

Striving for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Asian Studies: Humanities Grants for Asian Studies Scholars

November 10, 2021

0:09 Maura Cunningham

Okay, I know that there are still people coming in, but I think we are going to get started. I'd like to say welcome and thank you for joining us today. I'm Maura Cunningham, the Digital Media Manager at the Association for Asian Studies. And it's my pleasure to welcome you to this informational session on our new grants and fellowships program Striving for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Asian Studies: Humanities Grants for Asian studies Scholars. This webinar is part of our AAS Digital Dialogue series, which we launched in June 2020 with the support of an emergency grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. AAS Digital Dialogues cover issues related to professional development in the field of Asian Studies. And you can view videos from past events on our website, asianstudies.org. I welcome proposals for Digital Dialogues, and we'd be very happy to discuss your ideas and suggestions. So please don't hesitate to get in touch with me and I'll put my email address in the chat. Today, our two speakers will share information and answer your questions about our special humanities grants, which are made possible by a grant that we at the AAS received from the National Endowment for the Humanities. AAS Executive Director, Hilary Finchum-Sung will introduce the program, explain the types of funding opportunities available and go over the parameters of each funding type. Next, our Grants Coordinator Molly DeDona, will show you our online application portal and discuss some of the logistics you should keep in mind when applying. After Hilary and Molly each speak, we'll have plenty of time for your questions. So please use the Q&A box to submit those. Thank you again for attending today. And with that, I'll turn the virtual floor over to Hilary.

1:56 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Rule number one, unmute yourself. Thank you, Maura, for that introduction. Thank you all for taking the time today to learn about our new grant program and fellowship program and I will cut to the chase. We've prepared some PowerPoint slides for you all today. And I'm going to get those up and going for you now. So let me go ahead and present. Okay. Excellent. Molly. Does that look, is that thumbs up? Okay, excellent. All right. So, um, you're here because you've heard about our new grants and fellowship opportunities. The official title of this program is Striving for Diversity, Equity Inclusion in Asian Studies: Humanities Grants for Asian Studies Scholars. So this particular series or collection of grant and fellowship opportunities really emerged. After a couple of years, I've been in this role since 2019, after a couple of years of hearing feedback from members about what was really needed, what kind of support we needed. And also seeing that the field of Asian Studies and academia, in general, is changing. In particular, over the past year, we've, we've all witnessed profound changes in the ways that

we live our lives, but also, in the ways we do our research. And I think, particularly hard hit by the pandemic have been academics, scholars, people who are researchers of Asian Studies, were really hit hard. Those who are in precarious positions, not in tenure track positions at universities or insecure posts or senior scholars. So we're talking about young, relatively also contingent part-time, independent scholars in particular, were hit hard. So knowing that this was a reality for a lot of people out there and understanding how difficult it is to find support. We saw this as a great opportunity to provide much needed support to our members. And so we applied and we were lucky enough to receive the funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and for that we are incredibly grateful. So I will go ahead and talk about the grant-making program, or the grant program itself. So the program that was designed by the NEH was meant to alleviate the impact of the Coronavirus as it hit all of us over the past year, in particular, Humanities professionals who are unemployed or quote-unquote "underemployed" and in need of support to pursue their work in the humanities. So the NEH defines humanities professionals as individuals who possess a formal education or training in discipline of the humanities. And that's pretty broad-based. And there, there are kind of fine lines between some fields of study social science, anthropology, social science or humanities, I guess it depends on what you do, what kind of research you do. And essentially, the goal is to provide support for scholars, no matter where you live, and to allow you to do the work that you need to do to and to support yourself during that period. So we have fellowship programs and grant programs through this particular initiative. There are a total of 12 fellowships available in the Fellowships Program. So, these fellowships will provide monthly stipends of \$5,000 for a total of \$60,000 for a year. So, these particular installments will be released again on a monthly basis, and will be distributed beginning and next year, on May 1. So part of the requirements for the fellowships, once you apply, and if you were to receive a fellowship is to provide regular updates, right, so you do receive funding to help support your living expenses and to allow you to, to live and to support yourself while you're doing your research. But you also have to check in with us and midterm reports and final reports are required. We'll go over the kind of fine details of that a little bit later. So these are the different kinds of fellowships that are available. And I'll walk you through these. The first of these is the AAS Minority Fellowship, particularly, during, over the past year, we've become really, really cognizant more so than in the past, of the need to really support minority scholars in Asian studies. Last year, with the Black Lives Matter, movement, and with people becoming really really increasingly aware of the structural inequities that exist in our society in and around the world, we knew it was very important to provide support for Black scholars of Asia, most of whom are often find find themselves in precarious situations or without the support that they need to actually build their careers. So again, because these fellowships are designed for scholars who are not senior scholars who are not established tenured scholars, recipients, ideally will be our must be Junior Scholars, and we're defining Junior Scholars the following way: you must be within seven years of your PhD. So we're going to give preference in applications to contingent faculty, people who are working as adjuncts, for example, people who have been unable to find full time employment in the field are unable to find employment at all. And, and the purpose of these fellowships is to allow people to embark on a research project, to be able to have the support to be able to have the luxury to do this research and to work on this project. Over the period of a year, by the end of the fellowship period, we're going to ask people to submit some sort of work based on what they've spent the year doing. So an outline of a book

