CALL FOR IRWGS GRADUATE FELLOWS
2021-22

IRWGS Graduate Fellowships

The Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality (IRWGS) seeks applications for 2021-22 graduate fellows. Graduate fellows will be expected to participate actively in IRWGS activities and to complete a maximum of 60 hours of work per semester. Fellows will coordinate the IRWGS Graduate Colloquium, Theory Salon, & Writing Retreats (described below), organize the Graduate Student Open House, attend and help with IRWGS public programs as needed (and produce occasional pieces of writing related to these events for the IRWGS blog), and assist the IRWGS Director, Associate Director, and the Directors of Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies with occasional research and/or administrative tasks.

Stipends will be $3000 per semester.

Selection will be based on academic distinction in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and a proven commitment to IRWGS and its activities. Preference is given to Columbia PhD students who have completed or on track to complete the IRWGS graduate certificate by Spring 2022.

Please note that IRWGS graduate fellows may not hold other fellowships or grants (including the Whiting and the Kluge from Columbia) in 2021-22. Applicants must indicate in their application any plans to apply for other fellowships and grants in 2021-22 and must inform the Institute if they accept other grants that may conflict with the IRWGS Graduate Fellowship requirements. These are GSAS rules.

The IRWGS Graduate Colloquium, Theory Salon, and Writing Retreats

The **IRWGS Graduate Colloquium** is an opportunity for graduate students to workshop their research. Students may present a dissertation chapter, conference paper, course essay, or other piece of writing in order to practice presenting their ideas to a small audience and to receive productive feedback on their work from other graduate student scholars and faculty. Past Colloquia have also focused on professional issues such as preparing work for conferences and for publication, drafting dissertation prospectuses, and applying for academic jobs.

**IRWGS Theory Salons** are graduate student/faculty-led seminars, featuring an IRWGS faculty member or prominent visitor who has chosen a key theoretical text or sample of their own work for discussion. In 2020-21, the Theory Salon featured Diana Taylor (University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish, NYU) and Jules Gill-Peterson (Associate Professor of English and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of Pittsburgh). Theory Salons are intended to promote conversations amongst graduate students and faculty across disciplines. They also provide an informal academic atmosphere in which students can tackle difficulty texts in conversations with feminist and queer studies scholars.

**IRWGS Writing Retreats** are informal events aimed to provide a space for students to focus on writing. These events usually take place on Fridays once or twice a semester for the entire day,
allowing students to drop in and out as desired. Snacks and light refreshments are typically served. The writing retreats help to build community within the graduate student population, as well as increase the reach that IRWGS has within the graduate community.

**Event Responsibilities**

Graduate Fellows will be expected to secure space for all events (usually the IRWGS seminar room), prepare and circulate publicity materials, maintain a regularly updated email list, communicate with speakers and respondents of upcoming events, copy and distribute any pre-circulated readings, purchase light refreshments for each meeting and submit receipts for reimbursement, maintain a $2,000 programming budget, and write occasional IRWGS blog posts for IRWGS public programs.

**How to Apply**

Please submit a brief letter of application, a CV, and a short (15pp) writing sample to irwgs@columbia.edu, subject line “Graduate Fellow Application,” by or before **11:59pm on Friday, April 16, 2021**. Your letter should include an account of your IRWGS involvement and plans for certificate completion. Please include the names and contact information of two faculty members familiar with your work and ask one of these faculty members to send a brief letter of support to irwgs@columbia.edu for you.