AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR LEARNED SOCIETIES ANNOUNCES PUBLIC FELLOW POSITION HOSTED BY UW CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES AND WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO

The UW Madison Center for the Humanities and Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) are pleased to announce their selection as co-hosts for the prestigious American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Public Fellows Program, a career-building fellowship initiative designed to expand the reach of doctoral education in the humanities.

The ACLS Public Fellows Program places recent PhDs from the humanities and humanistic social sciences in two-year staff positions at organizations in the government and nonprofit sector. The fellows participate in the substantive work of the host organizations, receive professional mentoring, an annual stipend of $65,000, and health insurance. The Madison Fellowship is the first to feature a partnership between two public agencies, and one of the first located in the Midwest.

Conceived and managed by the UW Madison Center for the Humanities, this postdoctoral fellowship is part of a broad set of Center initiatives aimed at both preparing PhD students for careers outside of academia and supporting scholars who want to engage the public with their research. The project grows out of a longstanding partnership between the Center for the Humanities and Wisconsin Public Radio.

The WPR fellow will work as a digital producer for To the Best of Our Knowledge, (TTBOOK) a Peabody-award winning “radio magazine of ideas” that engages the world’s leading writers, scientists, artist and intellectuals on topics from politics, science, and philosophy to cultural trends, contemporary fiction and pop culture. The fellow will work on all aspects of production, and adapt the TTBOOK vision and content to new media platforms through social media, e-books and mobile applications. Mentors from the Center for the Humanities and Wisconsin Public Radio will support the fellow.

The application deadline for recent PhDs wishing to apply for a Public Fellows positions is March 19, 2014. For more information visit http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows/.
“The world of public radio is changing and it's essential that we reach beyond traditional broadcasting. TTBOOK has long been a source of big ideas and rich content. A Digital Producer who comes to us with a PhD in the humanities will add invaluable depth to our program, developing new platforms to bring this content to a variety of audiences, and helping us imagine ideas we wouldn’t otherwise consider.”

-Steve Paulson, Executive Producer, To the Best of Our Knowledge

“These fellowships are at the cutting edge of thinking about the future of the humanities PhD. They show that the PhD prepares students for a range of careers in the public and private sector. Through these partnerships, organizations across the country have the opportunity to work with creative, intelligent, and broad-minded individuals who have significant experience in research, project development, and thinking against the status quo.”

-Sara Guyer, Director, UW Center for Humanities.

The American Council of Learned Societies is private institution supporting scholars in the humanities and related social sciences at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels. In 2012-13 ACLS made awards totaling $15.3 million to more than 300 scholars, including Public Fellows positions at the Smithsonian Institution, US Department of Health and Human Services, San Francisco Arts Commission and others. The Public Fellows program is supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. More information on ACLS can be found at http://www.acls.org

The UW Center for the Humanities advances the humanities on campus and beyond, by drawing faculty, staff, students, and the public into informed, thoughtful, and civil discourse on the political, literary, ethical, and aesthetic questions of the day. The Center’s programs encourage innovative research; illuminate new ideas; foster teaching innovations; and provide a critical forum for understanding what it means to be human. Our support of public scholarly engagement has helped graduate students and faculty create mutually rewarding partnerships with public schools, prisons, senior centers, hospitals, community gardens, and more. In tandem with its goals to support world-class research and teaching, the Center is guided and inspired by The Wisconsin Idea – the principle that the university’s impact on people’s lives should reach beyond the classroom.

To the Best of Our Knowledge, is a Peabody Award-winning production of Wisconsin Public Radio and is distributed by Public Radio International to nearly 200 public radio stations around the country. For information, see www.ttbook.org.

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