Sawyer Seminar at the University of Chicago, 2011-2012
“Around 1948: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Global Transformation”

Sawyer Dissertation Fellowships

The Sawyer Seminar on "Around 1948: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Global Transformation" at the University of Chicago invites applications for two Dissertation Fellowship awards for either the academic year 2011-12 or the subsequent academic year 2012-13. These fellowships, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will be awarded to two graduate students in Humanities or Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, pursuing dissertation research in a topic related to the Sawyer Seminar. The seminar looks at the remarkable historical moment ‘around 1948’ across a range of international locations and from the point of view of several disciplines. The significance of the seminar consists in the effort to identify, clarify, and compare the shape and form of the novel alignments and institutions to emerge in the wake of 1948. Disparate moments in culture, society, and politics, we suggest, amounted to a historical turning point, a fundamental transformation the effects of which remain central to our understandings of citizenship, art, and obligation to this day. Rather than neglecting the immediate post-war years as a distinct historical moment, we seek to reveal and analyze little-noticed (or undiscovered) connections and exchanges between events and developments that are proximate in time.

The Sawyer Dissertation Fellows will be expected to pursue research and write-up in residence at the University of Chicago in 2011-12 or 2012-13. They will be expected to participate in the Mellon Project community by attending the workshop, lectures and conference events. The fellowship provides tuition, the Student Life Fee, University student health insurance on the Basic Plan (if the fellow elects to take it), and a stipend of $23,000.

To be eligible for this grant, students must have exhausted their existing aid commitments beginning in the academic year in which they hold the award (2011-12 or 2012-13). They cannot have held or currently hold any University of Chicago (i.e., divisional, departmental, center) dissertation write-up fellowship. The Sawyer awards may not be held by students who are beyond the tenth year in their program in 2011-12; beyond the ninth year in 2012-13. Students applying to hold the award in 2011-12 must be admitted to candidacy by March 31, 2011; to hold the award in 2012-13, they must demonstrate admission to candidacy by March 31, 2012.

The deadline for receipt of applications for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 Sawyer Dissertation Fellowships is Friday, April 8, 2011.

Applications should include (1) your CV; (2) University of Chicago graduate transcript; (3) a seminar paper or dissertation chapter; (4) your approved dissertation proposal, if applicable; (5) a
brief statement detailing your research goals and their relation to the agenda of the Sawyer Seminar (250-500 words); and (6) three letters of recommendation to be sent directly by the writers. Letters may also be faxed to 773-702-0775, or emailed to franke-humanities@uchicago.edu

Address all application materials to:

    Sawyer Dissertation Fellowship Committee
    The Franke Institute for the Humanities
    The University of Chicago
    1100 East 57th Street, JRL S-102
    Chicago, IL 60637

For more information about the Sawyer Seminar "Around 1948," please see:
http://around1948.uchicago.edu

If you have any questions, please write to:
franke-humanities@uchicago.edu

This Seminar is sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.