Call for Applications: The Mark Claster Mamolen Dissertation Workshop on Afro-Latin American Studies

The Afro-Latin American Research Institute at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University, invites graduate students working on dissertations related to Afro-Latin American studies to submit a proposal to the annual Mark Claster Mamolen Dissertation Workshop on Afro-Latin American Studies.

Doctoral students at universities anywhere in the world, who are at the dissertation writing stage, from any discipline, are invited to submit an application. Previous applicants who were not selected before are welcome to reapply. The only condition is that their dissertations deal with Afro-Latin American topics broadly defined, covering any time period, from colonial times to the present. Proposals can be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. Interested students should submit a three-page proposal (double space) summarizing their dissertation topic and one letter of support from their academic advisor. Please make sure you identify in the header of your application your name, institutional affiliation, and field you are researching in.

Complete materials should be uploaded electronically by January 13, 2019 using the following application format: https://goo.gl/forms/iCChlRJeIWncPAAg1

About twelve students will be selected to participate in the Workshop. They will be notified by February 25. Selected students will be asked to submit a dissertation chapter (up to 50 pages, double space, in English, Spanish, or Portuguese) by March 11. Chapters will be circulated among workshop participants. The Workshop will meet at Harvard on May 10-11, 2019.

The Afro-Latin American Research Institute will cover travel expenses, lodging and living expenses for all participants.
This initiative is generously funded by a bequest from Mark Claster Mamolen (1946–2013), a childhood friend of Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and a former Advisory Board member of the Hutchins Center; by the Ford Foundation, and by the International Academic Program of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (IAP UAM) with support of Fundación Asisa.

FAQ

*What is Afro-Latin American Studies?*
We consider Afro-Latin American Studies “as the study of people of African ancestry in Latin America, and… as the study of the larger societies, in which those people live. Under the first heading, scholars study Black histories, cultures, strategies, and struggles in the region. Under the second, they study blackness, and race more generally, as a category of difference, as an engine of stratification and inequality, and as a key variable in processes of national formation.” (Alejandro de la Fuente and George Reid Andrews (eds.) Afro-Latin American Studies: An Introduction. Cambridge University Press, 2018. p. 1)

*Can I apply if I already have a PhD?*
Only PhD candidates can apply. Master’s students or students who completed their PhD are not eligible to apply. However, students who have not yet completed their PhD by the time of the application are eligible to participate even if their defense is scheduled to take place prior to the Workshop in May.

*How should my application be presented?*
Please make sure you send your application (proposal and recommendation letter) as one PDF or Word document and you identify in the header your name, institutional affiliation, and field you are researching in. Alternatively, the recommendation letter can be sent directly by your advisor to alari@fas.harvard.edu with the name of the applicant clearly identified within the body of the email and the subject line “Dissertation Workshop.”

*When is the deadline to apply?*
You can apply until January 13, 2018 12:00am ET. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

*What language should I use for written proposal?*
You can present your proposal in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. We always make an effort to communicate in the three languages during the Workshop as well.

For further inquiries, please contact ALARI@fas.harvard.edu, subject line: “Dissertation Workshop.”