

FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
2024-25 Research Associate Program



Are you a feminist thinker, writer, artist, scholar, or activist seeking **interdisciplinary community** to help build your work?

Are you local to the Five Colleges or Western Massachusetts and trying to carve out **dedicated time to move your ideas forward**?

Are you a non-local or international feminist thinker looking to be in conversation with a **vibrant scholarly and cultural community**?

The Five College Women's Studies Research Center (FCWSRC) is now accepting applications for its 2024-25 Research Associate Program. Research Associates—in residence for a semester or academic year—have opportunities to connect with leading scholars; workshop and present their projects; explore opportunities, events, and collaborations throughout the Five Colleges; and build feminist community across discipline, methodology, and geography. Located on Hampshire College campus, the FCWSRC provides Research Associates (visiting scholars) with access to resources across the Five College Consortium and surrounding area, including important archival and museum collections.

INFORMATION SESSION

December 12, 2023
1:00pm - 2:00pm EST
Zoom | RSVPs required

OFFICE HOURS

January 23, 2024
10:00am - 11:30am EST
Zoom | RSVPs required

APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 1, 2024

APPLY HERE

Five College Women's Studies Research Center

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ABOUT THE FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

Founded in 1991, the FCWSRC is a vibrant site of local, national, and international engaged, intersectional feminist scholarship, cultural production, and activism from diverse perspectives. The FCWSRC has a rich history of supporting transnational work and recognizing the diverse pathways and plurality of forms that feminist creative and academic scholarship can take. Located on the campus of Hampshire College, the FCWSRC is supported by the Five College Consortium, which includes Hampshire College, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Since 1966, the five institutions have been recognized for their cooperation and innovation in higher education. The Consortium boasts one of the largest concentrations of feminist scholars anywhere in the world. The FCWSRC has hosted over 450 semester and year-long visiting scholars as part of its Research Associate Program and welcomed many other guest speakers to the Five Colleges.

OPPORTUNITIES & EXPECTATIONS

The Center's hub at Hampshire College includes dedicated, quiet office space for Research Associates; a large seminar room; a community lounge; a flex office; and expansive outdoor space. Over the course of a semester or full academic year, Research Associates undertake their projects within an interdisciplinary feminist community, participating in regular weekly programming and special events across the Five College Consortium. Associates also share knowledge about their areas of specialization through workshops or symposia. An Associateship offers access to writing accountability groups; professional development workshops; networking opportunities with leading scholars and feminist makers; and surrounding area libraries, archives, and resources.

Research Associates are expected to establish the Center as their work-home for the duration of their appointment. A typical Research Associate week is as follows:

Monday/Wednesday: Morning co-working time with the FCWSRC Writing Community or Research Associate cohort; weekly Research Associate check-in and work-in-progress session

Tuesday/Thursday: Self-defined: work on-site, at local archives or libraries, attend events on other campuses, etc.

Friday: Reserved for workshops, time outdoors, and local excursions and/or independent research

Travel, housing and living expenses are the responsibility of Research Associates. While we are unable to provide funding, the Center is committed to supporting feminist scholars who are seeking funding to support their Research Associateship.

We recognize that travel or relocation for an extended period of time may not be possible for many different reasons. In addition to the Research Associate Program, the Center co-hosts scholars and creatives who are visiting the area to work with Five College faculty, conduct research using local resources, give guest talks, or collaborate with others in the area. We welcome inquiries about possibilities for shorter term visits at [this form](#).

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Center is committed to supporting engaged, intersectional feminist scholarship and values diversity in terms of background, experience, geography, discipline, perspective, and practice. Faculty, doctoral students approaching the end-stages of their degree, activists, practitioners, artists, and independent scholars are encouraged to apply. Applicants' work should be situated within and informed by the expansive fields of women's and gender studies, feminist studies, and/or queer and trans studies. We welcome projects engaging with specialist and emerging areas of inquiry, as well as community-based or creative forms of knowledge production and circulation. Local (to the Five College area), non-local U.S.-based, and international applicants are invited to apply.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 12, 2023, 1-2pm EST: Information session via Zoom with the Director, Program Coordinator, and current Research Associates. Register [here](#).

