

Center for Cultural Analysis Call for Projects 2010-2011

August 10, 2009

Dear Colleagues and Graduate Students:

I write to urge you to apply for a CCA fellowship for 2010-2011. Rutgers faculty may apply for fellowships in affiliation with the main seminar, *The Everyday and the Ordinary*, but may also propose to organize and administer a working group on another topic. Rutgers graduate students should apply for fellowships in connection with *The Everyday and the Ordinary* but are encouraged to participate in all other programs.

The Everyday and the Ordinary

For its 2010-11 program, the Center for Cultural Analysis invites research proposals on topics related to the everyday and the ordinary. A longstanding interest of many disciplines, including history, art history, anthropology, sociology and philosophy, as well as literary and cultural studies, the everyday and the ordinary have enjoyed a conceptual resurgence in recent years. For some theorists, everydayness holds out what may be the last promise for genuine democracy and solidarity not just between individuals but also between people and the environment. For others, everyday activity remains a productive site of resistance to repressive social formations, especially for those who are otherwise disempowered. And for others still, the everyday constitutes what Henri Lefebvre (after Marx) flatly terms "the irreducible core of appearances" in a world that has "been torn away from us" under capitalism. As perhaps the last refuge, then, for a politics and an ecology unassailable on moral grounds, especially in a world consumed by globalization and imperia of various kinds, the everyday is as remote or anterior as it is close at hand and a template for the future. Accordingly, we are very much interested in "our" everyday or the ordinary toward which we increasingly incline—from green and locavore initiatives to the virtual or cyber world that both mimics and collapses the alienation that everydayness has been mobilized to oppose. We are also interested in how the everyday has evolved or has been conceived over time and across cultures, both in art and in scholarly and disciplinary practice. We are particularly concerned with a paradox central to most considerations of the everyday and the ordinary: namely, how something so close and omnipresent is invariably conceived as something strange or, quoting Stanley Cavell, as "the extraordinariness within the ordinariness of our lives." Proposals are invited from the many disciplines concerned with this topic.

STRUCTURE OF AWARDS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Faculty members may apply for a fellowship in connection with the annual theme, "The Everyday and the Ordinary." They may also apply to start a working group at the CCA on another topic. All faculty fellowships awarded in connection with "The Everyday and the Ordinary" will carry one course reduction. Leaders of new working groups may be awarded a course reduction, if funding permits.

- A) **Main Seminar Fellows:** To apply for a fellowship in "The Everyday and the Ordinary" working group, submit a statement of your interest in the topic and its relation to your own research. Please also submit a curriculum vitae and a short description of an undergraduate or graduate course you are interested in developing in connection with the seminar theme. (This should be a course you can envision teaching in your home department as a product of your participation in "The Everyday and the Ordinary" seminar.)

- B) **New Working Groups:** If you are applying to begin a new working group, you may apply individually or in collaboration with a colleague. Working groups should meet every 2-3 weeks for discussion of readings and exchange of work in progress. Applicants for new working groups should describe (1) a topic of concentration, together with (2) names of colleagues (preferably across departmental lines) who are interested in participating, as well as (3) names of outstanding scholars in other institutions who might be invited to visit, and scholars in nearby institutions who might be invited to participate regularly; (4) a public event such as a one-day conference or symposium, to be planned by the group in consultation with the CCA director; (5) curriculum vitae for each applicant who will serve as a working group leader.

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

CCA will grant up to eight internal faculty fellowships (categories A and B above, each providing one course reduction) among the approved working groups. The Center will provide coadjutant funding at an approved level for instructional replacement arranged through the Fellow's department. Although exceptions in rare circumstances may be made, the full CCA fellowship is not available to candidates who accept other fellowships. Applications from regular, full-time faculty members should be forwarded through department chairs, and then to the Center. Department chairpersons must signify on the application form their willingness to accept the terms of support for course release.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Five graduate student fellowships will be awarded by CCA to students who are in the process of writing their dissertations. Graduate Fellowships grant \$18,000 and tuition remission for the year. Graduate Fellows will be expected to participate actively in at least one working group, and to attend all public functions of the Center. In addition, the graduate fellows will meet as an autonomous work-in-progress group.

All Fellows will have access to the resources of the Center—including fax, Xerox, telephone, and staff support—within the limits allowable by the Center budget.

PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION

Faculty and graduate students should submit application forms to department chairs/graduate directors no later than November 30, 2009.

The application package must include 4 single-stapled copies of:

- * a letter of application (2-3 single-spaced pages);
- * an information form (attached, and available for download on the Center website);
- * a brief project abstract (250-400 words);
- * a curriculum vitae;
- * a course description related to the Center's main seminar (faculty only)
- * two letters of recommendation (graduate students only);

Applications from regular, full-time faculty members should be forwarded through department chairs, and then to the Center. [See deadlines below.] Department chairpersons must signify on the application form their willingness to accept the terms of support for course release. Applications for CCA Graduate Fellowships should be forwarded through the appropriate graduate director, and then to CCA. [See deadlines below.]

Applications will be judged by the Executive Committee of the Center. All decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

DEADLINES

Monday, November 30, 2009: Faculty members and graduate students should submit their applications to Chairpersons or Directors (or Deans, where no department structure exists).

Monday, December 7, 2009: Chairpersons or Directors should submit all endorsed applications to CCA, 8 Bishop Place, CAC, for circulation to the selection committee.

Monday, December 14, 2009: Applicants will receive emailed acknowledgments for received applications.

Monday, February 1, 2010: Selections will be made and successful candidates informed by telephone. Formal letters to all applicants will follow.

To contact CCA, call 732-932-8426, or write to CCA, Internal Fellowships, 8 Bishop Place, College Avenue Campus, or email us at info@cca.rutgers.edu. Applications are also available to download at <http://cca.rutgers.edu>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: If you have not received acknowledgment of your application by December 14, 2009, please email Curtis Dunn at info@cca.rutgers.edu or call at 732-932-8426.

2009-10 CCA Fellowship Information Form

1. Graduate O or Faculty O

2. Full Name:

3. Department:

4. Department Address:

5. Department Phone:

6. Email Address:

7. Home Address:

8. Home/Cell Phone:

9. Professional Positions, beginning with present (faculty only):

Dates

Institution

Position

10. Fellowships, grants, leaves of absence:

Dates

Type

Comments

11. Administrative Endorsements

Department Chair/Graduate Director (circle appropriate response and sign):

I endorse this application:

I do not endorse this application:

(Please sign and print name)

(Please sign and print name)

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.