

December 11, 2023

Dear Rutgers Faculty Colleagues and Graduate Students:

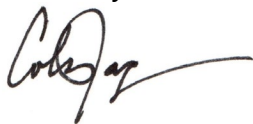
I write to encourage you to apply for a position as a Faculty or Graduate Fellow at the Center for Cultural Analysis for 2024-2025. Fellows meet regularly around a yearly theme; next year is the second of a two-year project devoted to sound. Our theme will "Resonance: Sound Across the Disciplines." The seminar will explore how resonance, as both an immaterial concept and an embodied experience, shapes our engagement with space and identity, and reverberates across the arts, literature, music, science, architecture, political life, and technology.

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 8 pm**. Endorsed applications must be received by CCA by this time; please plan accordingly in order to give chairs and graduate directors time to endorse the application and forward it to us.

Please read the following pages and consider joining us for what promises to be an exciting year.

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

Sincerely,



Colin Jager

Director  
Center for Cultural Analysis  
Rutgers Academic Building  
15 Seminary Place  
Sixth Floor, West Wing  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

# Center for Cultural Analysis

Call for Applications, 2024-2025

## *Resonance: Sound Across the Disciplines*

Sound Studies is an emerging interdisciplinary field that draws on musicology, ethnomusicology, performance studies, media studies, anthropology, gender studies, literary studies, ethnic and indigenous studies, religion, animal studies, classics, and philosophy. It has been especially hospitable to Black scholars with expertise in orature and other performance traditions.

Chaired by Professors Carter Mathes and Xiaojue Wang, this year's seminar will build on the 2023-2024 seminar, "Voice: Sound, Technology, Performance," by inviting scholars, artists, writers, and activists to consider how *resonance* might be understood as an imagined immateriality, an aural effect in the sonic field that, try as it might, cannot escape its materialization in bodily, architectural, environmental, and cultural concerns. In this context, we might wonder, for instance, about the discrete registers of sound obtaining to voice(s) raised and heard within natural and built soundscapes. How might resonance inflect the ways we interact with and understand our environments, our sense of place and belonging, and our communication with others? In what ways might echo, timbre, or pitch conjure personal or cultural memory? How do our environments, our bodies, and our objects of fixation resonate with sonority, noise, and semantic meaning? Together we will explore how sound, as a concept, an object, and an experience, resonates across the arts, sciences, writing, music, architecture, political life, and technology.

The seminar meets every two weeks for three hours on Wednesday afternoons over the course of the academic year. Distinguished guests will visit the seminar to discuss current projects and share insights and expertise. We will also read and discuss scholarship related to our topic, and members will circulate and present work-in-progress.

About the co-directors:

**Carter Mathes** is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Rutgers Advanced Institute for Critical Caribbean Studies. He is a specialist in African American Literature, Twentieth Century Literature, and African Diaspora Studies. His first book, *Imagine the Sound: Experimental African American Literature After Civil Rights* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015) focuses on the relationship between sound and literary innovation during the 1960s and 1970s. Currently, he is working on *Ecologies of Funk*, which examines formations of black radical thought in literature and music as they move between Jamaica and New Orleans during the second half of the twentieth century. He has published essays in venues including *Small Axe*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Callaloo*, and *African American Review*. He is associate editor of *Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture*, and book series co-editor of Critical Caribbean Studies (Rutgers University Press).

**Xiaojue Wang** is Associate Professor of Chinese Literature in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and Director of Graduate Studies in the Program in Comparative Literature. Her research interests are Chinese literature and culture from late imperial to contemporary periods, cultural Cold War studies in global Asias, Chinese-German intellectual connections, cultural memories, film and media studies, gender and sexuality, and comparative literature. She is the author of *Modernity with a Cold War Face*.

*Reimagining the Nation in Chinese Literature across the 1949 Divide* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2013), which examines the diverse, dynamic cultural practices in mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and overseas across the 1949 Chinese divide, and re-positions modern Chinese literature in the global context of the Cold War. Her work has also appeared in numerous Chinese-language journals including *Twenty-First Century*, *Modern Chinese Literature Studies*, *Dushu*, *Foreign Literature Review*, etc. She is the Chinese translator or co-translator of Jürgen Habermas' *Strukturwandel der Öffentlichkeit*, *Horkheimer Reader*, Andreas Huyssen's *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism*, and John Fiske's *Understanding Popular Culture*, among others.

# Structure of Awards and Application Procedure

## FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty members may apply for a fellowship in connection with the annual theme. The CCA will grant up to five faculty fellowships, in the form of a course-release in either the Fall or Spring semester (course-releases are supported by funding for instructional replacement arranged through the Fellow's department and paid by CCA). 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 \$25,000 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 Wednesday January 24, 2024 (see deadlines below). The application package must include:

- 1) CCA Fellowship Cover Page (see page 6 below)
- 2) Letter of Application (2-3 single-spaced pages)
- 3) Brief Project Abstract (250-400 words)
- 4) Curriculum Vitae
- 5) **GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY:** 2 Letters of Recommendation, emailed as PDF files directly from the recommender to the CCA: [admin@cca.rutgers.edu](mailto:admin@cca.rutgers.edu)  
Please indicate in your cover letter the names of your two recommenders.

Applications for Graduate Fellowships (excluding letters of recommendation) 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

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024:** Faculty members and graduate students should submit their applications to Chairpersons or Directors (or Deans, if no departmental structure exists).

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024:** 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](mailto:admin@cca.rutgers.edu).

All applicants will receive email acknowledgments for received applications. If you do not receive an email acknowledgment within a week of the deadline, please contact us.

**Monday, February 5, 2024:** 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](mailto:admin@cca.rutgers.edu).

## CCA Fellowship Cover Page

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                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.