chapter or even table of contents for book in progress, or an article would be an example of the thing kind of materials that we would ask for. We also have the Pipeline Fellowship. So Pipeline Fellowship is specifically designed to support Junior Scholars in developing their humanities research, so again, we're defining Junior Scholars as those who have who are within seven years of conferral of the PhD, and especially those who have yet to secure full time employments in their fields. We all know that the job market right now in most fields in most disciplines is pretty tough. And so this is a great opportunity for people to be able to have the luxury to continue to work on their research, to continue to do their work while they're looking for ways to enter a full time position. So again, it could be people who have lost their jobs. We actually know of many people who were on the tenure track whose departments closed, you know, whose departments folded, or were absorbed by another entity, and they ended up losing their jobs or were their hours were cut to now, they are part-time faculty. So these kinds of things have happened over the past year, and they've happened in the past as well. We're very concerned about that. And we, we hope to be able to provide support for those scholars to allow them to really focus on their work and be able to strongly reenter the, the job market. So again, like the Minority Fellowship, for Black scholars of Asian studies, we requiring midterm and final reports. And so we'll provide you know, when, if, when you apply, if you apply, and you receive a fellowship, we'll provide support and details and workshops on what's expected along the way. So this is just one step in anticipation of the kind of support that people would need. We also have a Digital Humanities Fellowship, which would support teams actually Junior Scholars, so I've sort of inspired by an interest recently, and public Digital Humanities projects or any kind of digital archives, etc. So this is an important area of work that we recognize, need support as well. So you could be it more than one scholar, a team of scholars could actually apply for this particular fellowship. And then fellowships for Public Research in Asian studies. So again, this is for public-facing programs, but specifically aimed at supporting public scholars who are not in the professoriate people who are working outside of that tenure track people, particularly who work with communities, Asian American communities, Asian communities. And it would actually be a wonderful opportunity to really promote the value of Asian Studies, outside of academia, for public education and public consumption consumptions relative, basically, for educational purposes.

11:40

And another Fellowship category is the AAS, Asian American Pacific Islander/Asian History and Communities fellowship. And so this is this, this particular fellowship would support projects that are multimedia, it could be documentary films, digital archives, podcasts, oral history projects, digital magazines, etc, that really are aimed at educating the public on AAPI Communities, and also Asian history. So the projects must be grounded in the humanities, that's one of the ground rules of these fellowships. And the end projects, of course, we will provide support and provide platforms for promoting these projects on our website. Okay, and we also have, in addition to the 12 fellowship opportunities available in those categories, we also have Professional Development grants. So we would award 16 to 18 grants depending on how much how many people apply and how much people need, in this particular category, so the grants are designed to provide support for contingent faculty at two and four-year institutions of higher learning and again, underemployed, unemployed, independent scholars who are Asian specialists. Also,

people who are within seven years of their PhDs what's not written here, but junior faculty as well Junior Scholars who are just getting their feet kind of solidly on the ground and developing their careers. The purpose of these grants is to really develop is is threefold. Actually, some of the grants are aimed at developing curriculum that foster DEI in Asian studies. Would these grants would also go to support the development and implementation of mentorship programs, such as those for Black, Latinx, or first-generation graduate students in Asian studies. Also mentorship programs aimed at publication. There are many different ways that you could support each other through these programs. And also, we also have publication support. It's written here as subvention, but it's actually aimed at supporting publication and the costs of publishing. So just really quickly, the Diversity Equity and Inclusion higher education Curriculum Development grants are really aimed at again, providing a platform providing support for people to work with each other to mentor each other to learn from each other. In the development of DEI perspectives in Asian studies curriculum, and so the goal would be for the recipients of these to, to kind of come together towards the end or maybe even in the midst of and the end of their projects, through maybe a Digital Dialogues like this one, through a zoom platform and talk about what they've learned and, and offer suggestions and even offer example, syllabi, lesson plans on anything that would support this particular emphasis in Asian studies education, the Mentorship grants, again, are aimed at supporting workshops. And here are more kind of details, you know, we all need support, and especially young scholars who were who are just out of the PhD programs, they really need support and presenting themselves as a professional in the field. You could do training and job talks, job application materials, feedback on, you know, you know, book chapters, etc. So there, it's kind of the world is your oyster, so to speak with this in terms of what it is that you think is needed, and what you would like to propose as a great workshop opportunity. And this would be this would allow for continual development and meeting with between mentors and mentees. So it wouldn't be just like a one-time mentorship workshop, it would be like, you know, several months of really kind of working together meeting over zoom and, and culminating in a final workshop.

