

## MATHER CENTER FACULTY BOOK AWARD

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND TIPS

*Please fully review the [Mather Center grant website](#) in addition to these instructions.*

The funding is intended to be used for a course buyout in order to free up a portion of the faculty member's time for writing or research. We are able to award amounts up to \$7500, to be used in the 2024-2025 school year in a semester mutually agreed upon by the awardee, their chair, and their dean.

#### **Eligibility:**

Any faculty member, 5 years or fewer out from completion of the Ph.D., who is currently working on a book (including a textbook) **Your application should specifically address how your proposal meets at least one of the following goals, as well as [the mission and values of the Center](#) more generally.**

1. Supporting the research of women/gender minorities who are under-represented in their fields, **OR**
2. Supporting research on feminism and gender equity, defined as any research which has a goal of improving social inequality based on gender.

It is incumbent upon the applicant to demonstrate how their project or they themselves meet one or both of these criteria.

#### **Application Materials:**

1. Description of project or research, including how it ties into the Center's mission to empower women and advance gender equity, following guidelines on scoring sheet. Please also describe the status of the project - still being researched, book contract in hand, etc. (No more than 4 pages single-spaced.)
2. Letter of support from department chair indicating at least the following two items. 1.) the departmental cost of teaching one course during the upcoming academic year and 2.) the willingness to accept the course buy-out, if offered through the Mather Center. This does not need to be a letter of recommendation, although they can provide supporting information (e.g., impact on the T&P process) if they so choose.

You will also agree to the grant policies, including acknowledging the funding in publications or presentations and providing evidence of impact to the Center upon request. Finally, you will be asked a few demographic questions, which are optional and will not be shared with grant evaluators.

**Grant applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

- **Clarity of purpose and plan:** Applicant has a clearly defined goal for the research project and lays out a specific plan for how they will accomplish that goal. It is clearly explained how the additional time from the course buyout will benefit them, and there is a clear plan for how the applicant will make progress on the book, however they define progress.
- **Social/Intellectual Merit:** The applicant clearly specifies the social and/or intellectual benefit of the project.
- **Relationship to Center Goals and Eligibility Criteria:** Applicant specifically identifies the connection between the opportunity and/or their professional goals and the mission of the center. They demonstrate how they meet one or both eligibility criteria.

Some additional advice:

- If IRB approval is required based on the nature of your work, your study will need to have IRB approval prior to grant funds being released; it is strongly suggested that you have approval prior to applying to ensure we can disperse the funds in a timely manner. [The CWRU IRB has information on their website.](#)
- Avoid jargon or overly technical explanations. While we try to have reviewers who are familiar in general topics, your application is unlikely to be reviewed by someone who is an expert in your specific area of study or academic discipline. Therefore, your application should be comprehensible to someone with no familiarity with your topic. In short, your grant application should be distinct from (and not necessarily include) a complete abstract of the project. The connection to the center's goals and how you will benefit should be the bulk of your application statement.