***Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Judging Criteria***

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|  | **Below average****1** | **Average****2** | **Above average****3** | **Excellent****4** |
| **Merit** | Statement of purpose identifies no clear aim; project description is underdeveloped; project does not identify relevant critical conversations and/or theories | Statement of purpose identifies an aim; project description is adequately developed; project identifies relevant critical conversations and/or theories | Statement of purpose identifies a well-defined aim; project description is well developed; project is well defined in relation to critical conversations and/or theories | Statement of purpose identifies an original, well-defined aim; project description is fully developed; project reshapes critical conversations and/or theories |
| **Potential impact** | Applicant does not clearly identify project’s contribution to a scholarly field | Applicant identifies a contribution to a scholarly field | Applicant identifies a well-defined contribution to one or more scholarly fields | Applicant identifies a significant contribution to one or more scholarly fields |
| **Relevance to humanities** | Topic has no relation to a humanities discipline; methods are purely quantitative | Topic has some relation to a humanities discipline; methods emphasize quantitative over qualitative analysis | Topic is clearly related to one or more humanities disciplines; methods blend qualitative analysis over quantitative analysis | Topic is deeply grounded in one or more humanities disciplines; methods are primarily qualitative or blend qualitative and qualitative analysis in a sophisticated manner |
| **Feasibility of completion** | None or very little of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period | Some of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period | Most of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period | All of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period |
| **References** | Letters are weak and offer little to no evidence of the candidate’s accomplishments | Letters are solid and include some evidence of the candidate’s accomplishments | Letters are strong and offer specific examples of the candidate’s accomplishments | Letters are exceptionally strong and offer multiple, specific examples of the candidate’s accomplishments |