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And then seminar grants, seminar grants, we see that there's a need for support for Southeast Asia and South Asia, curriculum materials development, and also trading in pedagogy for teachers, we have that already at the AAS with our, in Chinese studies/China and Inner Asia Council, and also with the Northeast Asia council for Japan and Korea, we don't really have that for South and Southeast Asia, we also are really interested in supporting more focai on Global Asias, kind of, you know, the fluidity of Asian identities in our world is, is really important. And we've become very aware of that as well over the past couple of years. So we'd like to support workshops that are aimed at facilitating new pedagogical materials and approaches, etc, in these areas. And then of course, the publication support grants, we all need the support it, it's expensive to publish a book, it is! And so you need all kinds of support, you need people to help you with indexing, image permissions, editing, all kinds of support. And so this, these grants would actually help provide that much-needed support. You could also use the grant for subvention if you needed that if you already have a book deal, and this would actually help you, for example, I do an open-access publication. So those are the different kinds of grants that are available. Molly, I know I'm kind of pushing the time limit here. I want to go over the intended

recipients, and then also who is eligible and who is ineligible. So the intended recipients, again, are those who are Junior Scholars who have yet to find secure employment, individuals whose wages or hours have been reduced due to circumstances beyond their control, those who have been really impacted by the pandemic, those who are, we all know that there's a glass ceiling, right? You know, it's, it's no mystery, and it's no secret that it is less expensive to hire a, an adjunct or a lecturer than it is to hire a full-time faculty member. Universities are struggling with budgets and money and all kinds of stuff. So it's, it's a, it's a universal problem now. But we all need that kind of that boost that bump up to actually help us get break through that glass ceiling and publish more and have that luxury of time to be able to do it. Black scholars, and scholars not engaging the professoriate. Those who are working in areas with very limited funding, as well, are the intended recipients. So we kind of we designed these grants and fellowships, these grants and fellowship opportunities when we were thinking, like who really needs this, you know, what are we hearing from members? What are people tweeting about? What are people calling for? And we really wanted to answer that call with these categories. So I want to emphasize that the eligibility and ineligibility for these grants and fellowships is set by the National Endowment for the Humanities. All we all know that all grants, fellowships have parameters, you know, it's just part of the world. It's part of the way things work. Certain people can apply for certain grants and fellowship opportunities, and this is no different. We must abide by the National Endowment for Humanities restrictions on who is eligible for funding. So recipients must either be US citizens or permanent residents. You can also be a foreign national who has resided in the United States or US jurisdiction for at least three years prior to application. So those are those are the restrictions. So it's broader than you must be a US citizen, you can be a permanent resident, somebody who has resided on US soil for at least three years. Humanities professionals, because these are humanities grants and fellowships, you need to be somebody working in a humanities profession, or somebody with a degree in humanities. And you cannot be a student, unfortunately. So this includes ABD we recently received, it's kind of heartbreaking because like, I know that you can use this really, once you finish, once you submit your dissertation, I would love for you to be able to hit the ground running with the fellowship like this. And unfortunately, at the time of application, you cannot be a student. So we actually clarified that with the National Endowment for the Humanities, you cannot be a student at the time of application. Although we had hoped for different but we have to abide by these rules, we want to respect the rules of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Those who are ineligible include those who are retired, individuals who are under the age of 18.

20:35

Those who are currently students, etc. So you can see see the list here. So there's a pretty extensive list. If you're a K through 12, teacher and administrator not eligible to apply for a grant to apply for your to your work in that particular area. Homeschooling instructors, journalists, etc. And also, if you have are currently recipient of an NEH grant, you cannot also receive another NEH grant, that's just a general rule with the National Endowment for the Humanities, but also other granting agencies and foundations as well. Okay, just briefly. So the deadline for applications is December 17, at 5 pm. And we will have committees, reviewers began to review applications probably in early to mid-January, they need to make the decisions by mid-February, and we need to send a report to the National Endowment for the Humanities of those who have

received sub awards, fellowships or grants. So unfortunately, we had kind of hoped this would also be a rolling, you know, timeline, you know, people could apply as needed, but are all the applications need to be in during this particular period of time. So and we're here to help, we're here to support you. If you need support for your during the process of applying. If you have any questions, always email grants@asianstudies.org. And we'll that response is really quick, we're here to help. So I'm not going to go into this into into super detail, but just know that awards will be announced next year, in in March. And the award period will actually officially begin on May 1. And so if you're a recipient of a fellowship, you will you will receive your first stipend at that time. And each successive month, and after that until April 2023. So there are in October midterm reports would be due, of course at the end of the grant, or fellowship period, you would have to submit final reports that would be kind of results, events, such as workshops held on our zoom platform, and also promotion of projects and community projects that were supported by this grant making program. Those would come to fruition and culminate in the late spring and summer, early summer of 2023. So and again, we would wrap all projects up officially with final projects and final materials into us by the end of August 2023. So again, the actual award period would be May 2022 to August, well, sorry, to uh, sorry, May 2022 to May 2023. And then of course, wrapping materials by the end of August 2023. Okay, so that's all I have right now I'm going to stop my share so that Molly can have some control and then Molly will present her part.

23:48 Maura Cunningham

Okay, and while Molly is getting set up, I can see we already have a lot of questions coming in through the Q&A. Please continue submitting those. And we will answer as many of them as we can after Molly's presentation.

