2018-2019 Research Cluster Seed Grant Application

Objectives of Research Clusters
The Program for Transborder Communities (PTC) Research Cluster Seed Grants support academic year-long collaborative efforts by Arizona State University (ASU) faculty pursuing a research project focused on transborder communities and critical social, cultural, economic, political and environmental processes occurring at the intersection of borders and society. While the main focus of PTC is the US-Mexico borderlands, applications focusing on other borders will be considered if they directly contribute to the understanding of transborder communities and processes.

The research clusters are mechanisms for triggering discussion that lead to exchange, cross-fertilization and collaboration across disciplines. Research clusters are platforms to support and enhance existing faculty expertise and/or facilitate the engagement of faculty to examine the changing needs and growing cultural, political, environmental, and economic influence of transborder communities, especially Latinx and transborder communities in the US-Mexico borderlands. Ultimately, the research clusters are expected to lead to a self-sustained research program by leveraging funding from external funding sources.

Research clusters may receive up to $7,500 per cluster to cover research materials, travel, and/or supplies. Additionally, $2,500 of support is also available to the ASU faculty member who serves as the PI and/or research lead for each cluster. Each research cluster will also have available up to $3,000 to invite a non-Arizona ASU visiting fellow who will work with the research cluster throughout the academic year. Each research cluster is expected to work with PTC administrative staff in selecting and formally inviting this non-ASU faculty who will be part of the PTC Fellows program. PTC will cover a maximum of $2,000 to cover travel, accommodation costs, and per diem during the duration of the fellowship.

During the course of the year of funding, research clusters are expected to pursue an attainable work program, work closely with their cluster PTC fellow, and establish a presence as an active research team. The funds and support provided by PTC should eventually result in at least one funded research proposal linked to an external funding source. Deliverable is a grant proposal to be submitted for consideration to an external funding entity within twelve months of receiving the award. In addition to the research proposal, grantees will be required to submit a half-way progress report, a final report due 60 days after the funding period end date, participate in the PTC seminar series, and acknowledge/credit PTC’s support in publications and other activities produced by the research cluster.

Eligibility: This cycle is open to ASU faculty who are eligible to submit grants to external funding agencies and doctoral students working with faculty in the social sciences and humanities at any of the ASU campuses.

Review process and selection criteria: Three research clusters grants will be awarded. Submitted proposals will be peer-reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee using the following criteria:
- Robustness and consistency of cluster’s work plan (goals, activities, calendar, and implementation).
- The investigators’ and team’s capability to undertake the research cluster goals.
- Potential for funding from external agencies

Research Cluster Funding Information: Awards are for a 12-month, fiscal year period and no extension will be granted. Allowable expenses are travel reimbursements, including field and archival research; research materials and supplies; and/or external services provided by independent contractors not affiliated with ASU. Non-allowable expenses are meals/food/water/drinks not associated with in travel status per diem.

Application Submission Instructions: The deadline for the PTC 2018-2019 research cluster applications is Friday, May 4, 2017 at 5 p.m. MT. Please submit one electronic copy of the application materials (preferably PDF format) to ptc@asu.edu. For additional information, please email PTC at the email address above.
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1. Name, Academic Rank, Academic Unit of Each Applicant. (List faculty lead/PI first.)

2. Title of Proposed Research Project:

3. Project Narrative:
   - A two-page description of the work to be done (approximately 750-1,000 words) including goals, activities, strategies, and participants, as well as the contributions of the proposal to the understanding of transborder communities and processes along the US-Mexico border region and/or other borders.
   - A list of relevant bibliographic references.
   - A description of the specific expertise that each participant brings to this project, not to exceed one page for all participants (approximately 500 words).
   - A one-page statement (approximately 500 words) about how you will utilize external faculty expertise to conduct the project, with particular emphasis on the contribution of the PTC fellow to the goals of the project and substantive activities to be performed by the fellow over the term of the grant for feedback and/or consultation.
   - A timeline to accomplish the goals of the proposal, not to exceed one page (approximately 500 words).
   - A budget narrative of how research cluster will spend funds throughout the funding period, not to exceed one page (approximately 500 words).
   - A two-page C.V. for each participant.

4. External Funding: one-page statement (approximately 500 words) describing the external funding agencies that the research cluster will apply to, the external agency deadlines, and why these funding agencies are appropriate for this project.

Signature of the applicant(s)*: Date:
___________________________________  _______________
___________________________________  _______________
___________________________________  _______________

Signature of the unit head(s)*: Date:
___________________________________  _______________
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*Signature of the applicant indicates that the applicant agrees to submit a proposal for external funding through ORSPA, or Limited Submissions, if applicable. PTC seed grant recipients agree to pursue external funding exceeding the value of their PTC award and to include the School of Transborder Studies as a Unit in their allocations on relevant ASU forms when they apply for external funding. Seed recipients agree to allocate a minimum of 4%. This rate may increase if there is significant STS/PTC staff or faculty involvement anticipated during pre-award or post-award phases of the project. Once received funding exceeds that of the PTC seed grant, recipients will allow a nominal amount of allocations to STS (1%) for tracking purposes for all grants related to their PTC funded research.