



FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

INFORMATION SESSION

DECEMBER 12, 2023

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. About the FCWSRC
3. Research Associate Program Overview
 - a. Hear from current Research Associates!
4. Application Process & Learning More
5. Questions & Staying in Touch



INTRODUCTIONS

FCWSRC Leadership

Jacquelyne Luce (she/her), Director

Lily Sendroff (she/her), Program Coordinator

Current Research Associates

ABOUT THE FCWSRC

The FCWSRC is a vibrant site of local, national, and international engaged, critical feminist scholarship, cultural production and activism from diverse perspectives. Founded in 1991, the FCWSRC is supported by the Five College Consortium, a coming together of four small liberal arts colleges—Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, Mount Holyoke—and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. We are based at Hampshire College in the town of Amherst, Massachusetts.

At the FCWSRC, there is an emphasis on creating networks of knowledge exchange and collaboration across fields, sectors, rank, and topic. We provide a forum in which faculty and graduate students in the Five Colleges, visiting scholars at all ranks from around the world, and partner organizations engage in feminist intellectual community.

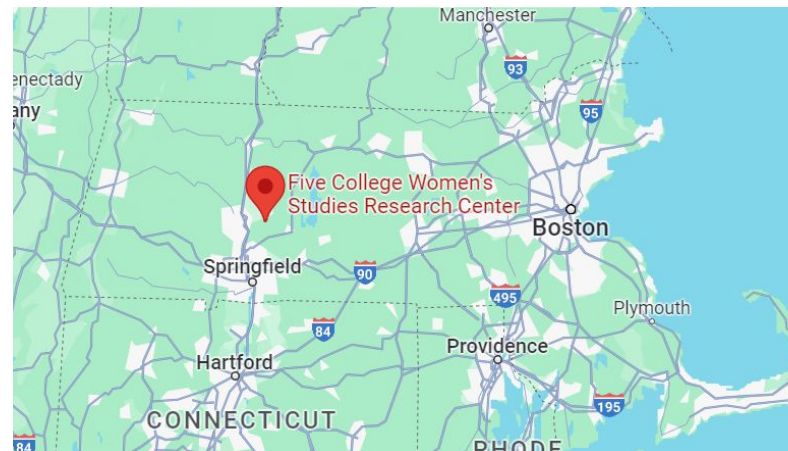


Photo credit: Google Maps, 2023



OVERVIEW: RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Five College Women's Studies Research Center has hosted over 450 Research Associates at various points in their careers and working on a diverse range of project topics across the expansive fields of women's and gender studies, feminist studies, or queer and trans studies. The program is an opportunity for scholars, activists, and creators to be in residency as a cohort; have dedicated space, time, and resources to undertake individual projects of interest; and experience the vibrancy of feminist knowledge production across the Five College Consortium.

The Research Associate Program includes:

- **Weekly programming** with the Research Associate cohort at the FCWSRC
- Dedicated **office space** at Hampshire College
- Access to the Five College Consortium **library system**, **special collections**, and **museums**
- Community-building, networking, and collaboration opportunities with **leading scholars** throughout the Five Colleges

PROGRAMMING



Photo credit: Leah Martin, 2023

Sharing & Supporting Scholarship

- Weekly cohort work-in-progress sessions
- Weekly FCWSRC writing community co-writing sessions & semesterly writing retreats
- Research Associate lectures & panels throughout the Five Colleges



Exploring Five College Resources

- Cohort excursions to Five College campuses, including:
 - Exploratory workshops with archives & special collections
 - Museum visits



Networking

- FCWSRC community lunches, receptions, and open houses
- Informal coffees and get-togethers with Five College community members



Photo credit: Leah Martin, 2023

Community & Collaboration

- Weekly cohort check-in meetings
- Outings to special events, workshops, and symposia throughout the Five Colleges
- Collaborative cohort endeavors

PROGRAMMING

Standard Week

Monday: Morning Write Together with the FCWSRC Writing Community

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

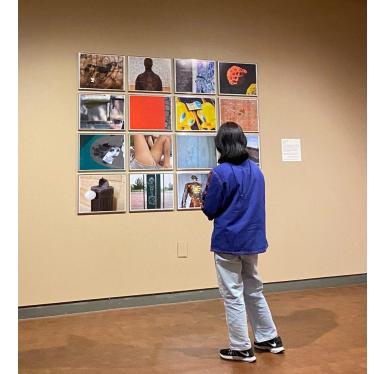
Wednesday: Morning Cohort & Coffee co-working time; weekly cohort check-in over lunch; afternoon work-in-progress session

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

Friday: No definitive program; open workshop and excursion slots



Book salon with Five College discussants



Visit to SCMA during cohort excursion to Smith College



Group picture from our annual "Kick-Off-the-Summer" writing retreat. Credit: Leah Martin, 2023

FIVE COLLEGE RESOURCES

Libraries: Libraries within the Five College Consortium share access to print and electronic resources with one another, providing approximately **10 million items** (and counting) to the Five College community. Items are also available from the Five College Library Repository and via InterLibrary Loan from institutions outside the Five Colleges.