24:01 Molly DeDona

All right. So as you can see here, this is a screenshot of the main grants page and the link is here and I'll have Maura also drop that in the chat for you guys. So this is where you will find the button for the Apply Now for the application portal. So as you'll see the screen scroll down, you'll see under the How to Apply section for both, on the main page on each of the grant and fellowship page, you'll see this How to Apply section and you will see this Apply Now button. And that will lead you to our application portal. So this is what the application portal looks like. And please note that, AAS members in particular, this is separate from your AAS account. This is a new account. Since these fellowships and grant programs are open for anyone to apply, we will need you to create a new account in the system. If you have logged into the Submission Portal before you will be able to log in here on the left hand side. And if you need to create a new account, the easiest way to do that is to hit Start application for the relevant program. So if you want to apply for the AAS fellowship program, you will click Start application. And then you will be prompted to create a new account. So we'll need very basic information from you. It'll be first name, last name, email, your primary address, the highest degree you have earned, and then the year of that graduation or conferral of that degree. And then you also have your password and hit register. And then if you have any issues with this page, please send me a screenshot to grants@asianstudies.org and we will assist you with getting your account set up. Alright, so if you're selecting a Fellowship application, if you hit Start application here on this main page, this will be your main landing page for your application. And Hilary already ran

through all the fellowship application fellowship specifications. So you will see here again, all the specifications for each specific fellowship, so you can ensure that you're applying for the fellowship that best fits you. So fellowship selection, you will select here from the drop down and again, you'll see the brief description of the fellowship to make sure that you're applying for the one that you that you're eligible for. So you will fill out the following questions. And then if you are ineligible for any specific fellowship, based on your responses, you will get this error message here with this yellow exclamation mark. So really, the only restriction is that the AAS Minority and Pipeline fellowships in particular, you must be within that seven years of PhD conferral. So just make sure that you're applying for fellowships that you're eligible for. Once you fill out the following information, it'll look something like this, you'll hit save and next. And then this is like the main part of your application. So this is where you'll be uploading your CV, you'll be typing in your cover letter, uploading your budget, things like that. So if you are completing any part of your project outside the United States, please indicate it here on your application, and you will pick from a drop down here. And then for Budget Upload specifically, I want to really emphasize the point that it is a you will be downloading a template. So you'll have to click this little blue here to download your template, you'll fill out the budget, and then you will upload it here. And then you'll get this nice preview here. So you'll make so it'll be really obvious that is the correct file. You will type in your project proposal here, you're expected project timeline. And then for just AAS Public Research fellowship applicants, you will have to have a letter of support from your advocacy agency or the nonprofit that you're partnered with. So please make sure you enter the correct information for your contact at the advocacy agency or the nonprofit, make sure you type in their full name and an email and let them know that they will be receiving an email from grants@asianstudies.org. It's really easy to send a request, you'll hit Send Request now after entering all the information, and then the system will indicate if you sent if the email sent and then when it is received by the system you will get a confirmation email and it will be reflected here in the application. So once all the information is filled out, you will hit Save and Next. And if you want if you ever want to save your application and return to it later, you can just hit the save button and then exit the application and come back at a later date. So after hitting Save and next, this is just another page illustrating what funds may not be used for it is also outlined in the budget template. And then just re-emphasizing the requirements of midterm and final reporting. So once you agree to this page, you'll hit save and finalize and then your application will be submitted. If you want to save your application and tweak it come back to it later. Just hit save at this point and then come back and make sure you submit you save and finalize before the application deadline of December 17.

Alright to briefly go over the humanities grant applications. If you're looking at the main page, it is the second program listed here. And then this is the first page that in the you'll fill this out, hit Save and Next. And then this is the main part of your application. It's very similar to the fellowship application where you will pick from a drop down if you're applying for the seminars and teaching on South and Southeast Asia, the AAS curriculum or the AAS mentorship grant program. Very similar information is required from you, CV upload, you will have to fill out a few additional fields such as the in very briefly in 300 words or less have addressed how the pandemic has actually affected your career and our research in the spirit in which the NEH funds were granted to the Association for Asian Studies, you'll have a project statement. And

then for any project where you have any other keynoters or principal participants, this is where you upload their CVs. A lot of something that's a little bit different about the professional development grants is that you will have to put in the funds requested for seminars and teaching on South and Southeast Asia, you may request up to \$5,000. For the professional development on the curriculum development and mentorship grants, you may request funds up to \$20,000. So please make sure when you're filling out your budget that it reflects the amount of funds that you are requesting. And then if you want to work on your application later, hit save. But if you're ready to submit and finalize, hit, save and finalize. And if there are any parts of your application missing, the system will request you to fill those out. Alright, to briefly go over the publication support grant, it's the third one listed here on the main page. It really emphasizes who the publication's support grants are for here, you'll enter in your information, hit save and next, we will, you'll need to follow up the following fields here upload your CV summary of your manuscript, a full table of contents, one representative chapter of your manuscript and then again, you'll have to put in your grant about requested here, budget. Again, it's a budget template, so download it, fill it out and re upload it here. This press representative field is optional. Since we know that people, the people applying for this grant will be at various stages of their manuscript. So if you're in a further stage, you may want to fill out this field, but it is not required. What we will need from you is a letter of interest from a press. So for this, you may have a formal letter of interest, or you may have just email exchange with a press. So we will want you to indicate which stage you are at here. And then upload the documentation via a formal letter or perhaps an email, a PDF compilation of emails here. And then you will need to verify that the press that you that you will be working with will acknowledge AAS publication support and the frontmatter of the book. And then if you are done with this application, you will hit save and finalize. And that's about it. I just wanted to emphasize we have this source called the we have this resource for you called the AAS Community forum. And here we have a discussion for the Striving for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Asian Studies grant program. So here is a great place to post questions to look at resources to connect with other people applying for the program. And perhaps if you're watching the recording of this webinar, you may want to ask a question here that you did not get a chance to during the webinar. And if you're wondering how to access this site, if you go to Asianstudies.org, it's right here. It's the second right hand button on the screen here. And then I just wanted to re emphasize where to find resources, you can access the page directly with this bitly link that Maura will post in the chat. Or if you go to AsianStudies.org go to grants and awards to the drop down and then you will click here. Alright, I know we have quite a few questions coming up. So, Maura, I don't know if you want to read them out loud at this point?

