ICS Cluster Proposal Form

Proposed Chair

Department/Program

Academic Rank

E-mail Address

Proposed Co-Chair
(if applicable)

Department/Program

Academic Rank

E-mail Address

Proposed Co-Chair
(if applicable)

Department/Program

Academic Rank

E-mail Address

Please list potential cluster participants and their affiliated departments

Application Checklist:
- ☐ Description of Proposed Cluster
- ☐ Ideas for possible grant proposals
- ☐ Ideas for possible community engagement activities
- ☐ Proposed Cluster Schedule

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Proposals will be accepted and evaluated by the ICS Executive Board on a rolling basis.

Proposal Guidelines

Purpose and Scope of the Institute

ICS supports research and creative work in traditional disciplines within the humanities, arts, and social sciences; in established interdisciplinary fields (e.g., women's studies, cultural studies, performance studies, environmental studies); and in emerging new fields of inquiry (e.g., digital humanities, new media studies, transdisciplinary studies).

ICS aims to promote engaged, diverse, and productive intellectual communities by sponsoring faculty research groups (clusters) on a variety of topics, an annual speaker series, presentations by fellows, as well as periodic workshops, conferences, and symposia.

ICS was established in 1996 expressly to support research and creative work in areas where external funding is likely to be limited. We regret that we are unable to support: projects of a purely scientific, technological, or quantitative nature; projects that involve only curriculum development without resulting in publication or public scholarship activities of some kind; or projects from scholars external to BGSU.

Characteristics of the ICS Research Clusters

An ICS Cluster is a group of faculty from multiple units across campus who are committed to interdisciplinary research, teaching, and/or programming. Every ICS cluster is process-driven, which means that groups may focus on ongoing support for interdisciplinary research, teaching, or programming. Some cluster activities stay the same from year to year, while others vary – such as with a one-time symposium, followed by regular publication workshops. Clusters can coalesce around any interdisciplinary topic, providing there is adequate faculty interest from multiple units across campus.

- **Clusters are entitled to administrative support to reserve meeting rooms on campus, and to help promote cluster events and activities.**
- **After one year of demonstrated activity (as documented in an end-of-year report), each cluster will be entitled to the following annual support for their programming;**
  - $500 to each cluster to support ongoing interdisciplinary activity in areas of scholarship and/or teaching, consistent with the cluster's goals.
    - Cluster funds can be used for speaker/consultant fees, workshops, training, travel reimbursement, or other approved expenses (For example, a cluster might apply their funds toward books for a reading group, or to bring in a regional scholar to lead a workshop related to their cluster topic).
    - This support will renewable for up to 2 additional years, without any additional major proposals. If, after three years of basic activity, the cluster proposes a new, major initiative, support may be continued, contingent on availability of funds.
  - **An additional $500 (for a maximum of $1000 per year) may be available to clusters who propose innovative, new programming designed to support interdisciplinary teaching or that reaches wider audiences. Clusters can apply for this funding at pre-determined, publicized times by completing Team-Teaching Proposal applications to be evaluated and approved by the ICS Executive Board. For example:**
    - A cluster might propose bringing in an external speaker for a public lecture on a topic of wide interest.
    - A cluster might host an off-site weekend retreat for the purpose of developing a major interdisciplinary curriculum proposal, such as a multidisciplinary component (MDC) in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- **Funds will be disbursed by June 30th each year, in accordance with all university policies. Clusters that do not use their funds in one year may not roll over their funds to the next year (although they may still be eligible for their annual funding allotment).**

Conditions

• Clusters are expected to meet at least four times per semester.

• Clusters must submit an external grant application within one calendar year of formal recognition, and every year thereafter. Grant applications may be relatively modest (such as for $2,000 from Ohio Humanities) or more ambitious (such as a $100,000 NEH grant). We encourage every cluster to research potential funding sources and meet with the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research for help with the grant application process.

• Clusters are responsible for presenting ONCE per academic year at a community engagement event/activity coordinated by (or in conjunction with) the ICS staff. This talk/presentation/workshop can take many forms, but is designed for the cluster to share their interdisciplinary work with the wider community, whether on campus or off. Options include presenting as part of ICS events, developing an event/activity with another campus organization (such as the CFE, CCCE, University Libraries, Women's Center, etc.), or creating an event with/for a community organization relevant to the Cluster. All activities should be coordinated and communicated with the Director of ICS, who will work to provide administrative support.

• At the end of each academic year, clusters must submit a report to the Director, outlining the participants, their activities, and the group's outcomes over the course of the year.

Review Criteria

- The level of meaningful involvement from faculty from at least three units
- The clarity of the thematic of conceptual basis for the cluster
- The significance of the cluster to a broader understanding of culture and societyy
- The significance of the cluster for interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary study
- The probability that the project will lead to tangible research or pedagogical outcomes (e.g., workshopping articles, reading current scholarship in the field, reimagining undergraduate curricula, etc.)

Proposal Evaluation Procedures

Proposals are reviewed by the ICS Executive Board and the ICS Director. Funding recommendations are forwarded for approval to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

ICS will support up to six clusters each year. In the event that there are more clusters than available funding, the Executive Board will evaluate proposals, giving priority to clusters with wide faculty interest and existing clusters with a record of sustained activity. y.

Faculty members at early stages of the process are welcome to consult with the Director at any time to discuss ideas for new clusters. The Director will work with the Executive Board to identify potential group members, with the hope of encouraging new proposals.

Academic Year 2018 - 2019 Executive Board
Kim Coates, Associate Professor of English
Thomas Edge, Lecturer in Ethnic Studies
Leigh-Ann Pahapill, Assistant Professor of Art
Cynthia Roberts, Assistant Director of Services
V Jane Rosser, Director of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement
Jerry Schnepp, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication Technology
Theodore Rippey, Associate Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences (ex-officio)

Proposal Materials

Ideas for possible grant proposals
(100 words maximum)

Ideas for possible community engagement activities
(250 words maximum)

Proposed Cluster Schedule
Outline the estimated frequency of cluster meetings and the proposed meeting day/time

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO BE ATTACHED:

- **Cluster Description** (1000 words maximum): The cluster description should be written in a clear, jargon-free style intelligible to colleagues outside the applicant's area of expertise.
Provide a concise overview articulating:
    - o   the central thematic or conceptual basis for the cluster
    - o   definitions and/or theories of the particular forms of interdisciplinarity being developed
    - o   the specific outcomes the group will be working toward (e.g., workshopping articles, reading current scholarship in the field, writing grant proposals, reimagining undergraduate curricula, etc.)

- *Please use Times New Roman, 12-point font, one-inch margins.*
- *Paper copies of the submission should be bound with a binder clip. Please do not staple. The application packet should be scanned in to one electronic file (PDF) and submitted via email. Please do not email proposal materials as separate documents.*