Archives and Special Collections: Notable collections at the Five Colleges include:

- Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History | Smith
- Collection of Native American Literature | Amherst
- Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center (SCUA) | UMass
 - Including papers from W.E.B. DuBois, the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive, and more

Journals & Presses: The Five College Consortium is home to multiple journals and presses, including:

- *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*
- *The Massachusetts Review*
- *The Common*
- UMass Press
- Amherst College Press

Conferences, Symposia, and Events: There are special events throughout the academic year in the Five College area. In the past two years alone, Research Associates have attended events featuring scholars such as **Jack Halberstam, Saidiya Hartman, Silvia Federici, Verónica Gago, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Christina Sharpe**, and more.

Another unique resource and annual offering (organized by a group the FCWSRC shares a hallway with!) is the **Collective Power for Reproductive Justice Conference**.

FIVE COLLEGE RESOURCES

Museums: There are a number of museums throughout the Five Colleges, including:

- Amherst College Mead Art Museum
- Hampshire College Art Gallery
- Joseph Allen Skinner Museum of Mount Holyoke College
- Mount Holyoke College Art Museum
- Smith College Museum of Art
- Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
- Yiddish Book Center



Smith College Neilson Library. Photo credit: The Plan, 2021



UMass Amherst Library. Photo credit: UMass Libraries website.



Hampshire College Harold F. Johnson Library Robert Sydel Reading Room. Photo credit: Hampshire College Library website.



Mount Holyoke College Library. Photo credit: Mount Holyoke College website.

SPACE AT THE FCWSRC

Dedicated Office Space

Individual & potentially shared



Photo credit: Leah Martin, 2023



Photo credit: Leah Martin, 2023

Community Lounge

Informal gatherings, reading groups, co-working space



Photo credit: Leah Martin, 2023

Seminar Space

Meetings, workshops, Write Togethers



Outdoor Space

Breaks, cohort walks, individual or group hiking



Photo credit: Leah Martin, 2023



LOGISTICS

FUNDING

The FCWSRC is unable to provide funding, but is strongly committed to supporting applicants seeking funding.

Potential funding sources include:

- **Institutional:** sabbatical, graduate student funding, travel grants, research grants
- **Foundation/government:** Fulbright, European Commission, artistic/cultural production grants, research fellowships, seed grants

Scholars applying to funding programs that require host institution letters or conditional acceptance may apply to the Research Associate Program one year in advance, noting the deferral in their application.

HOUSING & CHILDCARE

Securing housing is the responsibility of Research Associates. The FCWSRC provides robust resources for the housing search, including:

- Pre-Orientation Information Packet with details on the surrounding area, reliable rental agencies, and local websites & forums related to housing
- Regularly-maintained “Housing Notices and Leads” document compiled with rental opportunities from Five College faculty, staff, graduate students and community members

Those traveling with dependents will be provided with information on public school enrollment (ages 5 through 17) and childcare.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATES

International Research Associates—not already in the United States on a visa—are supported to apply for a **J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa**, typically falling under the “short-term” or “research scholar” categories.

Associates are responsible for SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and visa application fees and for following appropriate visa application procedures (compiling documents, attending interview, etc.).

Required documentation (not exhaustive): Statements of financial support for duration of stay; record of any home country funding/support; proof of health insurance; English-language proficiency, list of dependents who would be accompanying.

CURRENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Ever Osorio Ruiz

PhD Candidate in American Studies at Yale University

Michela Rosa Di Candia

Associate Professor of Literature at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Chanida Chitbundid

Lecturer at Thammasat University & PhD Student in Anthropology at University of Wisconsin Madison

Sneha Gole

Assistant Professor of Women & Gender Studies at Savitrabai Pule Pune University & Fulbright Scholar

Eir-Anne Edgar

Associate Professor of Literature in English at Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Cory Ellen Gatrall

PhD Candidate in Nursing at University of Massachusetts Amherst

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application contains 3 main components:

1. Interfolio questionnaires

- a. The FCWSRC is provided Interfolio access through Smith College. The questionnaires include two mandatory forms from Smith, and the FCWSRC application form.
- b. All questions included on the FCWSRC application form are listed in our full Call for Applications.
- c. If you run into technical difficulties, please reach out to us!

2. Curriculum Vitae

3. Project Proposal

- a. Length: Maximum of 3 pages, single-spaced
- b. Content: Please be sure to *respond to all four prompts* requested!

QUESTIONS!

Stay in touch:

fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu

www.fivecolleges.edu/fcwsrc
[@fcwsrc](#)

LEARNING MORE & STAYING IN TOUCH

Application Office Hours

Tuesday, January 23
10:00am - 11:30am EST
RSVP required

15-minute meetings with the FCWSRC's Director and Program Coordinator to discuss your project proposal. Registration is required.

Limited spots available!

Contact

FCWSRC

fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu

Instagram | @fcwsrc

Facebook | Five College Women's Studies
Research Center

Leadership

Jacquelyne Luce, Director

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Lily Sendroff, Program Coordinator

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