32:52 Maura Cunningham

Yes, absolutely. Right. So I'm gonna Molly, if you could stop sharing.

32:58 Molly DeDona

Sure.

33:00 Maura Cunningham

I would bring everyone back into gallery view. Okay. Um, yes, we have a lot of questions. And I think some of them are grouped together. I'm going to start with the probably one that's been asked most times is Can someone apply for more than one fellowship? And connected with that? Can someone apply to one of the fellowships and one of the grants? So basically, how, how does this work?

33:25 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Yeah, this is yes, you may apply, instead of the ground rule for applying, you know, for grants and felt to apply for whatever opportunity you think is relevant to you. And if you have a great idea for a project definitely go for it. However, you will only be able to say for example, we decide to award you can you can only accept one. So keep that in mind. You cannot receive more than one award at the same time. So you would have to choose if you were in that lucky, lucky, lucky, fortunate situation to have to choose between one or the other. But I would just read through carefully and make sure that first of all, you what you're proposing is relevant to that particular grants program or that particular fellowship, but also make sure that essentially you are eligible before you just put out applications to everything. Simply because we will have people who are going to be reviewing external reviewers for the grants and fellowships, and we want to make sure that they're not overwhelmed by people who are just like throwing their applications out there. So make sure that you give it some thought. And if you think I could definitely I have a project for this, and I have an idea for this. I would, you know, if I were you, I would definitely apply but just know that you can only receive one.

34:47 Molly DeDona

And Hilary, we have asked for people to limit it for one per category. So if you apply for a publication support grant, you can only apply for that once and then once for fellowship.

34:58 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Okay, yeah. Good. Thank you.

35:00 Maura Cunningham

And actually connected with that, I'm going to ask a question from one of the attendees, specifically, saying, she, this attendee has multiple ideas about projects. And so is it more advantageous to focus on one in their proposal? Or, could they talk about a couple of projects?

35:25 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Um, I think it sort of depends on what it is that you're applying for. Keep in mind that you would only have a year to do this. I think if you are just like any kind of general rule of looking at applications, the more focused and more kind of realistic a project is, the more likely it is to be funded. So I would keep that in mind. I mean, I think that if you have, for example, diversity, equity and inclusion, ideas that you really want to pursue, and that they're all kind of interconnected, but you see yourself as doing like a series focused on these kinds of things. And I can see how you can make that work, for example, if you are applying for a Mentorship Grant. So I think it really sort of depends on what it is that you're applying for. But I would

encourage you to be as focused and as kind of goal oriented with your application as possible. In other words, if they're really, really disparate, if they're really, really different than you might want to kind of curb that and think about which one of these ideas is most relevant right now, which one of these is most doable right now, and which one of these is perhaps most urgent right now to do in which one can perhaps wait, or this one could build a foundation for this later? And perhaps later, I could seek funding for something that builds on the ground work that I'll accomplish via this project? So it's hard to say yes or no to that? Because it sort of depends on what it is that you're thinking of. Yeah.

36:53 Maura Cunningham

And we have several attendees who have asked specifically about eligibility with the definition of scholars not engaged in the professoriate? So does this include independent scholars?

37:05 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Yeah.

37:06 Maura Cunningham

What what is the definition of contingent faculty? As another question that we're that we have received.

37:14 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Yeah, definitely, if you're an independent scholar, you would be eligible. And definitely, if you are a lecturer, for example, if you're, you could be a full time lecturer, you know what I'm saying, but you might be lecturing at several institutions, you know, you're not a full time faculty member in that particular program, you are, you are filling a need for different institutions or for one particular institution, if you're so in that particular role as an adjunct or lecturer, you would be eligible. If you are, yeah, so, contingent faculty, I always think of as and Maura, you can add to this definition, if you would, if you would, like, as somebody who is perhaps not guaranteed, you know, tenure, you know, somebody who is working, perhaps contractually year to year, their position might not be here next year, it might, it might expand, it might shrink, you're not guaranteed a particular number of hours contractually by the university. So therefore, it's a little bit of a precarious position to be in financially but also professionally, so I think a tenure track position where you actually are you know, you have like a two-two or you know, you have a set number of courses that you're teaching per semester and, and research and service expectations, but you have a full time job and benefits, then you're pretty secure. But if you're if you're not, if you don't have that kind of position, then I would consider that somebody who is perhaps underemployed or in need of support to really build up their, their research capacities and their publications to really become more competitive in the academic, in your field or in your discipline.

