



Wenner-Gren Foundation

supporting anthropology worldwide

Dear Stage Two Applicants,

We are contacting you with important news about the current review season.

I'm sure you have been following the rapidly changing situation related to COVID-19. There is no part of the world unaffected by this disease. None of your projects will turn out exactly as you might have expected when you submitted your proposal at the November 1, 2019 deadline. We have no way of predicting what the world will look like in July 2020, when some of you were planning to begin your research. We only know it will be different than it was before this crisis hit. For this reason we have decided to postpone our review of proposals in the Dissertation Fieldwork and Post-PhD Research grant programs. Our reviewers will submit their evaluations in August 2020. The results will be posted in October 2020.

Those of you who made it to Stage Two have already done the hard work of putting together an excellent application. We owe you a response. We are asking our reviewers to evaluate your proposals in light of the times in which you wrote them. In August 2020, we'll have a better sense of the impact of the pandemic. At that point, we will be able to consider our reviewers' feedback and ratings and determine which, if any, of your projects to fund. We expect the number of awards we give to be very small. But you will receive feedback on your application. And you will be welcome to re-apply at the November 1, 2020 deadline if you are able to develop a project that you can safely and ethically undertake.

We are working very hard at the Foundation to respond to the current situation and would like to share this information with you. Our first priority has been to reach out to our active grantees. We are doing everything we can to protect them and the communities affected by their work. We have asked our Dissertation Fieldwork, Post-PhD Research Grant,

and Engaged Anthropology grant recipients to suspend all activities involving face-to-face contact. Some need our help to evacuate from the field; others are stranded and need support to remain where they are. Few will be able to complete their project in the form it initially took.

Now we are turning to upcoming grant application seasons. We will not be accepting applications for Dissertation Fieldwork and Post-PhD research grants at the May 1, 2020 deadline. The next deadline will be November 1, 2020, and it is likely to attract proposals for projects that are radically different from what we've seen before. Conventional fieldwork is the opposite of social distancing. We are unable to fund this kind of work at this time.

Even as we pull back from some programs, we are renewing our commitment to others. At the May 1, 2020 deadline, we will still be accepting applications for the Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship, which we are planning to expand. There will be more awards for postdoctoral researchers, and there is a strong possibility we will add a temporary version targeted at dissertation writers, as well. We are also proceeding with the launch of our Global Initiatives Program, which will provide funding for projects not covered by any of our other programs. We'll be publicizing these measures soon.

Thank you for your patience with this long message. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact at applications@wennergren.org. Now more than ever, the world needs the perspectives anthropology has to offer. However this process unfolds, it's truly an honor to learn about your work.

Best,

Danilyn

P.S. For further information on Wenner-Gren's response to COVID-19, see <http://blog.wennergren.org/>