TO: TENURED AND TENURE-TRACK FACULTY IN THE HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, ARCHITECTURE, AND MUSIC

DATE: AUGUST 19, 2013

FROM: FARÈS EL-DAHDAH, DIRECTOR

Deadline: NOVEMBER 22, 2013

The Humanities Research Center invites faculty in the humanities, or faculty engaged in humanistic research broadly construed, to submit a proposal for Mellon Research Seminars. One seminar will be selected for academic year 2014-15.

The two-semester weekly seminars promote research at the highest level of collaboration between faculty and graduate students. Students are invited to become fellow researchers, challenging and redefining the core project by posing new questions from their own disciplinary perspectives, and expanding the project’s horizon into areas of interest to the students. Student selection is competitive, and the faculty should consider students from across different departments.

The seminar leader will receive a research allowance of $4000 to be used towards conference travel, book purchases, and other research expenses. Additionally, a budget of $7000 is available to invite scholars from other academic institutions whose work is relevant to the seminar. The seminar will pay for a graduate student to teach one replacement course in the faculty member’s department.

In the selection process, a premium will be placed on the innovative nature of the research, its accessibility to students from a broad range of disciplines, and the originality of the seminar format. The Mellon Seminars are intended to reach beyond the objectives of a typical graduate seminar, to experiment with existing models of research, and to create new models of collaboration and pedagogy that are significant for the school as a whole and that might be adopted at other research universities.

The faculty leader, in consultation with the HRC, will select five doctoral students, preferably in their third or fourth year, to participate in the seminar and receive a topping of their base stipends. One of the graduate students will be
selected to create a record of the seminar, including a summary of meetings and a notation of the progress of research conducted within the seminar. In addition, students will receive a $6900 stipend supplement during the Seminar year and be eligible for funding to disseminate their research (travel and conference registration, for example) once the seminar has concluded.

Please submit your proposal to hrc@rice.edu (subject: Mellon Seminar Proposal). The proposal (within two single-spaced pages) should include detailed information about the core of your research, including a rationale for its serviceability to graduate students across the humanities. It should also propose an initial plan for the seminar’s format, including the collaborative structure as you envision it. Include a list of potential graduate student participants who will be in their 3rd or 4th year of study. Seminars with fewer than five eligible graduate student participants will be canceled.

Please contact HRC Associate Director Melissa Bailar (melba@rice.edu) with any questions.