HASSRF Application Instructions

Below you will find some suggested questions that you may want to address in your fellowship application. Keep in mind that the proposal should NOT simply list your responses to these questions. These are simply guiding questions to help you identify what you’d like to address in the proposal.

• Explain your background and general interest in the research area. How did the area come to your attention? Is it a new line of inquiry for you or one that has been developing for some time? Your discussion here could remain at a general level (e.g. a research interest in the area of “feminist anthropology”) or your interest could be in a more specific topic (e.g. “ethnographic study of African Americans in Hollywood”). Remember that the point of the fellowship is that you do not have to explain, at this stage, a specific research question or methodology underlying your interest (rather, that will come later, as a product of your fellowship work).

• Make the case for the importance of the research area you are targeting. Does it engage topics of general societal importance? Is it a particularly hot area of research within one or more academic fields? Does its interdisciplinary character invite unique research opportunities? Is there historical significance involved?

• Describe how you foresee your fellowship work enabling you to bridge your general interest to a specific research proposal in that area. Perhaps you have more work to do in narrowing down the scope of your research focus to support a manageable project. Maybe you are having trouble coming up with a concise and directed research question. Or it could be that you are unsure about the artifacts or data you may want to include in your research. Perhaps you could use help in figuring out exactly what research methodology, interpretive tools, or critical approach to deploy. If you are already aware of some options in these categories, feel free to list them (e.g. “one approach might be to gather data from newspaper accounts, while another strategy would entail structured interviews”) and describe how the fellowship opportunity might help you select from the options.