

THE FUTURE OF FAILURE



Photo: a bridge failure.
Image and flyer designed by Professor Danielle Aubert

At first glance, it might be tempting to think of “Failure” in purely negative terms—it does typically connote a lack or defeat of some kind—but failure can also be the first step to success. From Oprah Winfrey to Henry Ford, many leaders and innovators note the necessity of failure in their own trajectories moving forward. But what does it mean to fail?

For the 2019-2020 Faculty Fellowships Competition, the Humanities Center solicits research proposals that explore the full spectrum of failure, understood in the broadest sense. From the failure of political, economic, or religious groups to how “failure” has been utilized as a buzzword of 21st-century trendsetters, how might we begin to conceptualize and theorize failure? Research questions might center on

the historical legacies of failure, personal failures versus public ones, the subjectivity of failure, or failure as a strategic choice or a source of opportunity. We also encourage proposals that center on ideas related to academic failure: what are the gaps, problems, or dead-ends of particular disciplinary methods or academia more generally? How do we learn from failure, and how is it incorporated into our classrooms and our research? Finally, what are the creative possibilities of failure? How is failure a routine part of scientific, humanistic, and artistic practice?

We welcome proposals that examine failure from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.



**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Humanities Center

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 2021.

Please Apply Online at:

forms.wayne.edu/5db2f287e0592/