39:00 Maura Cunningham

Yeah, absolutely. And I would just add, for everyone attending if you have any questions about your eligibility, or if you're in a sort of unique position and you want to run it by us first. The best thing to do is email that grants@asianstudies.org address as early as possible, we know that

you only have a little bit more than a month to apply for these grants. And we don't want you to spend a lot of time working on an application if it turns out that you're not eligible to apply. So if you have a question on just email grants, and Molly, Hilary, someone will get back to you to clarify, that's always the best way to really make sure that everyone is putting the resources to the best use available.

39:46 Hilary Finchum-Sung

I will add, sorry, sorry, Maura, that we have received a few questions, you know, over the past week, and a lot, all of them are unique, you know, they're like, oh, I didn't think of that scenario. So um, honestly, everybody's circumstances are unique. And you might have, again, as much as Maura had referred to a unique situation or a special situation that we hadn't actually defined clearly, perhaps the materials online, but then we'd be like, yeah, absolutely, you'd be eligible. So if you're not sure, if you want clarification, certainly reach out to us.

40:21 Maura Cunningham

And just to clarify that clarification, also, I should note, AAS official business hours are 8:30am to 5pm, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, and in some cases, I know, Hilary, you've had to go back to the NEH to say someone has asked us the question, how can we respond to them? And it takes the NEH a little bit of time to get back to us as well. So again, if you have a question, if you're not sure if you're eligible or not, it's really better to ask us sooner, rather than later on when the deadline is getting closer, because just the difficulties of responding to things quickly, and that the Thanksgiving holiday in there as well. And the fact that, you know, we might need to turn around and talk to the NEH about something means that it can take a couple of days to get a firm response to a question. Yeah, continuing on the questions about contingent unemployed. What if you get a job after receiving the grant? So you apply and then you're fortunate enough to get a full time position? How would that affect?

41:25 Hilary Finchum-Sung

And I would say, congratulations, but we're not psychic. And we don't know. So you know, you don't know. I mean, I would love if that were to happen to you. So I think at the moment, I think what NEH is working on, because we've asked a lot of questions you know, about like student status, etc. And it seems to be your status at the time of application as what is relevant here. Not necessarily when the actual fellowship or granting period begins, in other words, when you actually would receive funding to actually do that work. So at this moment, you are somebody who is a postdoctoral fellow, or if you are somebody who is unemployed, or somebody on the job market, or somebody who is working as a, you know, at this moment, at that your status, go for it definitely apply. And I would really hope that you would find next year that you have a have a secure position, but at this moment, you don't know what's going to happen in two months, or three or etc. So that would be my answer. Yes, you're eligible to apply.

42:24 Maura Cunningham

And we have a number of people asking to clarify and or to reiterate or clarify the ABD student status question. So what exactly like what do they need to have in hand as of December 17, at 5pm, to be able to apply for one of these opportunities?

42:45 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Yeah. And Molly, you can add to this, if you if you think it needs adding to, we did ask that question. Because to me, it's like if we ask the question, if you have to the NEH, to our contacts there who really great and really super helpful, we asked them if you have completed all your coursework, and all you have to do is defend your dissertation or defend your MA thesis. Would that make would you be eligible to apply and they said, if at the moment you have not defended and you haven't completed all requirements, and that would include the defense of the of the thesis, then you're not eligible to apply, because you would still be technically a student. So unfortunately, if you are somebody who has not defended your dissertation or your thesis by December 17, you would not be eligible to apply. So, yeah.

43:42 Molly DeDona

That's my understanding as well of the NEH parameters.

43:47 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Yeah. We are hopeful different. We'd hoped that coursework and then you know, not the case.

43:55 Maura Cunningham

Right, so maybe someone that has defended their dissertation the first week of December but they're interviewed

44:00 Hilary Finchum-Sung

If you've defended

44:02 Maura Cunningham

It hasn't actually processed?

44:03 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Oh, no. Okay. That's really good question Paula. Yeah. Thank you. So I Yes, absolutely. So if you've defended, you know, we know it takes a long time to get this this piece of paper, you know, and also to get it processed via the University. So if you have defended your dissertation, if you defended your thesis, and you're technically done, it's passed, then you're fine. So that would you would be eligible?.Great. No, no, it's okay. questions at any place is okay, we're kind of dipping into both?

44:40 Maura Cunningham

Yes, yeah. Yeah. Somebody has asked one of the requirements for some of the programs is an MA would an MS suffice or it does it have to be an MA degree?

44:51 Hilary Finchum-Sung

I think it sort of depends on your degree. So these these these grants, these fellowships are for people who are specialists in the humanities. So these are people who have done coursework and receive degrees ideally, in a field, or sorry, in a humanities discipline. So if you're, if you

received your degree, and it's an MS, but you could argue that what you do is humanities work, then that's fine. I mean, I kind of see that, you know, like, I think I gave the example earlier of anthropology. Is anthropology, a social science? Or is it a humanities? It depends, you know, if you work in a subfield of Anthro, for example, that is more humanity centric, or centered, or leaning, then, yeah, I would, I would say that it sort of depends on you, and what it is that you do. So it's more important, what kind of specialization you have, if it's a humanities based specialization, that's completely fine.

