

**Public Research Fellows 2025-26
Engaged Humanities @ UP: Environmental Humanities
Call for Faculty Fellows**

The Public Research Fellows, an Engaged Humanities Hub program that supports innovative, collaborative, publicly engaged projects is seeking faculty fellows for 2025-26. The program has won an NEH grant to build engaged humanities curriculum, projects, and programming, and is looking for 3 additional faculty fellows to join us in exploring our **25-26 theme “Environmental Humanities.”**

We often think of the study of the environment as something best done by physical scientists who measure water levels, analyze climate records, and model atmospheric patterns. But considering the environment presents problems of scale and perspective that are as imaginative and philosophical as they are quantitative. Our relationship with the natural world and our hopes for the earth’s future are very much related to our imaginative worlds and the stories we tell about them. With next year’s PRF theme, “Environmental Humanities,” we seek to explore ways of shaping and sharing those stories. How do we think differently about the environment when we use the humanities as practices for doing so? And how can connecting with our local communities and wider publics shape the relationship between our thinking, our actions, and the futures we envision?

This year’s theme is inspired by these questions. With the support of an NEH Humanities Connections grant, the program is bringing together an interdisciplinary working group of faculty, students, and community partners to co-create projects and courses that engage Portland and the public through the lens of the environmental humanities. A core group of faculty—two of the NEH project directors: Jen McDanel (ENG) and Molly Hiro (ENG), along with Kali Abel (ENV), Alexa Dare (CST), and Sarah Weiger (ENG/ENV) have been working on developing the theme for the year and are seeking up to 3 additional faculty fellows to join us as Environmental Humanities Fellows.

What Would Environmental Humanities Fellows Do?

Faculty fellows partner with 2-4 students to develop research or curricular projects on a topic or issue related to “Environmental Humanities.” The project must result in a public-facing outcome of some kind, rather than an academic essay or conference presentation. Examples of outcomes include (but certainly are not limited to):

- creative, interactive, and/or practical interventions (exhibits, curated spaces, prototypes, organizational plans, etc.)
- community engagements with local institutions or organizations
- podcasts, social media campaigns, online tools, or other digital humanities ventures
- the development of new team-taught Core Exploration-level “big ideas” courses
- the creation of course modules and/or assignments that connect with local communities
- other curricular innovations that engage pedagogy with the environment, the city of Portland and/or local neighborhoods

Faculty fellows will earn a stipend of \$2500 and will have the following expectations (*amounting to approximately 2.5 hours per week spread over the academic year*):

- meet with student fellows on a regular basis (ideally biweekly)
- develop a project with a publicly engaged outcome
- participate in one or two all-program meetings each semester to connect with other fellows

Additionally, fellows will be invited to join any or all of the Environmental Humanities working group meetings for the year (every three weeks or so) to discuss readings and work on programming related to the theme.

Student fellow participation:

The program can help you recruit students or you can recruit your own if you have collaborators in mind.

Student fellows earn a total of 4 credits for their participation across the year: 1-credit of undergraduate research and a 1-credit engaged humanities readings course in both fall and spring semesters (enrollment in the courses is mandatory for student participation in the program)

Questions?

Reach out to Jen McDanel, Program Director: mcdanel@up.edu.

Applications due: M 3/10

Send the attached application to Jen McDanel (mcdanel@up.edu) by M 3/10. Applications will be evaluated based on how well-developed and relevant to the theme “Environmental Humanities” the project ideas are and how clearly the outcomes are framed as public-facing and/or community engaged. In the interest of getting as many UP faculty involved in PRF as possible, faculty who have not previously participated may receive preference.

PRF 25-26
Engaged Humanities @ UP: Environmental Humanities
Faculty Fellow Application
Due: M 3/10/2025

Title of project:

Name(s)/Department(s):

Do you have students in mind who you would like to work with as your student fellows?* If so, include their names/years/majors below:

Description of project (maximum 500 words): Describe the topic of the research or curricular project, its scope, and how it relates to the theme “Environmental Humanities.”

Potential Outputs, Activities, and Public Engagement: Describe the potential publicly engaged outcomes or curricular elements you hope to develop and how you plan to develop them.

***Note:** you need not have identified student fellows at the time of applying; the program can help with recruitment.