Faculty Fellowship  
2016-17 Call for Applications

The Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies will award up to four Faculty Fellowships for the 2016-17 academic year. These fellowships are designed to facilitate faculty research while engaging recipients more directly in Institute programs. Recipients are expected to actively participate in Institute events and may be asked to serve as commentators and/or chairs in Friday Workshop programs. This fellowship program has been funded by a generous gift from Kenneth and Frances Aftel Eisenberg.

Award: The Faculty Fellowship includes a release from teaching one Department of History course along with a $2,500 research grant. Unused research funds will carry over in individual faculty accounts. The fellowship term is one academic year.

Eligibility: The Institute invites applications from faculty members who hold a FTE appointment in the Department of History, including emeritus faculty and LEO lecturers (level III and IV only). Past Faculty Fellows may apply two years after their last award. Fellows must remain in residence for the fall and winter terms of the fellowship year.

Due to the College of LS&A’s rule regarding courses off, faculty who have had a leave in either term of the current academic year or who have a leave confirmed in either term during next academic year (the year of the proposed EIHS fellowship) are ineligible to apply. Faculty with a confirmed leave for either term of the year following (AY 2017-18) may apply, but preference will be given to those who have no leave in place in that year. Awards to LEO lecturers are subject to College approval based on the College’s interpretation of the LEO contract.

Application: The application consists of the following:

- Application cover form (see below).
- A brief statement outlining current research interests and describing why affiliation with the Institute might be particularly useful or interesting (300-500 words); while it is not required, applicants may address how their work relates to the Institute’s 2015-17 theme, “Senses and Longings” (see below).
- A curriculum vitae.

Submit complete applications via email (eisenberginstitute@umich.edu) by February 8, 2016. Institute staff will confirm receipt.

Notification: Fellowship awards will be made by the Institute’s Steering Committee in consultation with the Executive Committee and announced in February or March 2016. The Institute will contact each applicant regarding the outcome of his/her application.

To ensure that this award does not compromise the department’s undergraduate and graduate curricular needs, new awardees must consult the associate chair at the earliest opportunity about the specifics of the course release associated with this appointment. The Institute will notify all relevant department chairs and associate chairs of the awards (for awardees with joint appointments).
2015-17 Theme: Senses and Longings

The Eisenberg Institute proposes to explore perception and feeling in relation to the time-scapes of human experience. We aim to find a place in history for longings, i.e., yearnings for a state of affairs—perhaps lost to the past or beckoning as an imagined future—that differs from a given present.

The “affective turn” of the past twenty-odd years contends with a default assumption that human action is rational, the result of goal-oriented choices made by actors seeking the most effective means to their ends. Historians bring a rich perspective to this “turn.” We know that human action and decision arise in definite historical situations, brought to us by the senses; moreover, choices to act are frequently steeped in one or more emotions—hope, sorrow, love, resentment, desire, and more. Thus we see a complex of elements.

The senses stir feeling; feelings can arouse or dull the senses. Both are contingent on time—through the education of the senses, for instance, and in the temporal dimensions of memory or anticipation that frequently constitute emotions. We propose to capture this complex of sense and feeling particularly in longings that imaginatively traverse long stretches of historical time.

Today the look forward is clouded by conditions of economic disorder, political violence, and environmental disaster, leading observers to recognize a “crisis of futurity” manifested in an inability to imagine better times to come, in mythic embroidery of old times, or in fear of bygone calamities returned to haunt the world. Such a crisis—a loss of fruitful longings—will be just one of the problems we hope to broach, as the Eisenberg Institute invites discussion of all these aspects of situations, from all periods and places: modes of perception (histories of the human senses), textures of emotional response, the profound temporality of experience, and the framing of long-range time-scapes looking toward past and future.
Faculty Fellowship  
2016-17 Application Cover Form

Name ______________________________

Title ______________________________

Recent Leaves (last five years):

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Upcoming Leaves

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