



Q21.

Q1. Name

ICS

BGSU | Institute for the Study of
CULTURE and **SOCIETY**
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Q2. Pronouns

Q3. Unit

Q4. Academic Rank

Q5. Office Phone

Q6. Mobile Phone

Q7. Email

Q8. Please indicate your availability for residency

- Fall Term
 Spring Term

Q10.

Characteristics of the Award Program

Each year up to four BGSU faculty members may receive Institute awards to pursue research or creative work for one team. During the award period, Institute Scholars and Artists are freed from teaching and service responsibilities so that they may devote unimpeded time to their projects

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Conditions

1. Each Fellow will present on their funded project in a public, general-audience lecture sponsored by the ICS in the semester of the fellowship period. Additional community engagement activities may be required as developed in consultation with the Fellow, the Director, and the ICS Executive Board.
2. Fellows are expected to participate actively in the intellectual community at ICS, through attendance at meetings of the ICS Fellows, Fellows talks, and other ICS-sponsored events.
3. ICS Fellows are requested to acknowledge the role of the Institute in publications/creative projects that result from their residency. We ask that you submit a copy of the final product (book, article, exhibition catalog, video, etc.) to ICS upon publication/exhibition.
4. If you anticipate taking a one-semester Faculty Improvement Leave, you may also apply for a semester-long ICS fellowship. However, those applying for full-year FIL should NOT expect to be able to switch to a semester FIL if awarded an ICS fellowship. These are separate awards with different timelines and processes; ICS cannot intervene in FIL matters.
5. ICS Fellows remain on regular academic-year salary throughout the award period. Funding for the Fellowship program comes from the College of Arts and Sciences, which provides compensation to instructional units to offset the costs of the release time. (Units must agree to make up the difference.) Replacement costs are capped at \$5,000 for a one-semester residency and are contingent upon fulfillment of ICS obligations.

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Eligibility

All full-time faculty who have successfully completed one Enhanced Performance Review are eligible to apply for a fellowship. Awards to untenured (probationary or nontenured-track) faculty are contingent upon

reappointment.

Faculty who have previously received an ICS Fellowship must wait at least five years before reapplying. No more than two faculty members from one department or program may be in residence at ICS in any given academic year.

Q19.

Review Criteria

- The intellectual significance and public relevance of the project, including the major ideas, themes, and questions to be explored
- The ways in which the project will enrich the university and broader communities through meaningful collaboration
- The significance of the project to a broader or more nuanced understanding of culture and society by building on and advancing existing disciplinary knowledge through interdisciplinary methods
- The clarity and conceptual coherence of the project
- The originality, importance, or substance of the applicant's proposal
- The probability that the project will lead to a tangible research/creative outcome (e.g., scholarly article, artwork, book chapter, etc.)
- The degree to which the project is sufficiently well conceived to be completed in a timely manner
- The potential for the project to serve the public good

Q20.

Proposal Evaluation Procedures

Applications are reviewed by the ICS Executive Board and the ICS Director.

Award recommendations are forwarded for approval to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Vice-Provost for Research.

Q13. Project Title

Algorithms and Everyday Life: Understanding New Media as Environments

Q14. Project Abstract (250 words maximum)

From credit reporting, access to public benefits, employment seeking, navigating public space, predictive policing, and more, our lives are increasingly governed by digital algorithms. Even the everyday acts of web browsing and smartphone use puts us into intimate contact with algorithms, which can shape our views of reality and impact our mental health in detrimental ways. While the public's awareness of this is slowly increasing, the degree of governance and the ubiquity of these practices still lack sufficient transparency. Hidden behind the protection of proprietary law and a veneer of objectivity, these platforms remain largely mysterious to most, including both those who use these technologies as well as those most negatively impacted by them. Thus, it is not simply that we don't know but rather, that when behaviors by technology and data firms become so intertwined with everyday life, they desensitize us to the processes of risk assessment, prediction, and surveillance. Two main questions are, 1) How can we create greater public awareness of these practices and technologies that have become embedded within everyday activities and experiences? 2) How can we create and sustain ongoing dialogue among the many stakeholders impacted and otherwise engaged by these digital platforms/environments? My aims for this fellowship are twofold: 1) Engage the Bowling Green community in public discussions focused on algorithms and the importance of digital literacy. 2) Create interdisciplinary opportunities within the University community, between colleagues within humanities-oriented disciplines and colleagues situated within STEM disciplines such as data science and analytics, and robotics.

Q15.

Proposed Community Engagement Activity (100 words maximum)

Describe a new community engagement activity that you might develop during an ICS residency in order to connect your project to other publics. What non-BGSU constituency could you reach out to for collaboration (such as a high-school, hospital, or particular community service organization)? How would this audience advance your work and/or increase its impact on the world? Think carefully about the kind of event or activity

that would be appropriate and relevant to your project. You may wish to consult with the ICS Director in advance of your application.

The proposed community engagement activity would reach out to both the local BG citizenry as well as the academic community at BGSU. For the former I would, with assistance from ICS, organize a public talk to address issues related to the often-unexpected encounters with algorithms we experience on a day-to-day basis. For the latter, the research cluster would create opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration on projects and pedagogical related exchanges.

Q16.

