2016-2017 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 border regions of the world 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 Latinos/as 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 $5,000 to invite a non-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 $2,500 to cover this faculty’s 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 result in at least one research proposal linked to a particular external funding source. 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, make a public presentation in the PTC seminar, 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
There will be three research clusters operating this academic year. 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 of 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 2016-2017 research cluster applications is Friday, May 6, 2016 at 5 p.m. MT. Please submit one electronic copy of the application materials to (preferably PDF format) to ptc@asu.edu. For additional information, Please contact Elizabeth Cantú, PTC Program Manager at (480) 727-7583 or Elizabeth.Cantu@asu.edu.
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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 borderlands and/or other border regions of the world.
   - 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);
   - 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: __________________

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Signature of the unit head(s)*: ____________________________ Date: __________________

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*Signature of the applicant indicates that the applicant(s) agrees to submit a proposal for external funding through ORSPA prior to the deadline, or the limited submission deadline, if applicable.