Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (CRE²) Requests for Proposals

The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity (CRE²) invites proposals for transdisciplinary projects that enrich scholarly engagement related to the Center’s mission and core themes:

1) Innovations in Understanding and Improving Health Equity;
2) Race and the Future of Democracy;
3) Global Migratory Representations, Histories, and Crises;
4) Visualizing Race and Ethnicity: Algorithms, Discourses, and Design;
5) Legal, Spatial, and Political Justice

Our themes aim to focus scholarly attention on the myriad manifestations of race and ethnicity, locally, nationally, and globally, and to encourage research across the seven Washington University schools and many disciplines. The themes are not intended to exclude any scholarship, and we invite proposals for grants beyond these initial announced themes.

This solicitation provides information about one of the three principal CRE² grant programs, Seed Grants to encourage the development of research projects toward the pursuit of external funding.

Eligibility
Only CRE² Faculty Affiliates are eligible to apply for grants under these programs. The principal investigator(s) must have applied for Affiliate status prior to submitting a grant application. (For future calls, applicants will need to apply for Affiliate status by the previous academic semester.) Exceptions are granted for new faculty that arrive during the semester of this RFP. Eligibility is limited to one CRE² grant program per year as principal investigator, with the exception of the Small Grants program.
SEED GRANTS
The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity invites proposals for projects related to the advancement of the CRE² research mission and the 2020-2022 CRE² Programmatic Themes (see above). CRE² will award up to 2 Seed Grants of up to $15,000 per grant project. The principal aim of this program is to assist in the development of research ideas (e.g. preliminary analyses, pilot studies, conceptual schemas, archival work, etc.) that have the potential to significantly enhance scientific and cultural methodologies and to garner external research support. Priority will be given to research projects that:

- Facilitate multidisciplinary research linkages and establish collaborative research partnerships across campuses and academic/research units, or with local, national and international organizations and agencies;
- Include early career faculty or “new” investigators (those who have not previously obtained external funding) as principal or co-principal investigators;
- Support undergraduate or graduate assistance in the completion of research activities;
- Focus on areas of critical interest to CRE², the campus, and St. Louis community; and
- Have not previously received CRE² grant support, with the exception of Small Grants.

Proposal Format
Proposals should be no more than three (3) single-spaced pages in length, exclusive of title page, abstract, timeline, references, budget pages, current CVs for all investigators, description of any human subjects (if applicable), and appendices. Proposals are to be written in Arial 11-point font with 0.5-inch margins all around. Proposals must include an Abstract and sections Overview/Aims (.5 pages), Significance and Innovation (.5 pages), and Project Description (2 pages). The Project Description section should, 1) describe how the work supported by the Seed Grant relates to the scope of a project proposal that will be submitted for extramural funding, and how the Seed Grant funding will lead to increased competitiveness in obtaining those funds; and, 2) include subsections on Foundational Perspectives, Research Questions/Inspiration, Methods, and Data/Materials. Please also include subsections for a Timeline, Budget, and Budget Rationale (not included in page limit). All Seed Grant research proposals that are approved for funding and involve the use of human subjects must obtain appropriate human subjects approval through the University’s Institutional Review Board before funds are disbursed.

Grant Submission, Notification, and Award Period
Proposal submissions are due by March 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm CDT via email to cre2@wustl.edu with the subject heading 2021 CRE² Seed Grant Submission. Awards will be announced April 15, 2021. Project award periods are for 12 months beginning June 1, 2021, with an extension of up to 6 months available upon grantee request and approval from CRE² leadership.

Budget Guidelines
Project budgets may request up to $15,000 in direct costs to support any activity that directly relates to the successful conduct of the project. There are no indirect costs paid on CRE² Grants. Budget items may include support for data entry, interviews, data acquisition, access to restricted-use data, travel costs related to data collection or meetings with collaborators, space
rental, salary compensation or contribution to research accounts (salary and compensation should be kept to less than 20% of the award amount), artist stipends, creative materials, curatorial support, editing, and graduate and undergraduate research assistance. The Center will not pay for computer equipment when that computing can reasonably be accomplished with the existing equipment on campus. Unspent funding at the end of the two-year project period will revert to the CRE² Grant pool unless a request for a time extension is submitted and the CRE² Director approves the request. Budget Rationales should include outside resources (if any) that will be used to achieve the aims of the project.

**Review and Selection**
The CRE² Leadership Team will screen all submitted proposals to determine whether the proposals meet the program’s goals. Proposals will be reviewed by a Grant Selection Committee composed of the CRE² Leadership Team and at least two Faculty Affiliates. In addition to the preferences mentioned above, the following prioritized criteria will be used in evaluating the proposals:

1. The overall quality and significance of the proposed research;
2. The potential of the proposed research to be expanded into an externally funded grant; and
3. A proposal has received a favorable review from a funding agency and needs additional resources for resubmission (please include Summary Statement with reviewer comments);

**Monitoring and Grantee Obligations**
The Center’s Assistant Director will monitor progress on Seed Grant projects and will provide an expense report to each project principal investigator upon request. Grantees will submit a final progress report including any grant proposals, publications, exhibitions, or other scholarly products submitted or in preparation within one month after the end date of their Seed Grant period and will notify CRE² of any proposals, exhibitions, and other scholarly products subsequently submitted or awarded / accepted. It is expected that an external grant proposal will be submitted no later than eight (8) months from the completion of the Seed Grant period. Grantees’ papers and publications will acknowledge the CRE² Seed Grant program using the statement, “This work has been funded by the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity at Washington University in St. Louis See Grant but the views remain those of the authors.”

**The Center’s Mission Statement**
CRE² brings the research force of Washington University to study how race and ethnicity are integral to the most complex and challenging issues of our time. We believe in field-defining research, innovative learning, and strategic engagement that will transform scholarship, policy, and clinical interventions where race and ethnicity are at the center. In the inaugural year, CRE² will catalyze research around five themes, 1) *Innovations in Understanding and Improving Health Equity*; 2) *Race and the Future of Democracy*; 3) *Global Migratory Representations, Histories, and Crises*; 4) *Visualizing Race and Ethnicity: Algorithms, Discourses, and Design*; and 5) *Legal, Spatial, and Political Justice*. While applicants are free to consider these strategic interests of the Center as they develop grant proposals, they are not intended to dissuade grant proposal submissions that feature other topics that are essential to a greater understanding of race and ethnicity.