Additional Application Materials to be Emailed

- Project Narrative (1000 words maximum): The project description should be written in a clear, jargon-free style intelligible to colleagues outside the applicant's area of expertise.
 - Provide a concise overview articulating:
 - the central ideas, problems, or questions examined in the research/creative project being pursued
 - the intellectual significance of the project, including how you will complement, challenge, or expand existing scholarship and public perceptions of the topic
 - the social relevance to and impact on university and area communities
 - potential audiences for the work, including those on-campus as well as in the wider community
 - the longer-term goals for the project, what you plan to accomplish during the leave semester, and the form the final product will take
- Curriculum Vitae
 - Please attach in BGSU format
- Please use Times New Roman, 12-point font, one-inch margins
- In addition to the written project descriptions, artists may submit supplementary materials, such as digital files (photos, audio, videos) with their application packet.
- Submit additional application materials through email to ics@bgsu.edu

Q17. Please include the name and email for your Unit Chair/Director. Please ensure to type in the name and email correctly, they will receive an email requesting their signature as part of your application for the ICS Faculty Fellowship.

Unit Chair/Director Name

Unit Chair/Director Email

Q18. Please include the name and email for your College Dean. Please ensure to type in the name and email correctly, they will receive an email requesting their signature as part of your application for the ICS Faculty Fellowship.

College Dean Name

College Dean Email

Q16.

I have read and understand the ICS Faculty Fellowship Program guidelines, and agree to its conditions:

Applicant Signature:



Location Data

Location: [Redacted]

Source: GeolIP Estimation



Algorithms and Everyday Life: Understanding New Media as Environments

The nature, scope, and intended outcome of the work:

My proposal focuses on the relationship between the algorithms driving our smart technologies and issues of social justice. Given the above my aims for this fellowship would be twofold: 1) To engage the local Bowling Green community in public discussions focused on algorithms and the importance of digital literacy. 2) To help create interdisciplinary opportunities within the University community, between colleagues within humanities-oriented disciplines and our colleagues situated within STEM disciplines such as data science and analytics, and robotics. Three specific projects would support these main goals. First, I would plan a talk that would be accessible for both the University community as well as the local public. Second, I would create and propose a research cluster that puts interested Humanities and STEM faculty into conversation with one another regarding algorithms, ethics, and society. Finally, I would write and submit for publication an article dealing algorithms, ethics, and everyday life.

Central ideas, problems, or questions examined in the research/creative project being pursued:

From credit reporting, access to public benefits, employment seeking, navigating public space, predictive policing, and more, much of our lives are, to varying degrees, governed by digital algorithms. Even the everyday acts of web browsing and engagement with smartphones puts us into intimate contact with algorithms, which can shape our views of reality and impact our mental health in detrimental ways. While the public's awareness of this is slowly increasing, the degree of governance and the ubiquity of these practices still lack sufficient oversight and transparency. Hiding behind the protection of proprietary law and a veneer of objectivity, these platforms remain largely mysterious to most, including both those who use these technologies as well as those most disproportionately and negatively impacted by them. Thus, it is not simply that we *don't know* but rather, that when behaviors by technology and data firms become so intertwined with everyday life, they desensitize us to the processes and perils of risk assessment, prediction, and surveillance. Two main questions driving this project are, 1) How can we create greater public awareness of these practices and technologies that have become embedded within everyday activities and experiences? 2) How can we create and sustain ongoing dialogue among the many stakeholders impacted and otherwise engaged by these digital platforms/environments?

Intellectual significance of the project, including how you will complement, challenge, or expand existing scholarship:

My approach to studying media and technology is grounded in the media ecology tradition. Most broadly, media ecology is a multidisciplinary, systems-based approach to understanding media as environments. The main distinction between more content-oriented approaches to media studies is media ecology's focus on the impact media themselves have on everyday experience within (and as) environments. That is, media are neither neutral tools nor overly

deterministic technical systems but rather, in our creation of and interactions with media we both shape and are in turn, shaped by our digital environments.

Despite media ecologies vast intellectual roots and resources, with a few notable and more recent exceptions, the field itself has been far too silent on issues related to social justice. This is particularly the case with regard to algorithms and racial discrimination. Thus, the work proposed for this ICS Fellowship would utilize the important contributions of a media ecology approach, while simultaneously infusing/expanding it with critical sensibilities. This would bring a much-needed perspective to the discipline and help it to remain relevant to our contemporary digital and socio-political landscapes.

Social relevance and impact on university and area communities. The larger significance or implications of the project for the applicant's scholarly or creative field and for the study of culture and society more generally:

Far from the objective and/or benign tools they are portrayed as by many, algorithms are often used to exacerbate inequalities and perpetuate systemic racism. That is, as their use proliferates throughout the U.S and other parts of the world, these software become increasingly embedded infrastructures and extensions of multiple forms of oppression. Moreover, the aforementioned lack of transparency and veneer of objectivity surrounding these platforms makes the critique and remedy of this crisis difficult to enact and sustain. What are needed then are media literacy approaches that can assist in their unmasking as well as elucidate the complex ways in which infrastructure media, which include contemporary digital platforms, work to sustain hierarchies of oppression. The projects proposed for this fellowship would ideally serve as a foundation for broader public engagement as well as create a local space to not only discuss these issues but to, perhaps more importantly, transform the concerns and ideas generated through these projects into concrete action. Awareness is perhaps the first of many steps towards ethical action.

Longer-term goals for the project, what you plan to accomplish during the leave semester, and the form the final product will take:

My goals for the leave semester are threefold: 1) Create and deliver a public talk on the role that algorithms play in everyday life and their relevance to the local community. 2) To conceptualize and submit a proposal for a research cluster on algorithms and social justice. 3) Submit an article for publication dealing algorithms, ethics, and everyday life. My longer-term goals would be to build on the collaborations that are hopefully developed over the leave semester, and to situate BGSU as a potential hub for cross-disciplinary work on algorithms and social justice.

Potential audiences for the work, including those on-campus as well as in the wider community:

Potential audiences for the work would include the local BG community, as well as BGSU colleagues from across the Humanities and STEM disciplines. Ideally, the research cluster can lead to symposia and invited talks by scholars and activists invested in the issues addressed by this application.