January 23, 2024, 10-11:30am EST: Application consultations, featuring individual conversations with the Director and Program Coordinator. Registration forthcoming.

February 1, 2024, 11:59pm EST: Priority deadline for 1) scholars applying for the 2024-25 academic year and 2) prospective 2025-26 Research Associates applying for funding for which a conditional acceptance or host invitation letter is required. Scholars requesting a letter of institutional support for a funding proposal after the priority deadline must contact the Center to arrange submission of the same application materials. Unfortunately, we cannot review materials from May to September.

March 15, 2024: Notifications of acceptance are distributed to applicants; in April accepted applicants attend a pre-orientation information session via Zoom.

ALUM TESTIMONY

"I particularly enjoy our Wednesday cohort meetings when we review each other's works in progress and provide constructive feedback, or just allow the meeting to breathe and take on a life of its own, ideas bursting from all angles. Through these interactions, I have found myself examining and re-examining my own approach to engaging feminist thinking in my life both inside and outside of the classroom and as I continue to explore ways to incorporate feminist theory in my scientific and creative work."

– Ruthfirst Ayande, 2022-23 Research Associate, Yale Postdoctoral Fellow



Pictured: Scenes from 2023-24 Research Associate orientation events, including museum visits, campus tours, lunches with Five College faculty, and cohort workshops in the Center's community lounge.

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HOW TO APPLY

A complete application includes the following items submitted on Interfolio:

1. Online application forms
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Project proposal

On the online application form, be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Name and contact information
2. Current position/title and institution/organization (or indicate unaffiliated/independent status), as well as work contact information, if applicable
3. Desired time of residency (fall 2024 semester, spring 2025 semester, or full academic year)
4. Title of the project
5. Project abstract (between 100-150 words)
6. Project key terms
7. A brief professional bio (under 150 words)
8. An explanation of sources of funding (grants, fellowships, self, etc.) and whether funding is confirmed or applications are in-progress
9. If you are an alum of the Center, please provide the year/semester of your Associateship
10. For scholars whose research involves collection of data from human subjects (via interviews, questionnaires, surveys, etc.), please indicate whether the project has been approved by an appropriate ethics committee or Institutional Review Board
11. Contact information for two professional references (references may be contacted following an initial review of applications)
12. For international applicants who would require J-1 visa sponsorship:
 - a. Country of citizenship
 - b. How the English proficiency requirement for a U.S. visa will be met (documentation from an English language institution or degree program, TOEFL score, or anticipated interview with FCWSRC Director)
13. Any additional information that you would like to share with the selection committee

The project proposal can be up to three pages in length, single spaced. The proposal should provide a description of:

1. the project in detail, including objectives, methodologies employed, and a breakdown of the work that the applicant plans to undertake at the Center
2. the project's contribution to and significance in the fields of Women's and Gender Studies, Feminist Studies, and/or Queer and Trans Studies
3. how undertaking the project while in residence at the Center would benefit your project and broader scholarship. Applicants might consider engagement with museum or archival resources, interactions with specific local networks of Five College scholars and collaborators, having dedicated space, time, and community, etc.
4. how you envision contributing to the feminist communities of the Center and across the broader Five College campuses. The Center is interested in cultivating a thriving network of feminist thinkers across generation, rank, institutional affiliation, field, and background, in both formal and informal capacities. Applicants may consider writing about potential intellectual contributions (ideas for workshops, reading groups, presentations, etc.) or more informal contributions to fostering feminist community.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2024
Applicants will be notified of the outcome by March 15, 2024
[Apply here](#)

Please direct any questions to the Program Coordinator, Lily Sendroff, at fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu or Director, Jacquelyne Luce, at jluce@mtholyoke.edu.