



Lifeways of Hope
Spring 2024 Fellowship in Public Scholarship

Application Deadline: January 5, 2024

Honorarium: \$2,500

Number of Fellows: 4

Time: February 1 - April 30, 2024

Schedule: Fellows will meet bi-weekly for six 1.5 hour meetings plus one orientation meeting.
All meetings will be facilitated virtually.

For more information please visit: www.ReligionAndCities.org

Submit questions and/or application materials to: info@ReligionAndCities.org

Eligibility:

The Center for Religion and Cities invites graduate students, experienced scholars, ethnographers, practitioners, and public intellectuals to apply for the 2024 Fellowship in Public Scholarship. Applicants should be engaged in an ethnographic research project, community-based research, or otherwise working at the intersection of public scholarship, academic inquiry, and listening. Applicants should be interested in how their work can contribute to public scholarship and be willing to explore and implement deep listening practices in their research and work contexts. We welcome applications from graduate students, community organizers, and leaders in cultural organizations such as museums, universities, and nonprofits.

Description of Work:

There is a growing interest in public scholarship – in creating knowledge that lives, interacts, and makes an impact beyond the academy. Public scholarship is seen in open access publications, in scholarship shared through social media, blogs, news sites, or film; in works that address pressing social and political issues, and through a reframing of scholarship as accountable to communities. Dr. Angel Jones, author of *Street Scholar*, writes that a public scholar is “someone who with the grounding of the community planted firmly beneath their feet, walks into the ivory tower and unapologetically kicks up dust as they uproot the academic weeds that have attempted to stunt the growth of our people” (Jones, 2022).

The Center for Religion and Cities, through the Lifeways of Hope initiative, centers collaborative relationships in the work of research and public scholarship. A key component of this collaborative work is deep listening. Deep listening is a set of practices that support collaborative relationships. These practices create time and space, set aside agendas, welcome the complexity of individual participants, allow for transformation, and interrogate research that is solely focused on collecting data. We will explore forms of listening, how listening is related to data collection and analysis, and ethical challenges to listening.

In this fellowship we seek individuals we are interested in engaging with their work as public scholarship and are committed to practices of centering listening in the work of research, analysis, and writing.

Through a series of bi-weekly meetings, we will learn together about models of deep listening, consider avenues of pursuing public scholarship, and have time to workshop and reflect on individual projects. Chosen fellows are expected to attend all meetings and complete surveys and reflections to track growth in listening and awareness of public scholarship. At the end of the fellowship fellows will have the beginning of a piece of public scholarship that the CRC will help publish to a larger audience.

Applications should include:

- Resume/CV,
- 1-2 page letter/description of your project, including location, research interests, advisors or collaborators, and why you are interested in the CRC Lifeways Fellowship in Public Scholarship, specifically your interest in engaging listening practices and exploring public scholarship, and
- Any other materials you'd like to include.

Background:

The CRC's Lifeways of Hope initiative, generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation and Morgan State University, seeks to improve communal listening practices as a vital lifeway for healthier collaborative work in cities. Focusing on the connective tissues between us— the land on which we stand— and by centering lifegiving practices of reciprocity, we seek to improve collaborative work among community partners, scholars, and students.

The fellowship is led by Lifeways of Hope Co-Directors Katherine Kunz and Dom Turner.