45:46 Maura Cunningham

Yeah, we understand that people's careers, take them in different directions than maybe originally intended. So exactly, you're not bound by your degree. And sort of relatedly, can you elaborate what you mean by Asia specialists? So is this someone who has formal training in Asian studies? Or is it again, more about what the work that they're doing?

46:09 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Yeah, it sort of depends on what it is that you're envisioning, applying for. I mean, certainly, the fellowships are aimed at people who are, I think, trying to build most of them, not all of them. But at least three of them are specifically focused at young or not young, but any, any scholar who needs the support to develop their career in academia. So they're definitely academically kind of centric, or centered. But others, like the public facing research projects, the community projects, not necessarily so an Asia specialist is somebody who, who gosh, I mean, it could be anybody, right? It could be anybody who, who does their work, and identifies primarily, according to the, to the fact that they do work on a particular country or area of Asia, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia. So it could be that you work in a museum, it could be that you work. I don't know, and with communities, etc. So I think Asia specialist is sort of broad, you know, what I'm saying? So I think you would just have to do work that would touch on some area of Asian Studies, and whether that is, you know, you know, contemporary history, communities, identities, you know, it's it's kind of hard to say definitively what exactly, it is so broad, right, because it's just a field, you know, in any kind of discipline and kind of work can contribute to that, I would say, just make sure that you pay attention to who's not eligible. So I think this works specifically, or sorry, these awards, according to NEH parameters shouldn't go to people who are, would apply that in their work as K through 12, educators, for example. And we do know that there are some people who were K through 12 educators who actually would identify as people who really know a lot about Asia and teach a lot about Asia, etc. So you just want to make sure that you're you don't you don't slide into the ineligible categories as defined by the parameters of the National Endowment for the Humanities. So if you have questions about that, like you're like, I'm not really sure if I'm an Asianist, I think you should be I think you should know. But if you're not sure, and you're saying I do this, or I'm thinking about proposing this kind of project or this, then just ask us. And we'll be able to provide you more concrete feedback specific to your situation.

48:34 Maura Cunningham

If someone has an intended community organization, so I suppose for one of the grants that requires a community partnership, if they are receiving funds from the NEH, does that mean that the applicant, the individual applicant cannot partner with them or consult with them?

48:51 Hilary Finchum-Sung

No. So there are yes, you can so you can receive it. So let me who I don't want to confuse you. So in other words, these grants are specifically for individuals. And maybe even there's a couple or there's one, specifically for teams of individuals. That's the Digital Humanities project, but um, it's not for organizations. So if you're working with an organization that has received an organizational grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, you can still partner with that institution because you are the person who is receiving that funding. So especially the fellowships are designed to allow you to do it. Right, it will allow you to focus, you know, on this work and to really pour everything that you have into it. So it's meant to fund you and your work. And certainly, if you're partnering with an institution, they have to be part of this, they have to say, yes, we'd like to do this with you. But you are responsible for that project. And they are providing you the support and the partnership to make that project happen. But we would be funding you, this grant would be funding you and your work, not the organization.

50:00 Maura Cunningham

Someone else has asked you adjuncts needed organizer to help or support them to apply for grants. Do they need that-

50:07 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Can you repeat that Maura? I'm sorry?

50:08 Maura Cunningham

Um, do adjuncts need an organizer to help or support them to apply for grants? So perhaps the person's asking if they need an institutional affiliation or not?

50:19 Hilary Finchum-Sung

No, no, absolutely. Yeah.

50:21 Maura Cunningham

Again, it's just an individual. Yeah.

50:25 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Yeah, you don't need to be at an institution to receive a to apply for and receive, hopefully, a grant or fellowship, through this program.

50:38 Maura Cunningham

Someone is asked if there are any requirements for letters of reference in these applications.

50:45 Hilary Finchum-Sung

The only one that we have are the only two actually. One would be the one that we talked about just briefly a moment ago was the fellowship where you are working with a community organization or a nonprofit or some organization together on a project. This would be the public facing humanities project. So in that case, you do need something from them saying, Yeah, we

want to work with this person. And we've already agreed that we like what they're proposing. And we would like to do this, if they can get this funding, yay. So we need some sort of official letter from that organization. For the publication grants, you do need some sort of, I'd put it this way proof. For example, if you could, there are two different ways that you could do this, for example, you already have a contract, you get a book in progress, and you need funding, you can't get this funding or you need funding to help. So this is a subvention for actually publishing that particular book. So in that case, you do need some sort of contract, or you need to show us that you have that this is a contractual agreement you have with the publisher. On the flip side, you don't have to have a contract with the publisher. To have this, you just have to have some sort of interest shown from a publisher, and you have to have a book in progress or a manuscript in progress. So in that case, you do have to kind of show us that you're really serious about trying to get this book out or this book done, because that's what the funding is for. So with that, of course, depends on the individual's situation and where they are in the progress of their publication.

52:22 Maura Cunningham

Great, and we're coming down to just the last question, which is about the future of these grants. So someone has asked if you want to create a mentorship program this year, would you be able to apply for a different grant in the following year?

52:44 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Can you say that one more time? Sorry. We've got very zealous lawncare outside.

