

STRC FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP CALL AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

DePaul's **Social Transformation Research Collaborative** (STRC) seeks applications for its **twelve-month Faculty Research Fellowships**.

Purpose and Objectives

Established with generous funding from the Mellon Foundation for the Humanities, the STRC represents a community of faculty and students whose scholarship explores how the humanities can serve as a source of justice and healing for communities historically shaped by, and continuously facing, racism, violence, and dispossession.

The project has several goals, among them to invest in the professional development of College of LAS Humanities faculty who are in a position to help diversify the academy, notably those whose scholarship engages the history and/or culture of people of color (in the United States or in diaspora); to create a scholarly community in the humanities, focused on issues related to the histories and cultures of people of color, that will bring together students, faculty, and community members; and to build a public-facing repository of new scholarship, research, and creative work around themes that illuminate cultural resilience, restoration, anti-violence, and healing within communities of color.

Fellowship Description

In 2026, the STRC will award **two, twelve-month-long scholarly or community-engaged Research Fellowships** for untenured or mid-career faculty in the Humanities for whom extended paid leave and research assistance would provide the time necessary to make progress toward publication prior to tenure and/or promotion, including those seeking promotion to Full Professor.

Fellowships will begin in July 2026 and continue through June 2027. Fellows will be granted paid leave from all teaching and service responsibilities and receive two units of summer salary in July and August. (Please be advised that no faculty member can earn more than two units of summer salary, in total.)¹ Faculty fellows will also receive the support of a graduate student assistant during the two summer months of their fellowship.

Fellows will be expected to attend quarterly gatherings of the STRC and the STRC Autumn Symposium. They will be encouraged to see themselves as members of the STRC's intellectual community and invited to contribute to the Collaborative's discourse around the humanities as tools for addressing the histories and contemporary structures of racism through healing, restoration, and social transformation. The Collaborative will seek to

¹ If you have any questions about how your summer units add up, please direct them to Susanna Pagliaro in the Dean's Office.

highlight and amplify the intellectual activity of the Fellows on its website and in its public repository of work produced by members of the STRC.

Application Timeline

The application timeline is outlined below. Interested faculty should [review the FAQ](#) and direct any additional questions to the directors of the STRC, Julie Moody-Freeman (jmoodyfr@depaul.edu) and Bill Johnson González (bjohns58@depaul.edu).

Call for Proposal & Application Guidelines posted	February 2, 2026
Online Application opens	February 2, 2026
Online Application closes	March 30, 2026
Award Notifications	April 9, 2026

Eligibility

Tenure-line faculty below the rank of Professor working in the humanities whose primary scholarly or creative field engages the histories and/or cultures of people of color (in the United States or in diaspora), are eligible to apply. The STRC will favorably consider any applicant’s record of research, teaching and service that includes diverse backgrounds, experiences, races, ethnicities, genders and perspectives. Faculty whose teaching and service have contributed in direct ways to the units comprising the STRC will receive priority consideration upon demonstrating an excellent proposal. Applicants who have not received academic leave in the recent past may also receive priority consideration.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

A complete application requires the following items, each of which is described in detail below.

1. Completed Online Application Form

The [online application](#) must be submitted between the application’s opening date (February 2, 2026) and closing date (March 30, 2026 at 11:59 pm).

2. Letter of Support from Chair/Program Director

The application must be supported by a confidential letter of support from the faculty member's Chair/Program Director (the person who writes one’s annual review). Provide the name and DePaul email address of the Chair/Program Director in the unit

information section of the application. The online application system will then invite the faculty member's Chair/Program Director to upload the letter of support directly to the application file.

The letter of support should address the following:

- a. Please comment on the value and significance of the applicant's proposal.
- b. Do you support awarding this individual? Why or why not?
- c. Please indicate how the year of academic leave for this individual will impact the instructional needs of your unit and outline any plans you have to address that need.

Letters of support are due April 1, 2026. *Applicants are very strongly encouraged to alert their chair or director early in the process of their intent to apply for a year of leave through a STRC Fellowship.*

NOTE:

If an applicant is currently serving as a Chair or Director, the letter of support should be written by the Dean of the College.

Recommendation letters and endorsements may be uploaded by the Chair/Program Director directly **by 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026.** All letters and endorsements are confidential and will not be shared with applicants.

3. Project Title and Abstract

This is a summary of the project and objectives in non-technical terms understandable to the general public. If funded, this summary will be used to announce your project and will appear in other public-facing online spaces of the STRC. Not to exceed 250 words, double spaced.

