

HUMANITIES CENTER FACULTY FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION 2020 - 21



Transition

The COVID19 pandemic has taught us to pivot from human ecosystems that depended crucially on close interpersonal interactions to societies that mandate social distancing, and then to transition cautiously back to (new) normalcy. That experience invites academic deliberations on the concept of transition. Transition is inherently a process, and although we may not know where that process might lead, one thing that all transitions have in common is the moment of uncertainty, and the idea of change. Therefore, explaining, predicting, and theorizing about transition is an important scholarly task. Transition/s capture change when it comes to historical periods and daily routines. From societies to institutions, from collectives to individuals, from global governance to local government, transition/s could be subtle or direct, fast paced or slow, externally imposed or internally conditioned, they could lead to progress or decline, and this inherent duality makes the study of transition/s even more valuable. Moreover, as the pace of our society is increasing, so does the propensity for transition as well as the danger of falling behind.

Transitions in film and graphic novels are the gaps between frames. They carry meaning, invisible content, and silences. Transitions in literary history offer points of convergence and contradiction where different genres exist alongside simultaneously, respond to, and challenge each other. Furthermore, in cultural production transitions are about how we talk about issues, such as violence of the past, or whether we talk about them at all.

Humanities scholars are uniquely positioned to contribute to our understanding of the idea of transition, as they often attempt to understand the process itself paying attention to its inner workings, as opposed to focusing primarily on outcomes or results change. And this focus on process – whether it is described as ‘muddling through’ or ‘reaching for the stars’ – is uniquely valuable for understanding the human condition itself and the broader societal and cultural fabrics in which it unfolds.

The theme of 'Transition' applies to the study of institutions, states, cities, cultures and their products, practices and perspectives, societies, organizations, and informal groups. We invite a wide range of submissions that interrogate the idea of transition broadly defined, especially welcoming proposals investigating the process of transition and the dynamics of change that it produces or fails to produce.

Please apply online at: <https://forms.wayne.edu/5db2f287e0592/>

**Deadline: Friday,
March 26, 2021**

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 2022.

For more info about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/Programs/>