52:50 Maura Cunningham

Yeah. Outside our office, now they're on you know, yes. Sorry, quite loud over here. Sorry about that. Um, so if someone applies for a mentorship program grant in the first year, would they be able to apply for a personal scholar grant in the following year. But unfortunately, we only have one year funding.

53:11 Hilary Finchum-Sung

It's only for this one year, we hope that we'll be able to apply for additional opportunities in the future. We know that these kinds of granting opportunities do come up from the NEH on a regular basis. So we're already going to start looking for this now for the next time. But we only have this funding for a year. So this program officially starts now with the application process begins officially with your work in the spring of next year, and then wraps up in the fall of 20, or the late summer, early fall of 2023. So, unfortunately, we only have this guaranteed for a year, we don't have the-we don't have programs right now set up. The big question, right for organizations like ours is sustainability. We would love to be able to offer this for the next 20/30/40 years. And we hope to find ways to make that work.

54:01 Maura Cunningham

So that is all the questions we have. And I hope I hope this was useful to people I hope everyone who attended is able to apply for one of these grant opportunities and, it looks like we're getting a late question. Um, okay, so a question about an adjunct and an institution would

like to use the school's diversity office for her application. She's a Chinese language teacher, could our school's diversity office be an organizer for her?

54:44 Hilary Finchum-Sung

These grants are for individuals. So that like, for example, the AHA the American History Association, Historical Association, sorry, they received an NEH grant to but their grant was for organizations. So they actually get to fund organizations and like nonprofits and study centers and stuff, we don't have that kind of grant, the grant that we have is to provide individuals with funding. So I would recommend the adjunct in your department at your institution to apply directly for that support.

55:20 Maura Cunningham

Molly, I think this is a question for you. What should be included in the budget?

55:25 Molly DeDona

Yeah, let me share the slide that we have for that. I have the sample budgets right here. Let's see. See progress. Next slide. All right here. So here are the budget templates for fellowship and the professional development grants and the publication support grant. So fellowship budgets slightly differ since we're since assumably, the fellowships are paying for your housing, transportation, things like that, and it's a set about, whereas the professional development grants, you may be requesting anywhere from 5000 to \$20,000. So you can see the line items here, there's honorarium, transportation, accommodations, etc. And then you may also add line items here. And we have some indirect costs and some costs that are not eligible outlined right here. And then again, for publication support grants, these are indexing, professional editing. So those line items will look very different compared to the fellowship and the professional development grants. But this is what we have right here. And then there are some line items that you may need to add, or you may have to ask us at AAS.

56:36 Maura Cunningham

Great, thank you. So I will issue a last call for questions. Looks like we're getting to the end.

56:46 Hilary Finchum-Sung

I will add to what Molly said, Molly, can you go back to that slide where you remember when they when people? Remember when? Remember when people apply for the grants? And then they have to like click a yes, I agree this, if you guess, is there a way that you can go back to that slide? Because

57:02 Molly DeDona

Yeah, sure.

57:03 Hilary Finchum-Sung

It specifies specifically, what's allowable in terms of cost. So one of the cool things, and one of the most flexible aspects of the grants and fellowships is like, what you can actually have funded, like, we have all kinds of restrictions, right. But people who actually receive it, there's a

there's a small list here, so you can't use your funding for lobbying, obviously, for supporting particular political candidates for writing of guide books, or how to books etc. And, of course, research for students. But I mean, the list is relatively limited, actually. So you could ask for funding for travel for depending on what kind of project you're, you're trying to, or you're hoping to do for technology for all kinds of things. So I mean, I would say just kind of envision your dream, you know, workshop scenario, your dream fellowship scenario, and really come up with it, you can add additional items. If you don't see it in the budget line, you can add it and then you can always check with us at grants@asianstudies.org to make sure that that's allowable. And we can confirm with you whether or not it is sometimes we might have to go check with the NIH if we're not sure. But most the time, if it's not, it was not here, then it should be okay.

58:26 Maura Cunningham

All right. I think that's everything from us today. As we've said, if you have any questions, please. Email grants@asianstudies.org or visit our community forum and post your question in the discussion that's really helpful, especially because if you go in the forum, it's public. Other people might have the same question. If you have, if you have a question, somebody else probably has it as well. So posting it publicly in the forum. And then Molly can respond to it there. And then other people can see that the question and the response. So that would be really helpful to everyone who's applying for these, but we have just about, I think, five weeks before the application deadline, and we hope that that's more than enough time for everyone to put together their applications to these programs, we really look forward to receiving them.

59:20 Hilary Finchum-Sung

I will add to if you are, you have colleagues you have a fellow researchers, you have somebody in your departments, you know might benefit from this or you think might benefit from this, please just spread the word let people know we're doing our best to let as many people know as possible. And we want to make sure that everybody who could potentially use this funding has the opportunity to apply for it. So this is a rare opportunity, and we hope that we'll be able to provide much needed support for many scholars.

59:53 Maura Cunningham

Okay, thanks so much and have a good rest of your day.

59:56 Hilary Finchum-Sung

Thank you all so much. Thank you for being here.

59:58 Molly DeDona

Thank you. Bye

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

Edited by Molly DeDona