4. Project Description

Your project description should be no longer than 1,250 words (double-spaced, 12-point font) and address the following:

- a. Explain the significance of your project in language that is free of jargon and accessible to colleagues from a range of field backgrounds. Why is it important, how does it engage other efforts in your field, or related fields? Clearly identify both the intellectual and tangible goals of the project, and the significance it will have for your field.

- b. Explain how paid leave will allow you to achieve these objectives, being sure to identify any impediments that may have prevented you from taking paid leave in the past.
- c. Describe the methods and/or approaches you will use in the project, being sure to explain a) how any prior research or activities may connect to, or prepare you to undertake, this work and b) how you will organize the project so that you can meet your objectives.
- d. Clearly articulate how your work engages with the humanities and the STRC mission to use humanities research to further anti-racism and illuminate aspects of cultural resiliency, restoration, anti-violence, and healing within communities of color.
- e. If your project involves community-engaged research, describe the existing relationship between you and the community partner organization, the origins of the project, and how it will benefit the partner organization and/or the public they serve.
- f. Short Project Bibliography: List the key texts and other sources foundational for your project, not to exceed one page, single-spaced.

5. Timeline

Provide a project timeline that outlines key benchmarks of your project and progress you expect to make toward them during the fellowship period. One page, single-spaced.

6. List of Recent Activities

Include recent scholarly activities, publications, and other activities/research related to the proposed project. Not to exceed one page, double-spaced.

7. Letter of Support from Community Partner (if applicable)

This letter should describe the existing relationship between you and the community partner organization, the origins of the project, and how it will benefit the partner organization and/or the public they serve.

8. Statement on Service to the Core Units of the STRC

Please describe, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, your contributions to the work of the core academic units of the STRC (ABD, LALS, CES, GLAS, CBD, and CLR). This is the place to elaborate on the types and scope of your service, teaching, and/or administrative roles within the units while you have been at DePaul. Not to exceed 500 words, double-spaced.

9. Curriculum Vitae

Submit a full CV that includes pedagogical and service roles at DePaul in addition to your scholarly record.

CRITERIA BY WHICH PROPOSALS WILL BE EVALUATED

In order to be considered complete, applications must include all required documents by the posted deadline. In the **first stage of review**, all applications will be reviewed anonymously by the STRC Steering Committee according to the following criteria:

1. **QUALITY:** Is the proposal clear and coherent, avoiding unexplained references and disciplinary nomenclature that may limit understanding by non-experts? Is the proposal organized well, with clear objectives, expected outcomes, and limited jargon?
2. **SCOPE:** Does the proposal persuasively connect the proposed research project to the faculty member's previous scholarly or creative endeavors? Does the proposal explain how the proposed activity will build on or develop a new area of scholarly expertise or creative activity? Does the project description persuasively articulate intellectual and tangible goals of the project and explain how paid leave will allow the applicant to achieve these objectives?
3. **FEASIBILITY:** Does the proposal describe a plan or work and timeline toward completion that experienced colleagues, reading as generalists, are likely to find reasonable? If the project involves community-engaged research, does it clearly describe the relationship between the applicant and the partner organization, the origins of the project, and how it will benefit the partner organization and/or the public they serve?
4. **RELEVANCE:** Does the proposed project align with the goals of the STRC to employ the humanities to advance interdisciplinary humanities as tools for addressing the histories and contemporary structures of racism through healing, restoration, and social transformation?
5. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Does the description explain persuasively that the project has the potential to make an original scholarly or creative contribution to the applicant's field or related fields?

The review committee will develop a short list of proposals demonstrating excellence according to the above criteria, at which point, a **second non-anonymized stage of review will take place**. During this stage, the committee will review candidate CVs and Statements on Service to the Core Units in order to ensure that short-listed faculty whose teaching and service have contributed in direct ways to the units comprising the STRC will receive priority consideration in the final award decision. Faculty who have not recently had a paid academic leave may also receive priority consideration. Final awards will be reviewed and approved by the Dean of LAS.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

As a condition of accepting the award, Fellows will commit to:

- maintaining their employment at DePaul University for a minimum of one year after the end of their grant;
- participating in STRC's annual Summer Institute and presenting their research at the public Fall Symposium in the year following the end of their fellowships;
- providing to the STRC a written document or draft of an article that is being prepared for publication, or a published article or book chapter that resulted from the research, for placement in the STRC's online archive in DigitalCommons (Via Sapientiae). Selected materials may appear on the public-facing STRC website, with author permission.