



Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship Competition 2018-2019

Deadline: Friday, March 29, 2019

DEMOCRACY?

The rise of populism and authoritarianism around the globe seems to require an urgent rethinking of democracy. Was democracy a naive idealistic hope, or is it merely entering a new phase? Are societies around the world reverting to the historical norm of inward-looking autocratic elitism, or is a more expansive and inclusive kind of democracy possible? Is democracy too unstable to survive? Do the rights and freedoms of democracy necessarily afford authoritarians the means to undermine it? Will democracy always be trumped by racial, ethnic, and religious divisions? Are we better served as citizens by creating new laws bent on protecting democracy, or should we allow the free play of ideas to continue unabated, even when those ideas negate the principles of democracy? When faced with that possibility, which direction and what form should the protection of democracy take? Is journalistic integrity possible when lies are the new norm? Can artistic expression, including humor and sarcasm, help to defend democracy? Or is it even worth defending in the first place?

The Humanities Center at Wayne State University invites humanistically inclined scholars of all persuasions to discuss these and other questions about democracy and the possible future of humanity.

All WSU full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines are eligible to submit proposals, except those who received a Faculty Fellowship Award from the Center within the last two years. The submission guidelines for this competition and the cover page are available on our website at <http://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>. **The Center will fund about eight proposals with up to \$6,000 each. Results of the competition will be announced within a month of the closing date. Recipients will be expected to present their findings to date at a Faculty Fellows Conference to be scheduled in April 2020.**

Please send all applications to: The Humanities Center
Walter F. Edwards, Director
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Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202