Humanities Center Seeking Faculty Fellows for 2018-2019

EVIDENCE IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD

The Humanities Center of the University of Hartford requests applications from faculty interested in becoming one of the distinguished Faculty Fellows of the Humanities Center for the 2018-2019 academic year, by offering a lecture focused on their own project related to the seminar topic of “Evidence in a Post-Truth World” during the Spring 2019 Humanities Lecture Series.

Lauren Cook, Associate Professor of Cinema, will lead the Humanities Center Seminar for this next year. She has selected the theme of “Evidence in a Post-Truth World” for the seminar. She requests applications for faculty fellows from all disciplines and colleges in the University. Here is a description of the seminar:

The internet has ushered in an era where we have more unfettered access to information, knowledge, and evidence than ever before. And, through social media, it also has provided a public window into our inner lives. Personal messages describing feelings and thoughts are seen alongside news stories on social media, almost interchangeably. In an ad-driven media marketplace, engagement provides revenue. Extreme ideas stand out because they produce emotional responses that encourage engagement. And, when emotions are manipulated for political and financial gain, tracking down sources and teasing out agendas can be difficult, time-consuming work. This is work that is critical to perform, not just for journalists, but work that needs to be done by everyone.

We would be looking for proposals from faculty in art, art history, architecture, communication, music, dance, cinema, theatre, psychology, business, history, sociology, philosophy, literature, politics, education and the sciences.

Possible topics might be (but are certainly not limited to):

The economics of journalism; the rejection of peer-reviewed and scientific evidence; relativism and intellectual honesty; the brain’s response to fake news; wartime propaganda; historical examples of dishonest media personalities; growing rifts in political identity and economic security; emotional appeals to fear in relation to immigration and the border; the financial sector’s profit-driven, collective denial during the mortgage crisis; political demagogues; evidence in the classroom; memes and the viral internet proliferation of ideas; storytelling and ethics; autofiction and performance in relation to truth; the ethical responsibility of internet companies and websites to intercede as well as the technical approaches of how to intercede with user-driven content; the social impacts of neoliberalism.
The advantages and responsibilities of being a Faculty Fellow include the following:

- Faculty Fellows will be working on a scholarly or pedagogical project in a context that will offer encouragement and a testing site for the development of their ideas.

- Each Faculty Fellow will give a talk as part of the Spring 2019 series of lectures associated with the theme. The lecture will give each Fellow an opportunity to present the results of his or her research on the project.

- Fellows receive a stipend of $1,500 to enable them to read, write, do research, and prepare their spring lecture.

- Faculty Fellows are encouraged to participate in the honors course in the fall term, and are expected to attend the Tuesday evening talks by other Fellows during the Spring lecture series.

All faculty interested in becoming a Faculty Fellow of the Humanities Center for the 2018-2019 academic year, please email a one-page proposal that describes the focus of your interest as it is related to the course topic, “Evidence in a Post-Truth World,” and the material to be addressed in your spring talk, along with a CV, to Nicholas Ealy (ealy@hartford.edu) and Lauren Cook (lcook@hartford.edu) no later than March 30, 2018.

The Humanities Center at the University of Hartford supports interdisciplinary scholarship focusing on the humanities through arts, sciences, technology, media, music, psychology, history, film, philosophy and literature. For more information, contact Dr. Nicholas Ealy, Director, at ealy@hartford.edu or follow us on Facebook at “University of Hartford Humanities Center.”