date, and current e-mail address for up to four eligible PhDs from your institution to emergingvoices@acsl.org. Questions may be sent to the same address.

Please submit all nominations no later than 5 pm on Wednesday June 10, 2020.



In the week following the nomination deadline, ACLS will ask nominees to submit to our portal a CV, demographic information, dissertation abstract, and a detailed cover letter (maximum 2 pages).

Candidates will also request a letter to be submitted by the nominating dean through the ACLS application portal. This letter may draw on internal letters of reference by, e.g., the faculty adviser or the departmental director of graduate studies. The dean will also be asked to identify their nominees' potential suitability for particular departments, programs, and/or initiatives.

All materials will be submitted via ACLS's online fellowship application system and submitted applications will be evaluated through peer review based on the priorities noted above.

* For the purpose of this competition, the humanities and related social sciences include but are not limited to American studies; anthropology; archaeology; art and architectural history; classics; economics; ethnic studies; film; gender studies; geography; history; languages and literatures; legal studies; linguistics; musicology; philosophy; political science; psychology (excluding clinical or counseling psychology); religious studies; rhetoric, communication, and media studies; sociology; and theater, dance, and performance studies. PhDs in social science fields are eligible only if they employ predominantly humanistic approaches (e.g., economic history, law and literature, political philosophy, history of psychology).